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|  Brent | <p>Schools Forum</p> <p>23 October 2013</p> <p>Report from the Director of Children & Families</p> |
| <p>For Decision</p> | |
| <p>Review of the Schools Budget: DSG Funded Services (ii) The Learning Zone at Wembley Stadium</p> | |

1 Consultation and Decision Making

The Schools Forum has decision-making powers on the budgets covered in this report.

At the meeting of 18th September, the Schools Forum asked for an updated version of a similar report presented last year describing the activities of the Learning Zone at Wembley Stadium. This was one of a series of reports to be prepared, allowing the Forum to review and challenge the spending on services provided by the council and funded through DSG. This report is part of that series.

The Wembley Learning Zone has been funded through the DSG since March 2011 and is now managed by the Children and Families Directorate.

2 The Learning Zone at Wembley Stadium

The Learning Zone at Wembley Stadium is the result of a unique partnership between the local authority and Wembley Stadium, which provides support geared to the needs of individual schools and their pupils. It offers opportunities for young people to develop positive attitudes to learning, raise self-esteem and achieve their educational potential using sport and entertainment as a stimulus. It provides them with a safe and inspirational environment on their doorstep which helps to enrich and inspire their learning. In addition, it offers an accessible and affordable link to special events, such as the Olympics, football and the world of entertainment.

The service was originally funded through the DfE programme "Playing for Success" (PfS) which delivered literacy and numeracy through the medium of football. Wembley provided the stadium as part of its programme of support for the local community. PfS funding ceased in March 2011, but Wembley

Stadium continues to provide in-kind funding of accommodation for teaching and learning, utilities and cleaning.

3 Summary of Services, budgets, staffing and activities 2013-14

| Service and Budget 2011-12 and 2012-13 and 2013-14 | Staffing and specific activities |
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| <p>Wembley Learning Zone</p> <p>Schools Forum: £81,000 (previously funded by Extended Schools Grant – Standards Fund)</p> <p>Service part-traded. Forecast traded income 2013-14 £15,000</p> <p>Wembley Stadium provides in-kind support including office, teaching/activity space, rent, utilities and cleaning and some event tickets for young people.</p> | <p>2 staff: one officer; one part-time seconded teaching assistant</p> <p>Programmes designed with schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for literacy, numeracy and ICT, using a variety of equipment. • Enrichment programmes across the curriculum • Intervention and extended learning programmes. • Day trips and school excursions. • Holiday schemes. • Researcher training for students • Student engagement courses • Lego mechanics, robotics and renewable energy workshops and fun days • Bespoke Courses for all schools e.g. three faith schools working together, sky sports leaders training |

4 Take up and impact

The learning zone goes from strength to strength. Approximately one third of Brent's primary schools have attended the six week courses and at least half have visited for the one day experience Over 1000 primary pupils each year attend the Learning Zone, with a total of 4200 learning sessions delivered.

Teachers have reported that The Wembley Learning Zone has had a positive impact on young people in terms of their confidence and feelings about school. Analysis of surveys conducted with students and accompanying teachers showed that there has been significant change in pupils' response to curriculum and confidence in learning, and that learners participating in WLZ programmes have made good progress since their participation in Learning Zone activities.

5 Proposal for 2014-15

We are seeking the agreement of the Schools Forum to continue funding the staffing costs and make a modest contribution towards running costs of this service. Other costs will be covered by the continuing in-kind support of Wembley Stadium, and through trading some teaching and learning courses and other activities.

Wembley Learning Zone

It is proposed that in 2014-15, the Wembley Learning Zone will work with its steering group and schools to provide:

- support for pupils with literacy, numeracy and ICT, using the stadium as a resource to inspire pupils
- activities using a variety of equipment such as the latest ICT , video and digital cameras, interactive quizzes and the stadium itself to help enhance the curriculum and engage pupils
- enrichment programmes which include curriculum links to local and 20th century history, famous and inspirational people, local geography, ICT, design, literacy, arts and crafts.
- researcher training for pupils covering research ethics, research methodology, data retrieval, analysis and report writing
- extended learning programmes.
- Lego mechanics, robotics, renewable energy workshops and fun days
- day trips or school excursions
- holiday schemes
- bespoke programmes designed to the specifications of schools requirements.
- Behind the Scenes - a unique look into life at Wembley Stadium giving students the opportunity to feel privileged and special.

Proposed/requested budget 2014-15

£81,000 – Primary sector only

6 Risk Analysis

- Without funding from schools or the local authority to contribute to a significant element of the running costs of this service, the future support of Wembley Stadium in terms of in-kind running costs, as well as access to the Stadium itself, may be lost. This is an excellent resource which can be developed further over time for the benefit of school children in Brent, in partnership with schools and Wembley Stadium.
- There is a risk of losing the positive impact in confidence, self-esteem and learning on pupils in Brent schools through projects and activities developed with schools in a safe and inspirational learning environment.
- An accessible and affordable link to special events, such as the NFL Programme, rugby world cup, football and the entertainment world may be lost.
- The learning zone is also providing a unique training venue for conferences, meetings and continued professional development for schools and other partners.

7. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to approve the central provision of £81,000 to part fund the Wembley Learning Zone for 2014/15.

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