

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
27 June 2013**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Instrumental Music Instruction

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides information on the current arrangements for charging for instrumental music instruction in Highland and the Instrumental Music Group national review.

The report recommends that Highland should cease charging S4, S5 and S6 students receiving instrumental music instruction who are studying on an SQA music course with effect from August 2013.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Highland Council currently charges the majority of pupils receiving instrumental music instruction including those studying on an SQA music course. There is also a comprehensive and robust Exemptions Framework designed to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the charging policy.
- 1.2 The Instrumental Music Group set up by the Scottish Government has reviewed practice and arrangements across Scotland. The Group held meetings within the Highland Council area and members of Group had discussions with elected members and officials in relation to current Highland Council practice.

Following these discussions it was considered opportune to review the Council's current charging policy for music courses. As a consequence of this, it is proposed that the Highland Council should cease charging for SQA music courses with effect from August 2013. This will apply to pupils in S4, S5 and S6.

2. Implications

- 2.1 There are no legal or equality implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

2.2 Financial implications

The charge for instrumental music instruction in Highland Council area is £252 per annum. The current number of S4 to S6 pupils studying on an SQA music course and receiving instrumental music instruction is approximately 300 and the total charge for pupils in this category is approximately £75,600 per annum.

2.3 The impact of the proposed change to the charging scheme will be met from the Learning and Teaching Budget allocation within the Education, Culture and Sports Service Revenue Budget.

3.	Recommendation
3.1	It is recommended that the Highland Council cease charging for students in S4, S5 and S6 who are receiving instrumental music instruction and are studying an SQA music course with effect from August 2013.

Signature: Hugh Fraser

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Date: 18 June 2013

Author: Hugh Fraser

Background Papers: