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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022**

**SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF MUSIC INSTRUCTION SERVICE**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND  
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Committee with a further update on proposals regarding the expansion of the Moray Music Instruction Service.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-**

- (i) Consider and note the outcomes of the consultation with children and young people and their families and carers to determine demand across a number of different musical instruments;**
- (ii) Determine whether to recommend to Corporate Committee on 14 June 2022 to allocate the additional funding of £35,000 from the Scottish Government towards an expansion of music making opportunities across Moray for academic year 2022/23.**
- (iii) If the decision is to recommend the allocation of the additional funding to the expansion of music making opportunities, make recommendations regarding how the funding should be utilised.**
- (iv) Agree to defer any further decisions on the expansion of the Music Instruction Service until the long-term funding position is known.**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In 2021, the Scottish Government agreed to remove fees for instrumental music tuition in schools for 2021/22. Ministers and COSLA Leaders agreed to the initial one-year removal of fees through supported funding from the Scottish Government to allow existing levels of provision to be maintained in the academic year.
- 3.2 The funding for each Local Authority was based on the school roll, however it was acknowledged that this approach could leave some authorities with an in-year budget deficit as they were expecting to charge for this tuition. To this end, it was agreed that certain authorities would receive 'top up' funding to ensure that no cost would be associated with any part of an individual's music lesson.
- 3.3 On 14 July 2021 the Council received confirmation from the Scottish Government of one year removal of fees. The funding for 2021-22 was intended to see the pre-pandemic level of provision in local authorities sustained at no cost to families. The funding did not allow for any expansion of the service either by increasing pupil numbers or by expanding the service offer.
- 3.4 On 15 February 2022 the Council received notification of funding for the continued removal of instrumental music tuition fees for the academic year 2022-23, while the Scottish Government continues to work with local authorities to develop a model for a long-term sustainable music tuition service, which includes sustainable funding arrangements. The funding allocated this year allows for some expansion of music services within local authorities in line with the overarching ambition for increased provision. In Moray there is £35,000 available for potential expansion. This additional funding will be paid as redetermination to the General Revenue Grant at the end of March 2023, therefore a decision is required regarding the allocation of funds. As there is still work ongoing regarding the impact and broader implications of the free music tuition policy, it is currently assumed that this additional funding is for one year only.
- 3.5 The Council Music Tuition and Performance Team is currently delivering brass, strings, woodwind and percussion tuition to 662 children and young people across 48 primary and secondary schools. There are 149 children and young people on a waiting list connected to our current instrument offering.
- 3.6 At its meeting on 24 November 2021, Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee agreed to consult with children/young people and their families and carers to determine demand across a number of different instruments to inform potential service expansion (para 13 of the minute refers).

3.7 Analysis of the consultation is contained in **Appendix 1**, however a summary of the findings is as follows;

- 406 responses to the surveys from children and young people, parents/carers, Headteachers and Principal Teachers of Music.
- Guitar, piano, bagpipes, drumming and voice were the most requested instruments/areas for potential expansion
- Highly valued service currently and support for expansion opportunities and being universally available to all pupils
- Importance of marketing/communication in regards to this learning opportunity

3.8 Members also agreed on 24 November 2021 to further consider investment in a Moray Music Fund and to defer a decision on longer term expansion of the music service and the inclusion of Pipes and Drums tuition until such time as the consultation had taken place and the funding positions had been clarified.

3.9 At this stage the longer-term funding arrangements for music tuition are still unclear, and a sustained expansion of the service would not be possible unless Moray Council were to commit additional funds. If Members were supportive of allocating the additional 2022-23 budget to support the vision of an expanding music instruction service the options for consideration would therefore include:

- a. Allocating the £35,000 (or a proportion thereof) to a Moray Music Fund open to all eligible groups through a bidding process. The fund would be open to pipes and drums and other music groups. If Members were interested in this approach they could remit to the Head of Education Resources & Communities to develop eligibility criteria for a Moray Music Fund based on the fulfilment of agreed educational and cultural priorities.
- b. Allocating the funding to the Music Instruction and Performance team to develop project based music opportunities that would enable the team to:
  - support the 149 children and young people currently on the music instruction waiting list by providing to opportunities to start learning a musical instrument;
  - focus these opportunities on new instruments for the team (piano, guitar (including ukulele), bagpipes, drumming and voice) in response to the demand that is evident through the consultation;
  - work with freelance practitioners to help deliver these project based opportunities;
  - develop wider collaborations with music making organisations in Moray and the wider region;
  - purchase more equipment and materials to enable more learners to become involved in music making.

The project based approach is the recommended option as it would ensure our Music Instruction and Performance team is better prepared for expansion once the longer-term funding model is known and understood.

3.10 Council Officers have been evaluating the impact of the free music tuition policy, and a summary of the findings are set out below;

- There was a large increase in the number of applications for music tuition at the start of the 21/22 academic year (which is reflected in the large waiting list).
- Instructors have reported an increase in non-attendance at lessons throughout the academic year – mixture of Covid absence and lack of interest (possible exacerbated by the removal of charges). We intend to address this in 2022/23 academic year by setting out minimum attendance criteria that will be shared with parents/carers;
- A number of learners who would have previously been unable to apply for music instruction due to the cost barrier are truly benefitting from this provision and making promising progress and making the most of the opportunity.

3.10 The Music Instruction and Performance team in conjunction with the Research and Information team are currently undertaking some analysis work to determine whether free access to music tuition has resulted in learners from lower SIMD areas and/or families on low income applying for this opportunity. The outcomes of this analysis will be reported back to the Scottish Government and will be used for future planning purposes.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

In relation to the LOIP, this report supports three of the main priority areas which are building a better future for our children and young people in Moray, empowering and connecting communities and improving the wellbeing of our population.

In relation to the Corporate Plan, this report contributes to three of the main priority areas which are providing opportunities for people to be the best they can be throughout their lives with a strong and sustained focus on those individuals and groups in our society who experience the most disadvantage and discrimination, empower and support communities to build capacity and creating a sustainable council that provides valued services to our communities.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

There are no policy or legal implications arising directly from this report.

Evidence demonstrates that music education can improve attainment for all learners particularly around numeracy, literacy and cognitive function. Music education also helps to develop life lessons such as social and personal development skills.

**(c) Financial implications**

As per financial regulations 2.16 any additional funding from the Scottish Government from a redetermination of General Revenue Grant must be approved at Service Committee followed by Corporate Committee.

If Members choose to recommend the allocation of the additional funding to a Moray Music Fund or to the Music Instruction and Performance team it will be utilised to support a short term fund or project based opportunities and there is therefore no long term financial commitment by the Council.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property issues arising directly from this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An expansion of the Music Instruction and Performance team in line with our Corporate and LOIP priorities would enable the service to contribute to reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

No climate change or biodiversity implications have been determined for this report because at this stage acceptance of additional funding has still to be confirmed. However Officers will ensure that if approval is granted any project based expansion work will adhere to the Council's climate change commitments and this would be included in any partnership/procurement discussions.

**(i) Consultations**

The Head of Education, Head of Education Resources and Communities, Principal Teacher of Music Instruction and Performance, the Legal Services Manager, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, Nicky Gosling, Accountant, the Human Resources Manager and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and the comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the outcomes of the music instruction consultation and determines whether to recommend to Corporate Committee to allocate the additional temporary funding from the Scottish Government to either a Moray Music Fund or to short-term music instruction projects.**

Author of Report: Kim Slater, Sport and Culture Service Manager  
Background Papers:  
Ref: SPMAN-9425411-10  
SPMAN-9425411-11