

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services Committee
DATE	24 January 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Music Centre Options
REPORT NUMBER	CFS/23/020
DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Shona Milne
REPORT AUTHOR	Shona Milne
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 On the 8th September 2022 the Chief Education Officer was instructed to explore models and costings for the establishment of a Music Centre. Committee Members requested that potential models and costings be shared in advance of the budget setting process. This report aims to satisfy that request.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 endorse the draft vision and aims for the provision of the Music Centre in paragraph 3.3;
- 2.2 note the Options Appraisal on potential models contained in Appendix A;
- 2.3 instruct the Chief Education Officer to make arrangements to immediately implement Option 2;
- 2.4 refer the potential allocation of an additional £20,000 to further extend the provision of Music Centre opportunities to enhance Option 2 (as set out in Appendix A) to the Council Budget meeting in March 2023;
- 2.5 instruct the Chief Education Officer to work with stakeholders to develop a strategic vision for the provision of Music across the city to inform next steps; and
- 2.6 instruct the Chief Education Officer to report back on progress within one calendar year.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Officers were instructed to explore the options available to establish a Music Centre. In order to enable Officers to explore models, time was taken to both reflect on previous approaches and the current policy landscape in order to agree a draft vision and set of aims to support the effective development, delivery and oversight of an Aberdeen City Music Centre.

Reflecting on previous models and considering options

- 3.2 Aberdeen City Council has previously operated 2 different Music Centre models. Time was taken to reflect on the benefits and challenges of each previous model to inform thinking.
- 3.3 A proposed working vision was agreed with children and young people who access the Music Service in order to inform how different options would be scored.

Proposed Music Centre vision: To create opportunities for children and young people to make music in ensemble settings.

Proposed Aims:

- To enable children and young people at all stages in the learning to develop their ensemble and performance skills.
 - To provide a platform to celebrate the musical achievements of children and young people.
 - To empower children and young people to lead and shape the opportunities available.
 - To provide easily accessible opportunities for children and young people to work alongside their peers from other schools.
 - To develop progression pathways for all learners and the opportunity for older/more advanced pupils to inspire younger learners.
- 3.4 A number of options were then identified for further consideration. Each option was scored (with 1 being the weakest and 5 being the strongest) against the vision and aims as it was important to consider the extent to which the option had the potential to:
- **be cost effective** (given our need to ensure best value)
 - **make an equitable offer** (given the current policy context)
 - **provide opportunities for beginners** (due to the high number of beginners currently engaging with the Service)
 - **provide opportunities for advanced learners** (to allow progression)
 - **provide opportunities for children and young people to work with peers from across the city** (to realise the proposed aim)
 - **impact positively on the current Music Service delivery**
 - **impact positively on the currently established school ensemble model**

Taking this approach enabled Officers to present a firmer recommendation for consideration by Committee.

3.5 The options considered in the options appraisal contained in Appendix A are:

Beginner learners

Option 1	Participation in a locality ensemble in Terms 1 and 4, and central ensembles in Term 2 and 3.
Option 2	Participation in locality ensembles in all terms. No participation in central ensembles.
Option 3	Participation in locality ensembles in all terms. Participation in central ensembles in the lead up to two concerts.
Option 4	Participation in locality ensembles in Term 1 – 3. Concerts in localities.
Option 5	Participation in locality ensembles in Term 1 – 3. Participation in central ensembles in the lead up to two concerts.

Advanced learners

Option 1	Central ensembles in Terms 2 and 3
Option 2	Weekend course in Terms 2 and 4
Option 3	In Terms 2 and 3 in the weeks leading up to concerts
Option 4	Weekend course in Term 4
Option 5	Participation in central ensembles in Term 1-3.

3.6 In light of the Options Appraisal undertaken, it is proposed that Officers be instructed to implement Option 2 which is heavily favoured by Music Service staff and scored most highly during the options appraisal process. No additional resource is required to support immediate delivery.

3.7 The delivery of Option 2 will offer a limited weekend offer. In recognition of this, it is proposed that a request for £20,000 be referred to the Council budget setting process to enable the extension of the Music Centre.

3.8 Looking forwards

A wide range of music provision is in existence across the city. Work at school level is complemented by the Music Service and those who aspire to become professional musicians benefit from provision at the Music School. In addition, Sistema provide a service in Torry. It would be beneficial to look more holistically at the provision of Music across the city to ensure that there is a cohesive and complementary approach in keeping with the Programme for Government. It would be important to look at how the services could work together to offer a pathway for those aspiring to career in music.

3.9 It is proposed that the Chief Education Officer be instructed to work with stakeholders to develop a strategic vision for the provision of Music across the city to ensure best value.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications. It is proposed that a referral be made to the Council Budget Setting process to secure additional resource to extend the provision of the Music Centre.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Risk of not delivering on the Partnership Priorities	Mitigated by bringing options to be considered	L	Yes
Compliance Operational	None identified			
Operational	Risk of the provision of a Music Centre impacting on the delivery of the Music Services	Mitigated by the options presented to Committee which have taken into account the current policy context and current provision of the Music Service	L	Yes
Financial	Risk of establishing a Music Centre without sufficient resource to enable delivery	Mitigated through the approach taken to offer a no cost and low cost approach	L	Yes
Reputational	Risk of not being able to deliver the Music Centre leading to reputational risks	Mitigated through the approach taken to developing recommendations for consideration by Committee	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p>We will actively work with partners to increase citywide delivery of music education, promoting excellence and enabling group performance.</p> <p>We will investigate options to expand the instrumental music service and measure the impact of this.</p>	<p>This report helps to deliver on two of the Partnership commitments.</p>
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
<p>Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcome Prosperous</p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the stretch outcome • No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026.</p>
<p>People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of nearly all Children and Young people stretch outcomes in the LOIP. The paper seeks to inform how the service will provide an equitable offer of music instruction across the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of children (0-5 years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026. • 90% of Children and young people will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to by 2026. • As corporate parents we will ensure 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026. • 95% of children living in our priority localities will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026. • Child friendly city where all decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them by 2026.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Options Appraisal

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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