



Schools Forum
18th June 2014

**Report from the Strategic Director of
Children & Young People**

For Decision

Distribution of Balance of Brent Education Action Zone (EAZ)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Central Brent Partnership was established in Brent in April 2001 as an Excellence in Cities Action Zone (EiCAZ), a version of the Education Action Zone (EAZ). The EAZ consisted of the following schools:
- Brentfield Primary School
 - Chalkhill Primary School
 - John Kelly Boys' Technology College
 - John Kelly Girls' Technology College
 - Newfield Primary School
 - Woodfield Special School
 - Wykeham Primary School
- 1.2 The EAZ was run by an Executive Group which met every half term and consisted of an EAZ Project Director and the seven head teachers of the schools in the group. The management of the zone was overseen termly by an Action Forum made up of the Executive Group, an EiC co-ordinator, a member of the School Improvement Team, the manager of the West London EBP, representatives of teachers, school governors, the teachers' professional associations and representatives from local businesses.
- 1.3 The successes of the EAZ include, but are not limited to:
- The sharing of best practice models for positive behaviour management in the EAZ schools, and then extended to other schools.
 - A number of schools established after-school classes to raise standards of attainment.
 - The introduction and embedding of interactive learning technology, including interactive white boards and digital projectors.
 - The improvement of schools' ICT systems and ensuring that the schools had introduced at least one computer network providing pupils access to the internet.

- The implementation of practices that reduced the number of unauthorised absences in participating schools.

2.0 Funding

- 2.1 The Central Brent Partnership received £250k annually as a grant to fulfil commitments as defined in their action plan. In addition, it was possible to claim a further £50k annually as matched funds, provided it could be demonstrated that the EAZ had raised a similar amount from the private sector as cash or in kind. The EAZ was able to claim the maximum £50k in the first 3 years.
- 2.2 As the EAZ action plan required a spend of less than £300k, at times this resulted in a surplus position and it was agreed that any surplus' were to be distributed amongst the schools.

3.0 Closure of the EAZ

- 3.1 The EAZ closed in 2011 when there was no longer funding for this. On closure of the project the EAZ was responsible for the payment of redundancy in relation to the Project Director. Any remaining surplus' were to be distributed amongst the schools, however these schools were not aware that there was still a balance, and this was never distributed.
- 3.2 The Local Authority has recently been made aware that there remains a bank balance, which continues to attract interest. The balance as at 9th January 2014 was £112,479.76.
- 3.3 The Schools Forum is asked to approve the release of the remaining funding and that this is distributed evenly amongst the seven schools.

4.0 Recommendations and Consultation points

- 4.1 The Schools Forum is requested to:
- a. Approve the distribution of the bank balance for the Brent Education Action Zone (EAZ), to be distributed equally amongst the seven member schools.

Contact Officers

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