

## HILLINGDON MUSIC SERVICE PETITIONS

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor David Simmonds
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Education and Children's Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Mark Braddock, Central Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A: Terms of Reference of Working Group

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that three petitions have been received regarding the Hillingdon Music Service, consider the views of the petitioners and note the activity of the Working Group set up to review support for music tuition in Hillingdon.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	Putting our residents first
<b>Financial Cost</b>	None directly from this hearing
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Education and Children's Services
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services:

1. Notes the petitions received and listens to the views of petitioners;
2. Forwards the views of petitioners to the Working Group recently established to review support to music tuition in Hillingdon; and
3. Notes the Terms of Reference of the Working Group in Appendix A, which state that an interim report will be submitted to Cabinet to ensure the continuity of music tuition, particularly related to those pupils part way through an academic course.

### INFORMATION

#### Reasons for recommendation

To receive, consider and listen to the views of petitioners.

## Background

On 17 February 2011, Cabinet considered the Council's budget proposals for 2011/12 and beyond. Part of the budget proposals proposed a reduction in spend and change to the way local music services were provided. This attracted the attention and concern of people involved in the Hillingdon Music Service, including staff, parents and pupils. This also led to the generation of the petitions to be considered in this report.

The Leader of the Council chaired a special meeting before Cabinet to listen to the views of those involved in the Service. At the meeting, he indicated that time would be set aside for a review of music tuition by a Working Group before any final decision is made.

Council on 24 February 2011 agreed to set up the Working Group to be chaired by Councillor Judy Kelly who is Champion for the Arts and also a Member of the Music Service Management Committee. The approved Terms of Reference are set out in **Appendix A** to this report.

The Working Group will hold its first meeting shortly, following a significant amount of forensic work that is currently being carried out by officers from across departments to try and establish the service, financial and organisational standing of the Service. The Working Group will present an interim report to Cabinet in May to ensure the continuity of music tuition, particularly related to those pupils part way through an academic course.

Feedback from this Petition Hearing will be given to Members of the Working Group.

## Music Service Meeting

The Leader of the Council has undertaken to hold a further meeting for those involved in the Music Service once the interim report from the Working Group is ready to be presented to Cabinet. A date is yet to be confirmed but it will be communicated in due course.

## Petitions Received

Three petitions have been received with more than 20 signatories and are therefore eligible for being heard in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme:

<b>Date received</b>	<b>Title of Petition</b>	<b>Petition Organiser</b>	<b>Number of Signatures</b>
16-Feb-11	To protest in the strongest terms at the Council's plans to close the Hillingdon Music Service and we urge that it is kept open in its current format.	Jess Luscombe	25 (3 non-residents)
21-Feb-11	To petition the Council in support of the outstanding work that has been and should continue to be achieved by the Music Service in Hillingdon.	John Miller (Eastcote Choral Society)	83 (25 non-residents)
24-Feb-11	To petition the Council in support of the outstanding work that has been and should continue to be achieved by the Music Service in Hillingdon.	Peter Williams (Hillingdon Philharmonic Orchestra)	44 (22 non-residents)

Although not a valid petition because there was no lead petitioner or contact identified, a fourth petition was received from various young children using the Music Service, mainly from Ryefield School.

A number of letters and emails were also received by many Members of the Council.

### **Speaking Procedures**

Each petition organiser (or their nominee) shall have the right to speak about the matter raised in the petition for a maximum of 5 minutes and the Cabinet Member may ask questions about their petition. Extending the time limit and allowing others to speak is down to the consent of the Cabinet Member at the meeting.

### **Financial Implications**

None directly arising from this Petition Hearing. Any financial implications arising from the Working Group review will be considered fully by the Cabinet in due course.

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

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

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss directly with petitioners their concerns and how they can be addressed or taken forward.

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

Petitioners can consult directly with decision-makers through this Petition Hearing. The Council has already held a public meeting for those involved in the Music Service and proposes to do this again. The Working Group reviewing support to music tuition will also undertake any consultation it feels is necessary.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Legal**

The Cabinet Member is able to hear petitions in his portfolio area by virtue of the Cabinet Scheme of Delegations in the Council's Constitution. Council on 17 February 2011 delegated authority to the Leader of the Council and Champion for the Arts to agree the membership, Terms of Reference and Operation of the Working Group.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petitions received

## **WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW SUPPORT TO MUSIC TUITION IN HILLINGDON**

### **Objective**

The Council currently provides borough-wide support for music tuition via the Hillingdon Music Service.

Hillingdon residents must be satisfied that every Council service is of good quality and provides value for money. The provision of music tuition, like all areas of council activity, should not be immune from any review into how it operates or can be improved. The Working Group will take up this challenge and report its findings to Cabinet.

### **Membership**

The Working Group will have the following membership:

- Cllr Judy Kelly (Chairman and Champion for the Arts)
- Cllr John Hensley
- Cllr Peter Curling
- Cllr Michael White
- Mrs Lynne Kauffman

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To review the delivery of music tuition in Hillingdon and whether it offers value for money and is cost effective;
2. To specifically review the structure, operating procedures, utilisation of staff and management (financial and general) of the Hillingdon Music Service;
3. To consider an interim structure to carry forward the delivery of music tuition in Hillingdon whilst a long term sustainable solution for the delivery of quality music tuition can be determined;
4. To present to Cabinet an interim report to ensure the continuity of music tuition, particularly related to those part way through an academic course, by the date of the May Cabinet meeting to enable Cabinet to determine how best to continue support for music tuition in Hillingdon;
5. 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.

## **Status**

The Working Group is not a committee meeting and therefore is not required to meet officially in public to conduct its business or publish its minutes etc... However, it may call on members of the public and external witnesses to attend as it deems appropriate.

## **Operation**

### ***Reporting to the Working Group***

Before the Working Group meets in open session, it will be necessary to interview relevant music service staff and undertake a complete forensic analysis of the delivery of music tuition in Hillingdon. Officers reporting to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services will undertake this initial work and prepare a report. Research will also be undertaken by Officers to ensure best practice, comparative data and national policy analysis is considered.

The Leader of the Council has undertaken to ensure that this is carried out in a manner comparable with the Cabinet's wish for the delivery of music tuition in Hillingdon.

To meet its Terms of Reference, the Working Group will operate in two distinct phases as set out below:

### **PHASE 1**

#### ***Review of operation and value for money of the Hillingdon Music Service***

The first phase will review whether Hillingdon Music Service currently offers value for money and is cost effective and corporate in approach.

The Working Group will receive the necessary service, financial, organisational and benchmarking data including details on the take-up of the service and the way in which it is managed. It will look at tuition fee levels and how financial controls can be improved along with being smarter at collecting income. The Working Group will also review the services' compliance with corporate policies and procedures.

Witnesses may include:

- Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
- Corporate Finance Officer / Departmental Officers
- Representative from another music provider / local authority
- Staff delivering music tuition
- Pupils in receipt of music tuition
- Others that the Working Group feels appropriate

The Working Group will present an interim report to Cabinet in May as set out in the Terms of Reference.

## **PHASE 2**

### ***Sustainable delivery of quality music tuition in Hillingdon***

As set out in the Terms of Reference (no.5), the Working Group will look in detail, over a longer period, at different forms of delivering music tuition. It will produce a report to Cabinet with options and recommendations.

Witnesses may include:

- Education representatives
- Representative from other organisations delivering music tuition
- Others that the Working Group feel appropriate

### **Officer support:**

Support and advice to the Working Group will be given by officers in:

- Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
- Corporate Finance
- Democratic Services
- Other service areas as appropriate, e.g. BID Team

*Agreed by the Leader of the Council and Champion for Arts – March 2011*

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