

# A Proposal for a UK-wide Banding Organisation

An opportunity for you to express your view

## Concerns about the future of Banding in the UK

There has been a steady decline in the number of UK bands over many years. A “brass band summit” attended by representatives of banding organisations was convened in July 2010 to consider if the formation of a UK-wide body could reverse that decline and a Working Group was formed to examine the need and possible structure of a UK-wide body. The Working Group reported to a reconvened Summit in January 2011 that there was a case for such a body and it was agreed by those present that the proposals presented in this document should be given the widest possible publicity so that everyone in the brass band world would have an opportunity to comment on them.

**We believe that it would be in the best interest of banding in the UK if all banding organisations acted together in strength.**

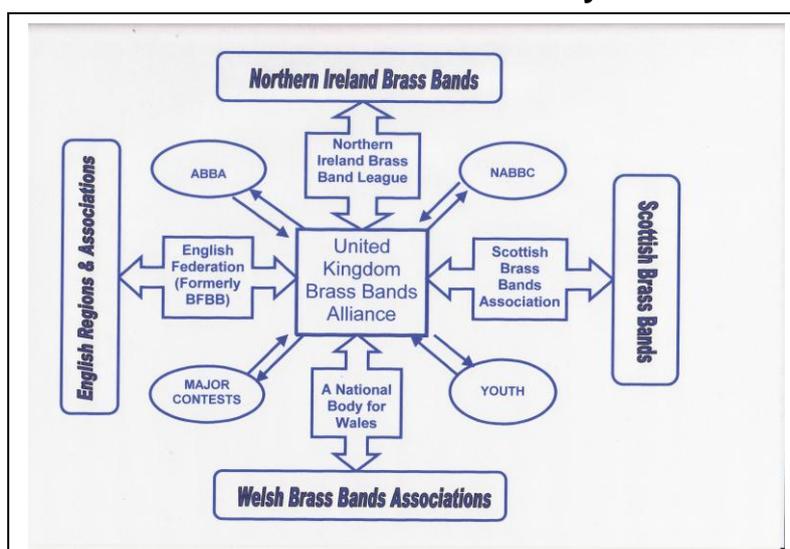
## The Proposals

We recommend the creation of the “**United Kingdom Brass Band Alliance**”, a cooperative, all embracing but non-hierarchical organisation that will be in a better position to support brass banding at all levels.

**The Executive Committee of UKBBA would consist of representatives of the national bodies of the constituent nations of the UK, together with representatives of associated banding bodies and interests. The involvement of young players is essential and we propose that they are represented directly on the Executive Committee.**

The national bodies of England, Scotland & Northern Ireland are fully committed to the proposals and to any changes in their own set up that would enable UKBBA to be established and function efficiently. Wales is currently in the process of establishing a national body that could take its place in UKBBA.

## Structure of the New Body



**The purpose of UKBBA would be to secure a dynamic future for brass bands and brass band music in the United Kingdom. The UKBBA would be an enabling body not a management body. It would not be concerned with organizing contests nor would it create another level of management.**

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Aims	Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To enable co-operation between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales on matters relating to brass bands.</li><li>2. To promote and support the brass band as an integral and traditional musical art form in the UK.</li><li>3. To stimulate and encourage young people to take up playing a brass instrument as a life-long hobby and to encourage those players who have left to return to banding</li><li>4. To foster the concept of personal enjoyment and benefit to the community of playing in a brass band</li><li>5. To encourage brass bands, players, conductors, adjudicators, contest promoters and governing bodies (all participants) to look forward, to adapt to change and strive for continuous improvement.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To add value to the activities and initiatives of the members of the Alliance through working together.</li><li>2. To arrest the decline in the number of brass bands in the UK – and, hopefully, bring about an increase in the number of active brass bands</li><li>3. To capitalise on the investment that is being put into music teaching in schools and elsewhere in the educational system</li><li>4. To restore brass banding to its traditional position as a widely accepted part of mainstream music making in the UK.</li></ol>

The running costs of UKBBA would be funded by the 4 national bodies on a pro rata basis to the number of their member bands. We estimate these costs to be of

the order of £7000 per annum (equivalent to £10 per band). Each national body would decide independently how to collect its own membership fees.

**To achieve UKBBA's aims and objectives it is essential that its constituent national bodies are able to demonstrate that they represent all of brass banding. The resurgence of brass banding will only come about if all bands are members of their own national bodies.**

At this stage, these are just proposals we are inviting constructive comments from everyone in banding. (Please send to [Consultation@UKBBA.org](mailto:Consultation@UKBBA.org)). This is YOUR opportunity to positively influence the future of brass banding. Please do not miss out on this.

An open meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, to which all interested in banding are invited to attend. A presentation and discussions of the proposals, amended as appropriate, will be made taking into account the feedback received.

Approval will be sought for the formal establishment of UKBBA at this meeting.