

Cabinet

9th July 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - Councillor K Sandhu

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Childrens Services and Education

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Acceptance of the Music Education Revenue and Capital Grants for the Strategic Area of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull

Is this a key decision?

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive summary:

“On 25 June 2022, The Department for Education and Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) published a refreshed National Plan for Music Education: the power of music to change lives, setting out government’s priorities until 2030 for music education from birth until they leave education.” Subsequently the Music Education Hubs programme was announced as changing from 119 Hubs to 43 larger more strategic Hubs to be in place for September 2024 managed by Arts Council England.

Coventry City Council has been successful in its application to be the Hub Lead Organisation as part of a consortium for the region of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. This was a partnership bid with the three current Music Hub lead organisations (Council based Music Services). Our application has been successful to initially lead this consortium with a view to explore future partnership models for the consortium to ensure strategic impact for our region.

The revenue grant for academic year 2024/25 of which the Council have received a conditional offer will be £1,684,457 to be accepted by 22nd August 2024.

The Council as the Hub Lead Organisation have additionally been awarded a capital grant to spend over the next 2-5 years on musical instruments and adaptive technology of £553,330. This is to be accepted subsequently to accepting the revenue grant after 1st September 2024.

The 2 grants have ringfenced funding for each Local Authority (LA). For Coventry this is £534,408 revenue and £175,548 capital.

We are seeking cabinet approval to accept these grants in accordance with the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Approve acceptance of the revenue grant for academic year 2024/25 to the sum of £1,684,457 and by way of such acceptance note Coventry City Council will become the Music Hub Lead for Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.
- 2) Approve acceptance of the forthcoming capital grant for academic year 2024/25 to the sum of £553,330.
- 3) Approve passing of the necessary grant funds (derived from recommendations 1) and 2) above) to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council.
- 4) Approve entering into the necessary grant arrangements with Coventry City Council's delivery partners in order to deliver upon the requirements of recommendations 1) and 2) above.
- 5) Delegate Authority to the Director of Children's and Education Services, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to enter into such contractual arrangements to give effect to the above recommendations.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

- The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education>
- Music Hub Funding Allocations
<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/21513/download?attachment=>

- Department for Education Vision for Music Hubs <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/our-open-funds/music-hub-investment/music-hub-investment-programme-geographies-future-music-hubs>
- New Music Hubs National Map <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/u50cw/9/>

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Acceptance of the Music Education Revenue and Capital Grants for the Strategic Area of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. On 25 June 2022, The Department for Education and Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) published a refreshed National Plan for Music Education: the power of music to change lives, setting out government's priorities until 2030 for music education from birth until they leave education." Subsequently the Music Education Hubs programme was announced as changing from 119 Hubs to 43 larger more strategic Hubs to be in place for September 2024.
- 1.2. Since 2012 Coventry City Council has been the lead organisation for the single LA Music Hub with independent local governance and a collection of delivery and strategic partners. The grant of c. £530,000 per annum based on the national funding formula has been used to support both the Music Service and partners during this period.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. In consultation with partners Coventry City Council submitted a bid to be the Hub Lead Organisation in a consortium for the region of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. This was a partnership bid with the three current Music Hub lead organisations (LA based Music Services).
- 2.2. Following meetings between the LA Music Leads, current independent Hub Chairs and Arts Council England Representatives the approach taken in our successful application is for Coventry City Council to initially lead the Hub to fulfil the key goals from the National Plan for Music Education. MOU's and grant sharing by the national formulas are already in place prior to the application being signed and agreed by appropriate officers in each LA.
- 2.3. The approach has been designed to ensure continuity of the local music service provision in partnership with schools, parents/carers and other local community musicians and organisations, whilst enabling a strategic aspect to the overall music education offer. A legal agreement between the three parties from Coventry City Council structures both the pre-award and post award periods (September 2024) and how to allocate the funding to ensure maximum impact of programmes for children and young people in the region.
- 2.4. The regional funding amount will be £1,684,457 for the 2024/25 academic year with £534,408 specifically for Coventry. In addition, Coventry will receive an £8k management fee contribution from the other LA's due to Coventry City Council's role in delivering Hub wide management and reporting responsibilities. The Department for Education Grant for Music Hubs is confirmed until August 2026, with an initial grant funding period of academic year 2024/25. The national grant is allocated via a formula based on 90% per child in LA areas and 10% based on a free school meals calculation.

- 2.5. Music Hubs as part of the grant conditions must demonstrate an ability to generate additional match funding exceeding the grant amount. This can include income from partners of the Music Hub which is recorded by Arts Council England but does not go through the Music Hub's accounts. This risk is mitigated as the total Music Hub traded income already exceeds the grant allocation. Options to develop the partnership model will continue to be explored to grow the services income, expand the reach for Children and Young People and explore efficiencies where appropriate.
- 2.6. To launch the 'new hubs' programme in September 2024 our region will also have a one-off capital grant of £553,330 ring-fenced for spend on new equipment, resources, and instruments, of which £175,548 is allocated to Coventry. This will result in Coventry City Council managing a total grant for the 24/25 academic year of £2,237,787 reducing to circa £1,700,000 annually, should the agreement continue into academic year 25/26 and beyond.
- 2.7. To fulfil the conditions of the grant an external governance board of stakeholders and partners will be established, including but not limited to Early Years settings, Primary, Secondary and Specialist schools, Further Education, Higher Education establishments and industry partners. The board will oversee the setting of objectives for the regional music hub and ensuring educational targets are met as well as overseeing fundraising and income objectives and the financial management of partners. This builds on the current expectations of local independent governance in place for the single LA Music Hubs.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. Consultation took place with the current Hub lead organisations and wider partnerships, who all agreed to support the Coventry City Council led consortium application.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. The revenue grant will be accepted before the Arts Council's deadline of 22nd August 2024. Subject to agreeing to the Terms and Conditions the Capital Grant will be accepted after 1st September 2024.
- 4.2. MOU's are already in place with the three local authorities and these will be changed to partnership agreements from September 2024 when the new grant period starts.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

Until September 2024 Coventry City Council is the lead organisation for Coventry Music Hub. The Department for Education's National Plan for Music Education announced there would be a change in the number of Hubs from September 2024. This will reduce the number of hubs from 119 to 43 larger more strategic hubs.

As a result of these changes, for the period September 2024 to August 2025 initially Coventry City Council will become the lead organisation and accountable body for Heart of England Music Hub covering the geographical areas of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull. Coventry City Council will therefore be responsible for financial reporting to the Arts Council on behalf of the 3 organisations. Funding will still be allocated for local authority areas by Arts Council England but will be managed by Coventry City Council with an independent board providing scrutiny and oversight. Coventry City Council will passport funding to Solihull MBC and Warwickshire County Council as appropriate.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between the 3 organisations, confirming how the Music Hub will operate. More formal partnership agreements are being developed which will ensure any financial risk for Coventry City Council as a consequence of acting as accountable body will be transferred to Solihull MBC and Warwickshire County Council. These will also include details of reporting requirements so Coventry City Council can complete returns to Arts Council England within the timescales set out in the grant conditions.

From September 2024, Music Hubs must demonstrate that the partnership generates additional income greater than the grant allocation it receives. This can include income from partners of the Music Hub which is recorded by Arts Council England but does not go through the Music Hub's accounts. This risk is mitigated as the total Music Hub traded income already exceeds the grant allocation.

Coventry City Council will not incur any additional costs to fulfil the requirements of being the accountable body.

Solihull MBC and Warwickshire County Council will continue to run music services in their area, as per current practice. Therefore, there are no additional liabilities for Coventry City Council as a consequence of this grant award.

5.2. Legal Implications

S1 Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence and as such the Council has the power to receive grant funding and enter into a grant arrangement.

Legal Services will perform all necessary review of the grant/s from Arts Council and draft the necessary grant agreements to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council delivery partners.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

Working together to improve our city and the lives of those who live, work and study here” The three delivery priorities: Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities; Improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions; Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. The two enabling priorities: Continued financial sustainability of the Council; Council’s role as a partner, enabler and leader

By leading the new Music Hub for the region, we will continue to support all of the above priorities through the following:

- Enabling children and young people from across the whole city access and opportunities through music education.
- Developing funding opportunities for individual music tutors and small/large arts and cultural organisations to deliver music programmes and grow as sustainable businesses.
- Develop programmes and ways of working that tackle climate change – through innovation in use of technology, reuse of instruments and programmes using music and creativity to enable young people to share and highlight concerns.
- Continue to be a service area fully funded by grant and traded income.
- Support the wider cultural and education sectors in the city through our leadership role within the Music Hub and Cultural Education Partnership networks.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

The capital investment will be owned by the Hub Lead Organisation and all musical equipment would move should Coventry City Council cease being the lead organisation, however the Department for Education and Arts Council England will be reviewing and keeping track of these assets. A partnership agreement passing on the funding conditions will be in place with the two LA Consortium partners and wider Hub Funded partners to ensure grant terms and conditions are met.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

No impact to the organisation as we currently manage the Hub Grant for Coventry as a single entity Hub.

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

The Equalities and Diversity team have confirmed that as we are delivering against a National Plan there is no need for a local EIA to be in place.

Music Hubs are required to have an inclusion strategy and each LA as current Hub Leads have these in place. A revised Regional Hub Inclusion Strategy will be in place for December 2024.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

Arts Council England have conditions around sustainability within the grant. We will therefore begin to explore creative ways to work and develop music education programmes that support a Greener Future and way of working both through this grant, Coventry City Council policies and Lets Create (ACE's 10 year strategy)

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

Coventry Music currently supports via cash funding or in-kind equipment/staffing many local community arts organisations and 80%+ schools in the city. By ensuring that we maintain this grant we will be able to continue to support the Music Education Eco-system in the city.

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