



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

**DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet    DATE DECISION MADE: 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.**

***Agenda Item 3***

**SUBJECT:**

Medium Term Service Planning – Service Change Proposal – Music Service.

**Cabinet Members Present  
County Borough Councillors:**

A.Morgan (Chairman), P.Cannon, R.Bevan, A.Crimmings, M.Forey,  
E.Hanagan, G.Hopkins, K Montague and M.Webber

**Other Members in Attendance  
County Borough Councillors:**

S. Bradwick, P. Griffiths, B. Morgan, P. Jarman, T. Leyshon, R  
Lewis, K. Morgan, S. Rees-Owen E. Webster and M. Weaver.

## **1. DECISION MADE:**

### **Agreed –**

1.1 That following consideration of the outcomes of the Consultation and the Equalities Impact Assessment and the further information presented today (as attached to this decision notice) that the alternative option, as outlined by officers, is implemented with the Music Service re-launched based on: -

- All the music teachers and instructors will be offered the opportunity to be re-engaged on local terms and conditions on a term time basis (36 weeks) only for instrumental and whole class provision;
- The management arrangements will be reduced utilising existing Education Department management arrangements and introducing a Senior Tutor in the structure supported by an administrator;
- There will be an increase in the instrumental fee charged to schools of £2 per hour, increasing the rate from £26 to £28 per hour. Whole class tuition would remain at £33 per hour.
- Extra-curricular provision will be charged at a rate of £2 per hour. The average session is 2 hours. For parents with more than 1 child accessing the extra-curricular activity, the subsequent children are charged at a rate of £1 per hour. Children that access more than one ensemble, the additional ensembles will be charged at the rate of £1.50;
- There will be a hardship fund of £20,000 to enable pupils on free school meals to access the extra-curricular provision, and support multiple sibling families.
- Continued support to pupils within the County Borough through funding arrangements for the provision of the 4 Counties Youth Music and the Welsh Youth Arts, which includes the National Orchestra for Wales.

1.2 The alternative option will require discussion and agreement with staff and Trade Unions. Implementation of the new arrangements outlined in 1.1 above will be from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and as such allow a timeline for these negotiations through to the end of March 2015. The alternative option will deliver £230k savings for 2015/16 (£400k full year savings).

1.3 If agreement cannot be reached via negotiation in respect of the new arrangements outlined in 1.1 above the alternative will be the discontinuation of the music service (in line with the original proposal) in order for a 1<sup>st</sup> of September implementation date to be achieved.

1.4 That the Group Director, Corporate & frontline Services updates the draft 2015/16 budget strategy to reflect the financial implications of the decision taken, prior to Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and as part of this update, any savings achievable in 2015/16 should be used to reduce the level of transitional funding (i.e. use of the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service transformation Reserve)

needed to deliver a balanced budget for that year.

**N.B** – with the permission of the Chairman, Dr Mike Thomas (member of the public and member of the Friends of RCT Music Service) spoke on this item in addition to County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, S Rees-Owen and K. Morgan.

**2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:**

- The need to consider service change proposals as part of the Council's medium Term Service Planning arrangement, specifically in the context of the need to reduce spend and enable the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibility and set a balanced budget from 2015/16 onwards.
- The need to consider all the documentation before Cabinet and information provided by Officers following additional queries at the meeting, including the results of the consultation exercise, additional information collated by officers during the consultation and the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- Subject to Trade Union agreement the decision will allow for continuation of the service provided and greater flexibility of working hours to better meet the needs of the schools.

**3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:**

- As outlined within section 5 of the report, a consultation exercise was initiated by Cabinet following consideration of the proposal at a Cabinet meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014, with the Consultation originally scheduled to run from the 21<sup>st</sup> October - 5 p.m.16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- Cabinet decision taken on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to extend the consultation exercise until 5p.m. 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015, with further additional information being made available to consultees.

**4. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:**

- None

**5. DISPENSATION TO SPEAK (AS GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE):**

- In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman stated in relation to agenda item that "On 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, following a request I made to the Standards Committee, I was granted a dispensation in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on matters relating to all services affected by the budget process for a period leading up to and including the formal approval of the budget for 2015/2016 by the Council."

**6. (a) IS THE DECISION URGENT AND NOT TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

YES      NO ✓

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication i.e. **20<sup>th</sup> February 2015** to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

**6. (b) IF YES, REASONS WHY IN THE OPINION OF THE DECISION-MAKER THE DECISION IS URGENT:**

N/A

**6. (c) SIGNATURE OF MAYOR OR DEPUTY MAYOR OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE CONFIRMING AGREEMENT THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION IS REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR IT BEING TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 17.2:**

N/A

.....  
(Mayor)

.....  
(Dated)



.....  
(Proper Officer)

**12.02.15**  
(Dated)

## Alternative Proposal Details - Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014

This proposal is a combination of a number of the options referenced in the Music Service consultation document. The changes from the current Music Service arrangements are that:

- All the music teachers and instructors would be offered the opportunity to be re-engaged on local terms and conditions on a term time basis (36 weeks) only for instrumental and whole class provision;
- The management arrangements would be reduced utilising existing Education Department management arrangements and introducing a Senior Tutor in the structure supported by an administrator;
- There would be an increase in the instrumental fee charged to schools of £2 per hour, increasing the rate from £26 to £28 per hour. Whole class tuition would remain at £33 per hour. These instrumental fees are the same as the private sector competitors and £6 cheaper than that charged by The Joint Cardiff and Vale Councils Music Service;
- Extra-curricular provision would be charged at a rate of £2 per hour. The average session is 2 hours. For parents with more than 1 child accessing the extra-curricular activity, the subsequent children are charged at a rate of £1 per hour. Children that access more than one ensemble, the additional ensembles will be charged at the rate of £1.50;
- There would be a hardship fund of £20,000 to enable pupils on free school meals to access the extra-curricular provision, and support multiple sibling families.

This alternative approach would offer the current level of music provision but reduce the Council's level of subsidy by £400,000. The savings are generated as follows:

	<b>£'000</b>
Reduction in management arrangements	92
Reduction in employee costs	254
Increase in instrumental tuition costs to schools	35
Introduction of extra-curricular fees for ensembles etc	39
Hardship Fund for FSM pupils to access extra-curricular ensembles and to support multi-sibling families	(20)
<b>Projected annual full year saving</b>	<b>400</b>

*Note - If implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2015, this would generate part year savings of £0.230M in 2015/16*