

## **Soar Sound Financial Management Statement**

Friday, 08 March 2024

### **To the Directors, Members, and Stakeholder Organisations of Soar Sound CIC,**

As Directors of Soar Sound CIC, our role is to ensure that our financial management is transparent, responsible, and aligns with UK Company Law. This statement outlines our current financial status, our strategies for managing financial commitments, and our plan towards financial independence.

#### **1 Current Financial Status**

We have conducted a detailed review of our financial situation, identifying all commitments and liabilities in the name of Soar Sound CIC. This includes operational costs, contracts, and any legal obligations we have. Our aim is to provide a clear overview of our financial health to support informed decision-making.

#### **2 Managing Financial Commitments**

Our financial commitments are presently met through a combination of funding sources such as grants, donations, and income from our community services. These sources are chosen to align with our mission and support our community effectively.

#### **3 Financial Contributions**

The costs associated with running our operations and projects are covered through the support we receive from our members and stakeholders, as well as specific funding for projects. We appreciate this support, which is vital for our continued operation.

#### **4 Achieving Financial Independence**

Our goal is to become financially independent within a determined timeframe. This involves diversifying our income streams, improving our fundraising efforts, and building partnerships that support our mission. We aim to reduce our dependence on external funding gradually while expanding our services.

#### **5 Commitment to Transparency**

We commit to full transparency in our financial dealings. Regular financial updates will be provided to all directors, members, and stakeholders, ensuring that everyone is informed about our financial status and decisions.

This statement is a straightforward account of our financial situation, our approach to managing our finances, and our goals for the future. Our focus remains on serving our community while ensuring financial stability and independence for Soar Sound CIC.

This statement is meant for our internal community and stakeholders. It has been prepared to the best of our knowledge in accordance with UK Company Law but is not intended as legal advice.

Operating a community radio broadcaster as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) involves a variety of commitments and associated costs. These costs can be broadly categorised into media and platform costs, administrative and company management expenses, volunteer engagement costs, and other miscellaneous activities such as room usage and general expenses. Below is a breakdown of these potential commitments and typical costs:

## **6 Anticipated Costs**

### **6.1 Media and Platform Costs**

- i. **Broadcasting License Fees:** Costs associated with obtaining and renewing broadcasting licenses from regulatory bodies like Ofcom in the UK.
- ii. **Equipment Purchase and Maintenance:** Expenses for purchasing broadcasting and recording equipment, computers, and software, as well as their maintenance and repair.
- iii. **Streaming and Hosting Fees:** Costs for online streaming services and website hosting to reach a wider audience through digital platforms.
- iv. **Music Licensing Fees:** Payments to organisations like PRS for Music and PPL for the right to play music on air.

### **6.2 Administrative and Company Management Costs**

- v. **Company Formation and Compliance:** Costs related to setting up the CIC, including registration fees, legal fees for drafting constitutions, and ongoing compliance costs.
- vi. **Insurance:** Necessary insurance coverages, including public liability, equipment, and volunteer insurance.
- vii. **Utilities and Office Supplies:** Regular expenses for utilities like electricity, heating, internet, and office supplies.

- viii. **Professional Services:** Fees for accountants, legal advice, and consultants to ensure proper governance and compliance.

### 6.3 Volunteer Engagement Costs

- ix. **Training and Development:** Costs associated with providing training for volunteers, including production, broadcasting, and regulatory compliance training.
- x. **Recognition and Retention:** Expenses for volunteer recognition events, awards, and activities to keep volunteers engaged and appreciated.
- xi. **Communication Tools:** Costs for communication tools and platforms to coordinate with and manage volunteers effectively.

### 6.4 Other Activities and General Expenses

- xii. **Room Use and Facility Rentals:** Costs for renting spaces for studios, offices, and events.
- xiii. **Marketing and Publicity:** Expenses for marketing materials, social media advertising, and community outreach to promote the station and its events.
- xiv. **Travel and Transportation:** Travel expenses related to covering events, meetings, or transporting equipment.
- xv. **Event Hosting and Participation:** Costs for organising community events, including venue hire, equipment rental, and promotional materials.

It's essential for community radio broadcasters operating as CICs to carefully plan and manage their finances, considering both their income streams (e.g., donations, grants, sponsorships) and their expenditure to ensure sustainability and compliance with their community-focused mission. Regular financial reviews and transparency with stakeholders, volunteers, and the community they serve are crucial for maintaining trust and support.

Approved 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024