

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3443

Future Governance of the Music Service

Decision maker/s	Cllr Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Communities
The Issue	<p>The future of Music Education, as required by the Department for Education (DfE) will change radically in 2023. These actions seek to protect the existing music offer for young people and build a vibrant and robust music education future for young people in Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES).</p> <p>Over the last 2 years, B&NES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Music Services have been working in partnership to deliver a more robust, more universal offer for young people in our region. We now need to transform our governance model so that we can release this potential to deliver for the future.</p> <p>In July 2022, the DfE released its refreshed vision for the governance and delivery of music education in England. This new vision is significantly different to the current model. The governance and funding of music services (through their role as Lead Organisation of Music Education Hubs) is required to radically transform.</p> <p>Over the last 18 months, the 3 Music Services have engaged a consultant to look at how the Services can work better together. The recommendations align with the DfE's new vision for the future governance of music education</p> <p>This decision seeks to protect the future of the music service as a new separate organisation, sitting outside the LA.</p> <p>It is felt this is the only viable option to retain the government funding on which the service relies.</p> <p>This will enable us to retain existing services and build a robust model which will attract future funding, enabling the Music Service to deliver a bigger, better, more universal offer for young people in B&NES.</p>
Decision Date	16th February 2023
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <p>In principle, the proposal that the Music Service merges with North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Council's Music Services, into one single service.</p>

	<p>In principle, the single service being established as an independent organisation outside the 3 Councils, enabling the Service to be eligible to retain government funding, protect staff and develop a broader, more universal youth music education offer.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Education and Safeguarding, Head of Legal Services and the Section 151 Officer to make the final decision on potential transfer and the terms thereof once transfer negotiations have progressed and proposed terms can be reported</p>
Rationale for decision	The proposals offer the best option to secure the future of the Music Service, protecting existing services and the workforce and enabling the Service to expand, better serving the children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset
Financial and budget implications	<p>The current Music Service is budgeted to be a cost neutral service, with an annual turnover of c. £500k. In 2021/22 the service made a surplus of £92.4k and, as a result began the 2022/23 financial year with balances of this amount.</p> <p>The proposal seeks to remove financial risk from the Council by creating a model which will be successful in attracting continued funding.</p> <p>The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the Service will not be viable for future funding which will likely lead to the closure of the service.</p> <p>The Service's existing reserves, described above, would transfer with the new organisation.</p> <p>An agreement will be reached between the Council and the new organisation regarding pension and other liabilities once actuarial reports have been received.</p> <p>If the new organisation were to be unsuccessful and have to partially, or fully, cease trading in the first few months, the Council is requested to underwrite an agreed level of costs, within agreed parameters, of winding up the new organisation which could not be met from its reserves.</p> <p>The Service's stock of musical instruments, which resources teaching programmes, would transfer with the new organisation.</p>
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Human Resources; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Impact on Staff;
Consultation undertaken	Cabinet colleagues; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Presentation of the paper to Policy and Scrutiny Panel and Senior Leadership Team. Staff consulted through briefing meetings.
Other options considered	Apply for the new round of DfE funding as a single LA Music Service:

	<p>Very unlikely to be eligible, and if eligible, very unlikely to be successful. Does not benefit from the existing partnership work which improves the universal music offer in North Somerset. Service will most likely need to close.</p> <p>Redundancy and possible pension costs are likely to be in excess of £150k</p>
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	<p>Councillor Dine Romero Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Communities Bath and North East Somerset Council</p>
Date of Signature	16 February 2023

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision