



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE 24 NOVEMBER 2021**

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 proposals regarding the expansion of the Moray Music Service (including the option for Moray to include in its curriculum an inclusive and fully funded option for pupils to receive tuition in piping and drumming) in response to the Notice of Motion passed at Council on 15 September 2021.
- 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 if the expansion of the music service should focus on early intervention and family involvement projects that could support the raising of attainment as detailed in sections 3.4 to 3.7.**
- (ii) consider consulting with children and young people and their families and carers to determine demand across a number of different instruments to inform their decision making.**
- (iii) consider investment in a Moray Music Fund open to all eligible groups through a bidding in process as detailed in section 3.10.**
- (iv) consider and provide direction with regards to Pipes and Drums Tuition in Moray as detailed in Appendix 2, noting that dialogue would be required to investigate the viability of options that include working with external organisations**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 14 July 2021 the Council received confirmation from the Scottish Government of a one year removal of fees for instrumental music tuition in schools, supported by funding from the Scottish Government to allow existing levels of provision to be maintained in academic year 2021-22. The funding for 2021-22 is intended to see the pre-pandemic level of provision in local authorities sustained at no cost to families. The funding does not allow for any expansion of the service either by increasing pupil numbers or by expanding the service offer.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government also confirmed a commitment to work with local authorities to develop a model for a long-term sustainable instrumental music tuition service, which includes sustainable funding arrangements. Scottish Government officials are currently working with COSLA officers to consider the intent, impact and broader implications of the free music tuition policy.
- 3.3 On 15 September 2021 the Council agreed to request a report to this Committee detailing how the Council could include in its curriculum an inclusive and fully funded option for pupils to receive tuition in piping and drumming (para 8 of the minute refers). This paper sets out potential options for piping and drumming instruction, however given that there is no additional funding from the Scottish Government to support this expansion of the Music Service, and it would require a commitment of funding from the Council, the paper also sets out other potential expansion options for Members to consider, linked to Corporate and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities.

Raising Attainment/ Ambitious and Confident Children

- 3.4 The Music Service delivers individual and small group music instruction in Brass, Strings, Woodwind and Percussion instruments. There are currently 662 children and young people receiving music instruction across 48 primary and secondary schools. Music instruction is normally offered from P3 onwards, with children and young people choosing whether they wish to participate. The Service also supports the Moray Music Centre, which provides an opportunity at weekends for children and young people who are learning an instrument to take part in ensembles. Again, children and young people will choose if they wish to participate (and there is a cost implication for families).
- 3.5 The Music Service also delivers Creative Scotland funded Youth Music Initiative projects, with a focus on delivering class based tuition (normally recorders or ukulele) to all pupils in P5, and targeted projects to engage young people who otherwise would not participate in meaningful, quality music making opportunities. This year the Service is working with pupils attending sessions with the Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs (SEBN) Team. Finally, the Service supports a small number of class based music projects, with a focus on a particular instrument.

- 3.6 The Council Corporate Plan and the LOIP prioritise improving attainment for all learners, with a focus on numeracy and literacy, and ensuring children and young people thrive. There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates that music education can support the achievement of these aims, with research highlighting that music education has a positive impact on all who undertake it and can support:
- Improved cognitive function
 - The development of higher levels of executive function
 - The acquisition of language
 - Improved problem solving skills
 - The moderation of learning and behavioural disorders
- 3.7 Research also highlights that music education is most beneficial in terms of raising cognitive capacity if undertaken before the age of seven.
(Note: [Anita Collins: The benefits of music education | TED Talk](#) articulates in an accessible way the link between music and improved attainment)
- 3.8 Members may wish to consider how any expansion of the Music Instruction Service can support the achievement of our raising attainment priority by focussing investment on projects that:
- target younger children (nursery up to P2);
 - focus on universal music education, so that all children can participate;
 - challenge the notion that music is an add on or for the talented; and
 - can support parental involvement and family learning.

Appendix 1 includes a number of examples of approaches to music education that could be offered in Moray if resources were allocated to develop the Service in this way.

Expansion of Instrument Choice (including Pipes and Drums)

- 3.9 The Music Service is currently at capacity and has waiting lists for a number of instruments. Additional funding could support an expansion by enabling the Service to employ additional instructors, and cover staff training, mileage and the purchase and maintenance of additional loan instruments. Members have requested options for the provision of fully funded, inclusive pipes and drumming instruction in our schools, and options are set out in **Appendix 2**, however there is currently a waiting list of 149 for our existing instrument offer, and potential demand for popular instruments such as guitar, piano and voice. The Committee may wish to consider consulting with children and young people and their families and carers to determine demand across a number of different instruments to inform their decision-making.

Moray Music Fund

- 3.10 There has been a request from the community for funding support for the development of a sustainable and equitable pipes and drums offer across Moray. There may be other music interest groups that would welcome the opportunity to develop or expand their offer if funding were to be made available. A further option for the Committee to consider would be investment in a Moray Music Fund open to all eligible groups through a bidding in process. If Members were interested in this approach they could remit to the Head of Education Resources and Communities to develop eligibility criteria for a Moray Music Fund based on the fulfilment of agreed Educational and Cultural priorities.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

This report links to the LOIP outcomes:

- A. Building a better future for children and young people in Moray
- A place where children and young people thrive;
 - A place where they have a voice, have opportunities to learn and can get around;
 - A place where they are able to reach their full potential

And the Corporate Plan Aim to:

- Provide opportunities where young people can achieve their potential to be the best they can be.

(b) Policy and Legal

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

(c) Financial implications

The financial implications of the different options for Pipes and Drumming instruction are set out in detail in Appendix 2 and are summarised as follows:

Option 1 (Inhouse Pipes and Drums instructors)	£232,473
Option 2 (Partnership with Scottish Schools Pipes and Drumming Trust)	£132,981
Option 3 (PEF Funded)	£0
Option 4 (Partnership with Moray Pipe Bands)	£25,949

Note these figures are estimates currently for next financial year and would need to be further developed as demand is better understood.

The financial implications of developing the service to deliver music education projects to support raising attainment are still to be determined. The Principal Music Instructor currently has 1 day of management time to manage the service (the remainder is spent delivering lessons). If Members are supportive of expanding the service

in this way the Principal Music Instructor would require an additional 1.5 days of management time to develop project proposals and business cases. This could be provided by employing an additional 0.3FTE music instructor at a cost of £12,519.

The actual costs of delivering music education projects would be the subject of a future report to this committee.

The level of funding support for a Moray Music Fund would be for Members to determine alongside other funding priorities.

Corporate Management Team Additional Expenditure Warning

When the Council approved the budget for 2021/22 on 3 March 2021 (paragraph 3 of the Minute refers) it balanced only by using one-off financial flexibilities. The indicative 3 year budget showed a likely requirement to continue to make significant savings in future years. All financial decisions must be made in this context and only essential additional expenditure should be agreed in the course of the year. In making this determination the committee should consider whether the financial risk to the Council of incurring additional expenditure outweighs the risk to the Council of not incurring that expenditure, as set out in the risk section below and whether a decision on funding could reasonably be deferred until the budget for future years is approved.

(d) Risk Implications

There is a risk that the service is expanded to offer instruction for which there is little demand in our communities. Members may wish to instruct officers to undertake consultation with children and young people, parents and carers to establish demand for instruction across a number of different instruments prior to deciding on an expansion option.

Any expanded provision of pipes and drumming could have a negative impact on uptake of the current offer in our schools.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report, however a reduction in demand for our current offer could have an impact on our instructors.

Additional staffing will be required should members decide to invest in the expansion of the Music Service.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising directly from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

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

(h) Consultations

Vivienne Cross, Head of Education, Kim Slater, Service Manager Sport and Culture, Alexander Davidson, Acting Principal Teacher of Music Instruction, the legal Services Manager Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, Paul Connor, Principal 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 considers the contents of this report (and associated appendices) and provides direction to officers on the potential expansion of the Music Service.

Author of Report: Jo Shirriffs, Head of Education Resources and Communities

Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-1315769894-194 / SPMAN-1315769894-195 / SPMAN-1315769894-196