

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/493975

Please provide the following information in regard to charging for instrumental music lessons;

Has there been any working group or staff consultation taken place about charging pupils for tuition?

Yes, a working group has been established and the first meeting was held in April.

How were those staff selected?

Determined by role and relevance to the project, knowledge of the service and appropriateness of role in relation to project requirements.

Are all other staff being given an opportunity to feed into that group?

A communication strategy is being drawn up to ensure staff are kept advised of progress

Charging for Instrumental Tuition-

What is the total education budget? What is the percentage of the education budget allocated to instrumental tuition?

Total education budget is £92.5m. Percentage allocated to Instrumental Music Tuition service is 0.77%

How many current secondary pupils are leaving the instrumental service in June 2018?

There are 42 S6 pupils who will be leaving school. The total number of secondary pupils who may stop lessons in June 2018 is not known.

How many instruments does the council own, how many are in working order, how many are current pupils using, does the council reclaim them when a pupil leaves school?

An audit of instruments currently being undertaken. Instruments would return to ELC when a pupil leaves or purchases their own instrument.

How many staff are employed as Instrumental Tuition Instructors?

21 members of staff.

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How many equivalent FTE based on 4.5 days as FTE?

16.42 FTE

What are the total salary costs including employer on cost, contributions and pension liabilities?

£707,432

How many pupils are taught under the service?

1,245

How many are individual tuition and how many are group tuition?

502 have individual lessons and 743 having group lessons.

How many of those total IMS pupils are sitting SQA music exams?

106

How many of those total IMS pupils are sitting non SQA music exams or national recognised music exams?

Pupils are encouraged to do external exams (AB, Trinity etc) but numbers vary.

When was IMS charging agreed? How was it agreed, by whom? If agreed at committee then what committee and what date?

Agreed by Full Council at its meeting on 13 February 2018.

Please provide the business case for this saving/ income stream including finance model.

Based on the requirement to make efficiency savings across the education service, the proportionate amount that was allocated to the Instrumental Music Service was £357k over two financial years (2018/19 and 2019/20)

What assumptions have been made on the uptake figures expected to allow these savings/income to be realised and what is the basis of those assumptions.

This information is not held*.

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What are the redundancy costs associated with a downturn in the number of pupils receiving IMS and staff levels no longer being required? Please provide lowest, highest and average.

This information is not held*.

Does the council allow and expect compulsory redundancies as a result of this charging initiative?

At this stage no compulsory redundancies are anticipated. Should there be a need to consider redundancies they would be dealt with in accordance with Council policy on the matter.

Should redundancies be necessary how will this be delivered?

In accordance with Council policy.

What are the early retirement costs associated with a downturn in the number of pupils receiving IMS? Please provide lowest, highest and average.

This information is not held*.

What engagement with pupils and impact assessment on pupils has been undertaken?

None to date.

What is the implementation plan and timeline for this charging scheme?

The charging is anticipated to be introduced from the commencement of school session 2018/19.

How will pupils make payments?

Payments can be made via the Council's online payment service and there will still be the option of paying in cash/cheque for those who wish to.

How will debt be pursued?

Via the Council's normal debt recovery process.

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***What is the cost of the payment and debt management process?
Please include anticipated staff, banking and digital costs?***

This information is not held*.

Regional Showcase Concert held annually at the Brunton Hall; What is the venue costs for this concert, for rehearsals and the concert?

£835.48

What are the hospitality costs associated with the special guests for this concert?

£152

What revenue is gained from the tickets sales?

£2,778 (£1,780.52 after costs)

What happens, what is the money used for, from ticket sales?

Various costs associated – Music, stands, transport, instrument removal costs, printing, instrument purchase.

*Under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with those parts of your request marked * as the information you require is not held.

It may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that ELC may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>