

# REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR MUSIC TUITION IN HILLINGDON: *FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP*

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor David Simmonds
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Education and Children's Services
<b>Report Authors</b>	Cross-Council working – Working Group Members, Tricia Collis, Chris Norman, Mark Braddock, Charles Francis and other officers.
<b>Papers with report</b>	Circulated separately from the main agenda - Final Report of the Working Group (including appendices 1-8)

## HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To receive the final report of the Member Working Group chaired by Councillor Judy Kelly, set up to review the delivery of music tuition in Hillingdon and recommend a sustainable way forward for the continuity of high quality music tuition, whilst also putting the Hillingdon Music Service on an even firmer financial footing.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	Putting our residents and their children first Financial Management
<b>Financial Cost</b>	Phase 2 of the review of support for music tuition in Hillingdon and the submission of the BID to the arts Council has been supported by an internal officer team at no external cost to the Council.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Education and Children's Services
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That Cabinet:

1. Thanks all those involved in the review for their efforts and welcomes the fact that one year on, the Hillingdon Music Service is operating with a robust business model and is effective in using the resources available to widen the musical experiences for all children in Hillingdon;
2. Supports the report's conclusions and approves all 14 recommendations in the Final Report from the Member Working Group and;
3. Endorses Hillingdon's new Music Education Hub status and accepts the award from the Arts Council England of £928,198 over the next three years to deliver high quality music education to the children in the Borough, against the 7 Core priorities of the National Music Plan.

## INFORMATION

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Hillingdon's Cabinet considered the Council's budget proposals for 2011/12 and beyond. One of the savings proposals included a reduction of spend and change to the way the Hillingdon Music Service operated. During the preparation of the Council's budget, it was not possible to obtain a reliable breakdown of the current subsidy for the Music Service and so on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011, the Council took the positive step of establishing a Working Group to be led by Councillor Judy Kelly, to review support for music tuition in Hillingdon in two distinct phases.

The first phase reviewed the operation and value for money of the Hillingdon Music Service, bringing forward interim proposals to Cabinet in May 2011. These proposals were considered by Cabinet in May 2011 and adopted and quickly put the service on a firmer financial and operational footing.

The second phase was to develop longer-term proposals. This was undertaken in earnest over the summer and autumn of 2011. The Working Group looked thoroughly at alternative options of music provision and met with a wide range of stakeholders to see how music services could be provided in the widest and most sustainable way.

At the same time, the Henley Review and the National Plan for Musical Education were published. These national changes, in addition to changes to funding for music, were taken into consideration by the Working Group and steered the later part of the review.

Cabinet will be pleased to note that Hillingdon is to be one of the 122 new Music Education Hubs following the Arts Council England recent announcement and has been awarded £928,198 over the next three years to deliver high quality music education to the children in the Borough, against the 7 Core priorities of the National Music Plan.

### **The Working Group's activity**

The Working Group met on eight occasions to deliver its final Terms of Reference:

*To review alternative methods of delivering music tuition in Hillingdon and produce a second report to Cabinet with options / recommendations as to how good quality music tuition can be delivered on a cost effective, sustainable basis.*

The Working Group structured its review into 8 different themes as set out below:

- 1 Update on Phase 1 implementation & agreeing the structure for Phase 2
- 2 Information gathering – what data do we need?
- 3 Possible alternative means of music provision and approaches taken in other areas
- 4 Engaging with local stakeholders
- 5 Update on the national picture
- 6 Widening access to music & linking music tuition with Hillingdon's wider performing arts and cultural offer
- 7 Widening access to music & linking music tuition with Hillingdon's wider performing arts and cultural offer - second meeting
- 8 Finalising the Working Group's proposals

The Working Group received information reports and sought valuable evidence from external witnesses, music experts and partner organisations involved in the delivery of Music Services

within and outside the Borough. The information gathered was also referenced against the seven core priorities that the Hillingdon Music Service will be required to deliver against the national Grant received.

This enabled the Working Group to ensure that any recommendations contained in their report were robust and provided the Music Service with firm foundations for the future.

The Working Group is now in a position to report to Cabinet and their final report and appendices are summarised below and attached for information.

## **Working Group Conclusions**

Members of the Working Group concluded that:

1. Now one year on, the Music Service is operating to a robust Business model and is effective in using the resources available to widening musical experiences for all children in Hillingdon.
2. Retaining an in-house model of provision was the preferred option at least in the next three years and the life of the current NPME grant
3. The National Plan for Music Education has identified the Local Authority as the lead partner for the Hillingdon Music Education Hub. It will be essential for the Council to establish and develop partnerships going forward
4. New Governance Arrangements, stakeholders, the Friends and partners have a key role to play in supporting the Music Advisory Group (task and finish groups) and fund raising which will have a role in the music hub.
5. Widening access is a complex task with a broad horizon. To do this effectively the Council will need to look at a variety of socio-economic and ethnic data as well as acknowledge the opportunities afforded by a wide spectrum of musical styles and genres.
6. The Music Service will need to continue seeking opportunities to be supported by the Council through more efficient and flexible use of council accommodation and a further review of overhead costs.

## **Working Group Recommendations**

Members agreed to put forward the following 14 recommendations to Cabinet:

### *Operation*

1. That Cabinet be asked to retain the management of the provision of music offered by the council in-house, within the education division to ensure that the service has effective strategic and operational management which enables it to deliver council priorities and the National Plan for Musical Education (NPME)
2. That Cabinet be requested to ask Officers to develop and lead the Hillingdon Music Education Hub, engaging a wide range of partners as required by the NPME.

3. That Cabinet be requested to instruct officers to deliver the seven core priorities as set out in the NPME, resourced through the acquisition of the associated grant to ensure the provision of a wide range of progressive and diverse musical experiences for all of Hillingdon's children and young people.
4. That officers be requested to develop an effective and efficient management and staffing structure that supports and develops all the core priorities and is flexible to meet the developments of the Hillingdon Music Education Hub and the widening of the community and partner performing opportunities for all children in Hillingdon.
5. That Cabinet be requested to instruct Officers to complete the installation of a new data system to ensure that the required quality monitoring and reporting of activity against the NPME Grant is robust and achieved. In addition, providing easy access and on-line communication for parents, maximising the use of google.

#### *Governance*

6. That officers implement the governance model as agreed by the Leader in early 2012, developing it to meet the needs of the Hillingdon Music Education Hub as it develops over the next 3 years

#### *Value for Money*

7. That Cabinet be requested to instruct officers to seek opportunities where possible with the Council for suitable accommodation and financial resources
8. That Cabinet be asked to agree a bursary system to support children to engage and progress in musical experiences even when family income is limited.
9. That Cabinet be requested to agree to apply an out of borough fee for children not living or attending a Hillingdon school, in line with the Council's 'Hillingdon First' Policy, reporting back on the proposed fees to the next budget monitoring report to cabinet
10. That Cabinet be asked to hold the current fees for 2012-13, following the 20% rise in 2011/12, which brings Hillingdon fees in line with other councils including the concessionary rate and then review these in line with the Council's priorities in 2012/13.
11. That Officers be requested to review the resources held by the Music Service and expand the Rental scheme for instruments to include rent to buy in line and the core priority of the NPME
12. That Officers be requested to review the procurement and maintenance of musical instruments, in addition to maintaining a current log of all musical instruments, music and associated equipment held by the Council.

#### *Marketing and Publicity*

13. That Cabinet instructs the Head of Corporate Communications to ensure marketing and publicity are fully embedded within the Council's communications strategy.

## *Widening Access*

14. To promote full opportunities for all, that Officers be requested to identify suitable venues and musical opportunities throughout the Borough in order to maximise and support access for all children.

## **Implementation**

Officers in the Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services will be charged with implementing the Working Group's recommendations swiftly upon Cabinet approval.

## **Financial Implications**

The actions taken to implement the structures and improvements identified through Phase 1 of the review continue to ensure that the savings required of the music service through the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) remain on track to be delivered in full. These savings can be sustained through the development of local music education hub status in line with the approach and funding set out in the National Plan for Music Education.

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

To provide for the final arrangements of the Working Group for the Hillingdon Music Service, providing greater assurances to pupils, parents and families that currently receive music tuition.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

The Working Group received oral and written evidence from a variety of Officers and external partners and stakeholders involved in music provision as detailed in the review report.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate finance can confirm the financial implications are in line with the MTFF strategy.

### **Legal**

By sections 455 and 456 of the Education Act 1996, the Council is permitted to charge for the provision of extra-curricular music tuition, provided that the charges levied do not exceed the cost to the Council of providing the service. There is, however, no obligation on the Council to provide such music tuition or to subsidise the cost of the Service.

Under the Council's Constitution the Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendations proposed at the outset of this report. There are no other significant legal implications arising out of this report to bring to Cabinet's

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

A significant amount of oral and written evidence, including background papers, is set out in the appendices of the Final Report.