

Norfolk County Council

Record of Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Penny Carpenter (Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Background and Purpose:

Following the publication of the refreshed National Plan for Music Education, Arts Council England confirmed the new music hub geographies in June 2023 as part of reducing the number of Music Hubs across England from 118 to 43. This confirmed the intention to operate a Music Hub covering Norfolk and Suffolk, funded by the Department for Education, and administered by Arts Council England.

This decision is for Norfolk County Council's Music Service to bid, through the Bid Submission process being led by Arts Council England, to become the lead organisation of the newly created Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub. The deadline for submitting a bid is 12 October 2023, with the intention that the new Music Hubs go live from September 2024.

Decision:

Is it a key decision? Yes

Is it subject to call-in? Yes

If Yes – the deadline for call-in is: 4pm Wednesday 11 October 2023

Impact of the Decision:

If successful in our bid for Norfolk County Council's Music Service to be the Hub Lead Organisation for a Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub, this will ensure that Norfolk's children and young people receive a continuity of offer alongside opportunities to augment and support an enhanced programme of music activity, reflecting our shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish.

As one of only 43 Music Hubs nationally we will have significantly more opportunity to work across the arts sector, securing engagement from high profile national organisations to support high quality provision and excellent outcomes for Norfolk's children and young people.

The Music Hub programme aligns with the DfE Priority Education Investment programme alongside Arts Council England's Priority Investment Areas and the Levelling Up Agenda which will bring significant further investment into the

area to further address inequality and support resilience across our diverse communities.

Evidence and reason for the decision:

The Power of Music: A National Plan for Music Education (NPME) outlines a bold vision for music education in England - that all children and young people should be able to create music, learn a musical instrument, make music with others, learn to sing, and progress their interests and talents as far as they would like, and partnership between the broad range of services, organisations, and educators that are relevant to the musical lives of children and young people is essential if this is to be achieved.

The work of Norfolk County Council's Music Service and the opportunities being created through the current Norfolk Music Hub for a diverse range of children and young people, including those with SEND and from our more disadvantaged communities, fully supports our shared ambition for all children and young people to Flourish.

Given the demonstrable positive impact that engagement in music has for individuals, it is also in line with Norfolk's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its priorities to drive integration, prioritise prevention, address inequalities, and enable resilient communities.

This is an opportunity to build on the success of the Norfolk Music Hub, through Norfolk County Council's Music Service bidding to be the lead organisation for the new Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub, utilising our knowledge and understanding of the local context, needs and a music education local infrastructure that is proven to be effective.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

If Norfolk County Council does not bid to be the Lead Organisation for the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub, it would be left to a national provider to submit a successful bid as part of the Investment Process.

Financial, Resource or other implications considered:

The DfE Music Hub grant enables more children and young people to be able to access affordable or free music activities. This will continue within a Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub.

The current Music Hub brings in significant additional funding and in-kind support from a host of partner organisations. This will continue and be extended to support direct delivery of music activity across Norfolk and Suffolk.

If successful in our bid to be the Hub Lead Organisation, Norfolk County Council's Music Service would be responsible for administering the overall DfE grant for the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub which for 2024/25 is confirmed as £2.1m revenue funding and £660k capital funding.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None

Background documents:

None

Date of Decision: 2 October 2023

Publication Date of Decision: 4 October 2023

Signed by Cabinet Member:

I confirm that I have made the decision set out above, for the reasons also set out.

Signed:

Print name: Cllr Penny Carpenter

Date: 2 October 2023

Accompanying documents:

- Music Hub Investment Process Decision Making Report

APPENDIX 1 of this report is exempt from publication - as it contains information that is commercially sensitive to Norfolk County Council's bid to the Arts Council England Bid Submission process.

Once you have completed your internal department clearance process and obtained agreement of the Cabinet Member, send your completed decision notice together with the report and green form to committees@norfolk.gov.uk

Individual Cabinet Member Decision Report

Item No:

Report Title: Music Hub Investment Process

Date of Meeting: N/A

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Penny Carpenter (Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Responsible Director: Sara Tough, Executive Director Children's Services

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

If this is a Key Decision, date added to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 4 September 2023

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

The work of Norfolk County Council's Music Service and the opportunities being created through the current Norfolk Music Hub for a diverse range of children and young people, including those with SEND and from our more disadvantaged communities, fully supports our shared ambition for all children and young people to Flourish.

With this in mind, Norfolk County Council intends to bid to be the Hub Lead Organisation of a new Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub from September 2024, as part of an Investment Process being led by Arts Council England on behalf of the Department for Education.

Norfolk Music Service as the lead organisation of the current Norfolk Music Hub, with the support of 90+ local, regional and national partners, is in an enviable position to bid as the lead organisation due to our strong track record, national profile, quality of offer, levels of engagement, strength and breadth of partnerships, and overall vision.

Appendix 1 of this report is exempt from publication as it contains information that is commercially sensitive to Norfolk's bid to the Arts Council England Bid Submission process.

Recommendation:

To submit a bid to Arts Council England for Norfolk County Council's Music Service to be the Hub Lead Organisation for a Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub from September 2024

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 Following the publication of the refreshed National Plan for music education: **The Power of Music: A National Plan for Music Education**, there has been a subsequent announcement from Arts Council England that they are reducing the number of Music Hubs across England from 118 to 43, and that this includes a refreshed Music Hub geography to cover Norfolk and Suffolk.
- 1.2 This change in geographical footprint is being driven by the Department for Education (Arts Council England are the grant administrators) and will mean that the highly successful Norfolk Music Hub will cease to exist in its current format in September 2024.
- 1.3 A Music Hub Investment Process, led by Arts Council England, on behalf of the Department for Education, has commenced for lead organisations to bid to operate local Music Hubs across the country from September 2024. The Arts Council England deadline for bid submissions is 12 October 2023, with the outcome expected to be announced in early April 2024.
- 1.4 A single Hub Lead Organisation will be expected to strategically lead each Music Hub, providing excellent and dynamic leadership, facilitating the development of the music hub, and ensuring that high-quality activity is appropriately secured and commissioned.
- 1.5 This will require an ability to work successfully with a broad range of local partners to determine the infrastructure and delivery models which will respond best to local context and need as a partnership.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To submit a bid to Arts Council England for Norfolk County Council's Music Service to be the Hub Lead Organisation for a Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub from September 2024

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 Should Norfolk County Council's Music Service be successful in maintaining its status as a Hub Lead Organisation, this will ensure that Norfolk's children

and young people receive a continuity of offer alongside opportunities to augment and support an enhanced programme of music activity, supporting our shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish.

- 3.2 As one of only 43 Music Hubs nationally we will have significantly more opportunity to work across the arts sector, securing engagement from high profile national organisations to support high quality provision and excellent outcomes for Norfolk's children and young people.
- 3.3 The Music Hub programme aligns with the DfE Priority Education Investment programme alongside Arts Council England's Priority Investment Areas and the Levelling Up Agenda which will bring significant further investment into the area to further address inequality and support resilience across our diverse communities.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 The County Council has committed to endorse and support a shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish.
- 4.2 **The Power of Music: A National Plan for Music Education** (NPME) outlines a bold vision for music education in England - that all children and young people should be able to create music, learn a musical instrument, make music with others, learn to sing, and progress their interests and talents as far as they would like, and partnership between the broad range of services, organisations, and educators that are relevant to the musical lives of children and young people is essential if this is to be achieved.
- 4.3 The work of Norfolk County Council's Music Service and the opportunities being created through the current Norfolk Music Hub for a diverse range of children and young people, including those with SEND and from our more disadvantaged communities, fully supports our shared ambition for all children and young people to Flourish.
- 4.4 Given the demonstrable impact that engagement in music has for individuals, the work of the Music Hub is addressing Norfolk's Health and Wellbeing Strategy's priorities to drive integration, prioritise prevention, address inequalities, and enable resilient communities.
- 4.5 This is an opportunity to build on the success of the Norfolk Music Hub, through Norfolk County Council's Music Service bidding to be the Hub Lead Organisation for the new Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub, utilising our knowledge and understanding of the local context, needs and a music education local infrastructure that is proven to be effective.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 If Norfolk County Council does not bid to be the Hub Lead Organisation for the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub, it would be left to a national provider to submit a successful bid as part of the Investment Process.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The amount of Department for Education investment into a Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub for the period 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025 will be £2,015,172 of revenue funding and £661,967 of capital funding for the purchase of instruments.
- 6.2 As the National Plan for Music Education runs until 2030 there is a commitment to continue the Music Hub model beyond 2025, although currently Arts Council England funding for Music Hubs is only confirmed for 1 year (2024-25).
- 6.3 The Norfolk Music Hub brings in significant additional funding and in-kind support from a host of partner organisations. This will continue and be extended to support direct delivery of music activity across Norfolk and Suffolk.

7. Resource Implications

7.1 Staff: none

7.2 Property: none

7.3 IT: none

8. Other Implications

8.1 Legal Implications: none

8.2 Human Rights Implications: none

8.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):

The Norfolk Music Hub has completed a detailed equality impact assessment as part of enabling the Music Hub Executive Board's effective oversight over the Music Hub. This approach will be maintained and extended to cover both Norfolk and Suffolk.

8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA): none

8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate): none

8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate): none

8.7 Any Other Implications: none

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

9.1 There is a chance that a national provider could also submit a successful bid to lead the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub as part of the Investment Process. Based on our engagement in discussions nationally and with local and regional partners, we assess this risk to be minimal.

10. Select Committee Comments

10.1 N/A

11. Recommendation

To submit a bid to Arts Council England for the Norfolk County Council's Music Service to be the Hub Lead Organisation for a Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub from September 2024

12. Background Papers

12.1 Individual Cabinet Member Decision for Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub bid
October 2023

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

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