

Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Respondents were invited to comment on this proposal; 1,221 comments were received and grouped into themes. The top three themes are shown below, with the full list provided in [Appendix 2](#).

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Concerns over programme: classical, community, minority genres	271	22.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>I am not persuaded, having looked at the proposed tenants' other venues, that they would be prepared to 'maintain a classical and community programme' of the kind we presently enjoy.</i> - <i>This is a misguided and naive proposal, which will fail to safeguard the classical, folk, jazz and community offer which is so crucial to the Arts in Wales.</i> - <i>It must continue to be a classical music venue first and foremost</i> - <i>The approach to classical music seems adequate and is unlikely to affect the programme at the Hall. However there is no mention of how the O2 model is going to protect the concerts by musicians in 'minority' genres, eg folk, jazz, blues etc. Currently a full programme of such music takes place on Level 3, eg Roots Unearthed. Supporters of these types of music deserve as much protection as classical and pop/rock fans. If all of the Level 3 concerts are not maintained at the Hall there is no other city centre venues putting on such a programme. Please ensure that the O2 has to protect these genres as well as classical.</i> - <i>The lease should only go ahead if the classical and community programmes are protected in law.</i> - <i>Will they ensure a similar level of community and classical programmes? What kind of commitment do they have for this as we really enjoy the options offered by St David's that is not available elsewhere. E.g. cardiff city voices Christmas service</i>
If they can run it at a profit so can Council / Should promote/run it better	256	21.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>I think leasing this is the start of the decline in offerings. Better to invest in better management and engagement on possible other additional uses or streams of revenue</i> - <i>If a tenant can make this a profitable venture by running it slightly differently/ adding a wider variety of events, then surely this can be achieved with the current management arrangement too.</i> - <i>The bizarre thing is if an outside company can invest and make money by taking this on why can't we?</i> - <i>A senior council officer saying 'I don't know' when asked in scrutiny why the council can't run this at profit themselves is unacceptable and offensive to the people of</i>

			<p><i>Cardiff. What's the proper answer? The follow up comment that AMG have better industry access is coming close to supporting a monopoly and it's short term, unambitious thinking. Cardiff deserves better.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>If a private company can make the hall profitable then the council should also be able to. You need to be more commercially minded and turn it into a profit making enterprise. The more of these type of things you have the less you will need to raise council tax</i> - <i>A private tenant would only be interested if they think the hall can be made profitable. How is it a private company can make something viable, yet the status quo cannot?</i> - <i>I'm a big music fan and I attend several gigs per month and I support this decision. I think the new tenant will bring new and exciting acts to Cardiff and help modernise the building which the Council has failed to do. I'm delighted to hear that they will still protect the classical music programme. I think its disappointing that the venue made a loss as it should be one of the areas that the Council should be generating income.</i>
Belongs to the city/Wales.	172	14.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>This is a national asset, should be a decision made by the whole of Wales</i> - <i>St David's Hall is a vital part of Cardiff. You cheapen yourselves, you cheapen the people of Cardiff, and you cheapen music and the arts through having no pride or value in our buildings, culture, and music. As long as someone can make a profit eh? It's a crying shame. Live Nation will be the only ones to benefit from this. Start acting like a council that cares about its city.</i> - <i>As the National Concert Hall of Wales this needs to be kept. Maybe ask Welsh Government for an annual grant to secure the 'national' part of the concert hall.</i> - <i>It would be a great loss to Cardiff if St David's Hall were to be long or changed in any way</i> - <i>St David's Hall is an important asset for Cardiff and Wales where there are not many venues that can accommodate a 100 piece orchestra, that allows them to perform to their full potential with a rich acoustic quality. Cardiff surely has enough venues for pop & rock concerts and needs to retain management & operational control of the hall to balance cultural choice. Where else could visiting orchestras perform in Wales. London has the Royal Albert Hall, Cardiff & Welsh people deserve St David's Hall.</i>

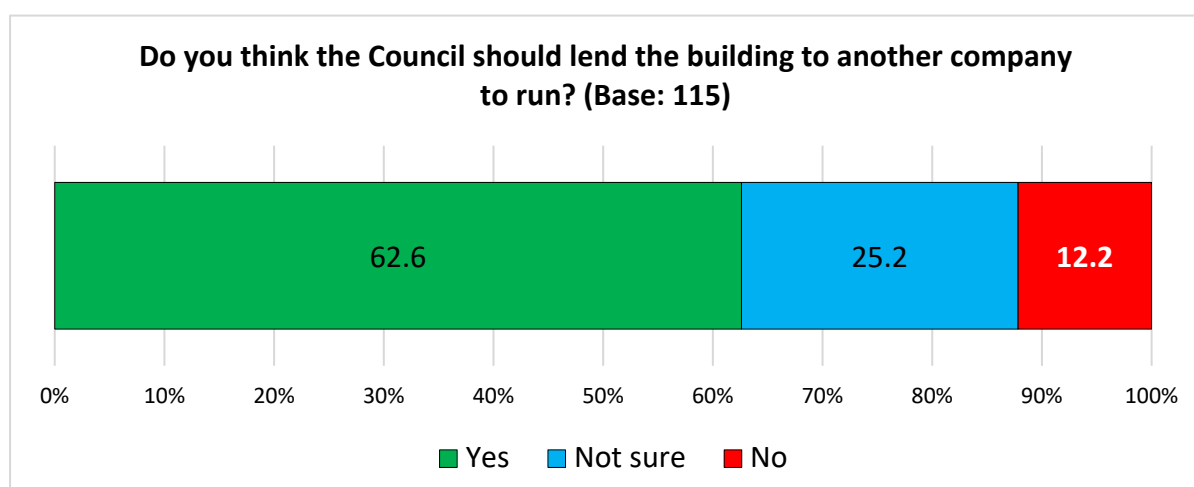
Youth Survey

St. David’s Hall currently costs the Council £689,000 to run. This money is given to St David’s Hall by the Council to help reduce the costs of running the business. If St. David’s Hall ever has a problem with money, the Council steps in to help them pay whatever they cannot afford. Since the Covid-19 Pandemic and with prices going up right across the country for Gas, Electric, Fuel and more, there have been less people attending events at St. David’s meaning they make less money to pay for the business. For this reason, the Council believes they will need more support with money this year in 2023. They have predicted this to be £110,000 more, totalling to £799,000 this year.

The Council also is responsible to make sure the building is safe and in good condition which can cost millions of pounds to keep the building open. The Council believes supporting St. David’s Hall is becoming difficult as they are not sure they will have enough money to be able to handle any unexpected problems that will cost money to fix. For this reason, the Council has an idea to lend the building to someone else for them to use, as part of an agreement that will last for a long period of time. That company will be responsible for keeping it a safe place, in good condition, keep the classical and community events running that currently run there now and to keep the building open. The Council would still own the building and land. The business they have spoken to on this agreement has also said they would be willing to do work on the building to make it a better venue for everyone.

Do you think the Council should lend the building to another company to run?

Almost two-thirds (62.6%) of those taking part in the Youth Survey supported the proposal for a long-term lease arrangement, a quarter (25.2%) were unsure, whilst almost one in eight (12.2%) opposed it.



Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Respondents were invited to comment on this proposal; 15 comments were received and grouped into themes:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Save money here to spend on other things	5	33.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I think if the Council is struggling to keep up the payments and the support that they previously gave to St David's Hall it's important that they can find a solution that is sustainable. This is an option that someone's else takes over the responsibility of the building etc and this will cut down costs - I think that St David's Hall should stay open but should be given to a different company to save money.
Save money from other areas instead	3	20.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spend less money making bike lanes when most cyclists don't actually use them - the council should not be taking money from these services, they can find savings elsewhere
Oppose this	3	20.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although this seems like a good idea I don't trust that they won't get rid of community events, increase prices and limit the overall usage of St David's Hall - It's an essential venue and a huge part of British Culture, and we have to keep it!
Suggestions to make money	2	13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run more charity events to raise money, there isn't many charity events to raise money now days, they are fun and raise money to support communities
Misc.	2	13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I would like to know what the downsides of this project are and how is the business going to make money (is it a profitable venture for them?). Will the Council maintain control over the programme of events? - I believe we just need more creative solutions to the housing problem. Create living spaces where many members of the same family can live in a large shared property. This will prevent loneliness for the elderly, support parents with child care and provide many skills and experiences to the Youth. I think money can be saved this way. I want to live with my Grandad as he is lonely at the moment and has disabilities that my mum wants to help with but can't as we live apart and she works full time. If we lived together I could spend more quality time with him, and he wouldn't be on so much medication.

Respondents could leave comments on more than one theme, so totals will exceed 100.0%

Face-to-Face Interviews

There was a strong sense that cultural events should be protected, but opinions were split as to who should manage St David's Hall:

"Culture is important, protect it."

Male, 75+, Ely

"As long as it doesn't close and the services aren't affected then I agree, but we shouldn't lose services for arts and culture"

Male, 65-74, Llanrumney

"It should never be privatise. The Council should invest in it so they can make money from it. If outside bodies have shown interest it shows it can make money, so the Council should do that."

Male, 55-64, Adamsdown

"Yes, as long as it promotes culture and the arts, and it won't feel to the public as though something has been taken away from them."

Male, 45-54, Llanishen

"St David's - Unsure. The issue is mismanagement. It is important to increase engagement with classical music and culture, so perhaps an external organisation would do that better."

Male, 35-44, Ely

"Yes, find a tenant. Better than closing it."

Female, 16-24, Riverside