

## FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

<b>Applicant name:</b>	Stirling Council	
<b>Application Reference number:</b>	G201001051	
<b>Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)</b>	£60,000	£60,000
<b>Officer's recommendation</b>		
<p>Summarise the key points of your assessment and draw out the strengths and weaknesses of the application taken together with any comments you have received from source evidence (portfolio of evidence/ internal / external consultation). Highlight any specific risks  <i>Note: The amount of information you provide here should be sufficient for the decision maker to reach a decision. As with all previous commentary boxes please do not exceed 250 words</i></p>		
<b>Comments:</b>		
<p>This is a good application with clear artistic vision and proven track record. The key strengths are seen most evidently through;</p> <p>Strong artistic vision          Committed to ensuring diverse high quality music programming          Excellent public engagement and strong marketing materials          Strong contribution to developing new music and musicians through Creative Hub          Strong and integral approach to education          Strong arts development team to implement all aspects of the programme          Proven track record and highly regarded by lead officer          Operating and governance systems are robust</p> <p>A few areas of development have been identified, which do not cause major concern and can be resolved through conditions;</p> <p>Lack of an independent Equalities policy          No detailed programme budgets or finance details</p> <p>Overall the application demonstrates very well how it shall programme high quality music and fits both the Flexible criteria and music department priority areas. The venue rated highly and is a key building block in the musical landscape of Scotland. Had a full budget been provided within the application there is no doubt the overall rating would have been high.</p>		
<b>Officer's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>MEDIUM</b>
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 30.01.2008 Revised: 20.03.08
Print name:	Caroline Winn	

## Stage 2: Heads of Departments prioritise applications with advice from Specialist Advisors

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the application identified by the Specialist Advisors? Please summarise their comments below. What were their ratings of the importance of the application in being supported?

The panel consisted of Murray Buchanan, Paul Bream, Jim Gaitens, Rachel Nelken and Susan Nickalls. Marie Fielding, who had submitted ratings by email, declared a conflict of interest with this application and declined to supply a rating.

### Comments:

- The panel rated this as an excellent application, with a visionary and creative balance across several different genres.
- The panel agreed that closer collaboration with the Macrobert Centre would be welcome as per the application.

The panel rated the importance of the application in being supported as **High**.

2. Summarise the role of the organisation within the infrastructure of the sector. Assess to what extent the organisation's vision will contribute to the department's and to Scottish Arts Council's aims: (to fulfil artists' potential, to increase participation, to place creativity at the heart of learning)

### Comments:

The Tolbooth is a key strategic venue for the music department and for the wider cross-art-form disciplines of the Scottish Arts Council. Its facilities are well utilised by professional performers and the local communities in equal measure and their programme of activities is wide, engaging and varied. The support from the music department's budget is from our key promoters, festivals and venues funding stream, but the Tolbooth also successfully engages with the YMI programme and also has a musician in residence scheme, supported by us.

Participation is a key element of the Tolbooth programme and this involves access to tuition and learning and the use of studio facilities for recordings, where young people can both learn and create their own work under the tutelage of eminent song-writers such as Carol Laula and Davie Scott.

The Tolbooth operates a wide-ranging community brief which addresses the social deprivation agenda as well as the equalities agenda, in which the Tolbooth makes a significant investment.

**1. Fit with FXO criteria:** Fully

**1.1 Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists:** The Tolbooth continually diversifies both approach and content to ensure an attractive and accessible roster of both programme and community outreach work..

**1.2 Improving your engagement with the public:** Very impressive through their own promotion and being a key touring venue for Scotland and not least for TuneUp.

**1.3 Good practice in the governance and management:** The Tolbooth is part of Stirling Council's portfolio and has an extremely experienced and creative in-house team led by Alasdair Campbell.

**1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access:** As part of Stirling Council, the Tolbooth has access to their Equal Opportunities policy, but is considering preparing a bespoke version more suited to their specific needs at the venue.

**1.5 Raising other income at least 25%:** Yes.

**2. Fit with Departmental priorities:** Fully.

**3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims:** Fully.

**3.** Based on the lead officer's assessment and the subsequent meeting with Specialist advisors, please rate the application (High, medium, low) summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks)

**Comments:**

The Tolbooth application asks for an extremely modest increase in funding which is entirely realistic and deliverable. Their programme plans are of high quality and show a high level of expertise in knowing their market very well and where the Tolbooth can best compete. Their engagement is with the commercial professional promoter and with the local authority sector.

The Tolbooth also hosts significant specialist contemporary music festival activity (Le Weekend), which has an international dimension and their now renowned roots-based event (The Blend) which is gaining new audiences every year, evidenced in the application process.

Their education programme, much of which engages with YMI includes Pumped Up The Jam and Plugged In, a year-round programme of activity delivered by education and music professionals.

The Tolbooth, like Edinburgh's Queen's Hall, is one of the most significant venues for the TuneUp programme and their input in utilising master-classes and education workshops as part of TuneUp tours has been incredibly valuable. The Tolbooth is also a significant creative hub.

This is a clearly detailed and evidenced application which is rated very highly by the Specialist Advisor's panel. The assessing officer also rated the application highly, but decided upon a medium rating simply on the basis of the Tolbooth providing a more detailed budget.

I would also want to see a close working relationship, especially in programming with the Macrobert Centre and for the Tolbooth to continue to utilise the larger performance space at the Albert Hall where they co-programme as both are owned by Stirling Council.

I have no hesitation in rating this application highly as the Tolbooth is such a key facility for both the music department and for the Scottish Arts Council.

**1.1 Application rating: High**

Whilst I agree with the assessing officer that clearer budgetary detail is required, I have no doubt that this will be forthcoming on request. I agree with her comments and with those of the specialist advisors and assess this application as a high priority.

**1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating:** The quality, creativity and diversity of the Tolbooth programme, their high density of community involvement and their strategic importance as a key venue. The Tolbooth is also a significant exploiter of all contemporary work.

<p><b>1.3 Strengths of application:</b> Quality and diversity. The festival, touring and self-promotion programme for the venue and the education outreach programme for the community.</p> <p><b>1.4 Weaknesses of applications:</b> more detailed budgetary information.</p> <p><b>1.5 Specific risks associated with the application:</b> None.</p> <p><b>1.6 Development areas identified:</b> Maintain and expand the current programme with a closer engagement with the neighbouring Macrobert Centre at the University of Stirling.</p> <p><b>1.7 Recommended level of support:</b> As requested at £60,000 for both years.</p>		
<p><b>4.</b> Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme</p>		
<p><b>Comments:</b> This is a venue with a strong but not exclusive music-based programme. International traffic through the venue is high, further enhancing its reputation as a significant touring venue and facility for the performing arts.</p> <p><b>1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?</b> The Tolbooth, Stirling, plus additional programming in the Albert Hall and Macrobert Centre.</p> <p><b>1.2 Where will the audience come from?</b> Mostly central belt, but for the festivals, international.</p>		
<p><b>Head of Department's overall priority recommendation</b></p>		<p><b>HIGH</b></p>
<p><b>Head of Department's signature:</b></p>		<p><b>Date: 13 February 2008</b> <b>Revised 25 March 2008</b></p>
<p><b>Print name:</b></p>	<p><b>Ian Smith</b></p>	

<b>Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)</b>		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
<b>Comments:</b> Strong overall fit with FXO criteria. Fund at the level requested. Support of £60,000 annually is proposed.		
<b>Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation</b>		High
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

<b>Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)</b>		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Support of £60,000 annually is proposed.		
<b>Directors recommendations to Joint Board</b>		High
Acting Chief Executive signature:	Jim Tough	Date: 10 April 2008

<b>Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions</b>		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
<b>Joint Board Final Decision</b>		<b>APPROVE</b>
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£60,000

**End of Assessment**