

## Councillor Kuszniir

That the Council:

- (a) Notes the decision of Full Council on 1 March 2023 to terminate the agreement with SISTEMA Scotland, who deliver Big Noise Torry in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, following a reduction in Aberdeen City Council's contribution by £738,000;
- (b) Further notes that Sistema Scotland's budget was protected by the previous Administration in their 2022-23 Budget, following the extension of the partnership for 6 years from 2020;
- (c) Acknowledges the funding announced by Neil Gray, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development to be provided to Sistema Scotland by the Scottish Government, which should protect Big Noise Torry;
- (d) Believes that Big Noise Torry is about much more than music. Music is a tool that is utilised to deliver early intervention and improve life chances. The Council recognising this in 2013, when it first approached Sistema Scotland to delivery Big Noise Torry, said "*that Sistema Scotland's operation will be an integral aspect of the City Council's regeneration work in Torry*";
- (e) Notes that the decision to cut Sistema Scotland's funding was supported by the following Aberdeen City Councillors:
  - a. SNP: Gill Al-Samarai; **Christian Allard, Torry/Ferryhill**; Alison Alphonse; David Cameron; Hazel Cameron; Donna Clark; John Cooke; Neil Copland; Bill Cormie; Derek Davidson; **Lee Fairfull, Torry/Ferryhill**; Dell Henrikson; Michael Hutchison; Neil MacGregor; Alexander McLellan; Ciarán McRae; Jessica Mennie; Alex Nicoll; Miranda Radley; and Kairin van Sweeden; and
  - b. Liberal Democrat: Desmond Bouse; Steve Delaney; Martin Greig; and Ian Yuill.
- (f) Further notes that these same Councillors unanimously supported a Notice of Motion on 14 December 2022 by Cllr Kuszniir congratulating Big Noise Torry on their side-by-side concert with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra;
- (g) Is aware of the previous support, during his time as a Member of the Scottish Parliament, for Sistema Scotland and Big Noise Torry from Cllr Christian Allard where he tabled a parliamentary Motion on 30 June 2015 which said:

*That the Parliament recognises what it considers the crucial work that Sistema Scotland does by inspiring young people to get involved in symphony orchestras as well as the huge social benefits in doing so; notes the broad age range who benefit from this work, from nursery to secondary school pupils; commends the launch of a new Big Noise orchestra centre in Torry in Aberdeen; considers that this will have a positive social impact for the local community, and encourages the formation of more organisations that aim to include young people in creative activities, bringing recreational and social fulfilment.*
- (h) Further notes Cllr Christian Allard's comments during the Budget debate on 1 March 2023 when he said that Big Noise Torry has had "*no impact whatsoever*";

- (i) Condemns Cllr Christian Allard for his perceived rank hypocrisy as Convener of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee for voting to remove the funding of an integral aspect of the City Council's regeneration work in Torry;
- (j) Can no longer support Cllr Christian Allard remaining as Convener of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee given his disingenuous manner in publicly supporting Big Noise Torry and then voting to cut their funding; and
- (k) In terms of Standing Order 5 removes Cllr Allard from his aforesaid Convener appointment at the Full Council Meeting on 26 April 2023.