

Statement from Stirling Council SNP / Labour Administration

Commenting on the priority based budgeting options concerning the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, and the Big Noise:

Leader of Stirling Council, Cllr Scott Farmer said,

Next week, Administration councillors will begin the final stretch in a marathon budget setting process that began months ago. We promised to listen to the opinions of our citizens and that's why a number of officer generated options have been discussed at consultation events in recent weeks. We don't have to wait until the end of the process to hear the validation of this Administration's long held position – that the Stirling Smith and Big Noise are invaluable assets in our communities. Therefore the options relating to both the Stirling Smith and Big Noise are being removed from budget projections. Council officers will be tasked to engage with all organisations to explore financial models that ensure the continuing sustainability of our Arts and Culture offering for years to come.

Depute Leader of Stirling Council, Cllr Danny Gibson said,

The Big Noise and The Stirling Smith are jewels in Stirling's cultural crown and we will not be taking the budget options concerning them forward into our final proposal this year. However, the immense pressure on local government finances looks set to get worse and eventually that will mean we cannot give money we do not have. I would urge everybody who had signed a petition or written a letter to continue their campaign by writing to every MSP and MP and urge them to save Local Authority from more devastating cuts in the years ahead.

ENDS

For more information, contact:

Scott Farmer: farmers@stirling.gov.uk

Danny Gibson: gibsond@stirling.gov.uk