MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	Education Services			
Proposal Title	Gwent Music Service reduction in hardship funding.			
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	Gwent Music Service provide subsidised lessons for pupils who are eligible for free school meals but at a higher cost than other local authorities using the regional service. Reducing the Newport subsidy to the same level as other local authorities would achieve a saving of £14k in 2020/21 while maintaining £9k of subsidy to Newport pupils.			
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓

Public Consultation Required (Please	YES	✓	NO	
tick appropriate box)				

PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	14		
One-Off Implementation Costs	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
(£000's)			
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			

Impact on FTE Count	No impact on FTE count
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Does this proposal require an FEIA	YES	✓	NO	

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and/or WFG Act assessment?		
(Please tick appropriate box)		

PART TWO

Options Considered

The Gwent Music Service is jointly funded by Newport, Monmouthshire and Torfaen local authorities.

In 2019/20, the local authority made a £23k contribution to the Gwent Music Service to subsidise the cost of music lessons for pupils eligible for free school meals. The contribution Newport makes to Gwent Music Service for subsidising music lessons is greater than that of both Monmouthshire and Torfaen (£9k each). With this in mind, consideration has been given to reducing the amount of funding allocated to subsidise the cost of music lessons for learners who are eligible for free school meals.

Option 1

Remove the funding allocated to the Gwent Music Service to subsidise the cost of music lessons for learners who are eligible for free school meals in its entirety. Request that schools fund this support from the Pupil Development Grant (PDG). This would equate to a cost saving of £23k.

Option 2

Reduce the funding allocated to the Gwent Music Service to subsidise the cost of music lessons for learners who are eligible for free school meals so that it is in line with that of Monmouthshire and Torfaen. This would equate to a cost saving of £14k

Recommended Option

In order to continue to support pupils who are eligible for free school meals with access to specialist music provision, option 2 would be recommended.

Specific Links with Wellbeing of Future Generations (WFG) Act

Integration —This proposal is not supportive of improving educational attainment or supporting pupils disadvantaged by poverty. However, adding additional funding pressure to other service areas also puts council wide services at further risk, particularly those services which are aligned to vulnerable groups.

Long Term & **Prevention** – The council must achieve a balanced budget and maintain the best service for its customers. Customers are wider than those in schools alone. This budget proposal prevents a further, disproportionate funding reduction to wider council services.

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Collaboration - This proposal does not aid greater collaboration. It requires more support from school budgets

Involvement – All budget proposals will be consulted upon. Key stakeholders linked to this proposal include Chairs of Governors, Head teachers, parents, pupils, peripatetic and private music tutors, Schools Forum and Newport City Council staff.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

No

For internal use:

Unique reference number	EDU2021/03
Activity Code	EDU23