

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at Oriam on Wednesday 7 December 2022 at 10:00

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Ms C Bain, Vice Chair
Ms M Campbell
Mr T Mistry
Mr C Grant
Mr S Lindsay
Prof C Mahoney
Mr D McDonald
Mrs K U'ren
Mrs S Sandilands
Mr A Watt

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr F Dunlop
Mr M Whittingham
Mr N Cobb
Mr M Cowan
Mr B Fleeting
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mr D McKay
Mr D Williamson
Mr B Wyllie
Ms L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Ms H Ousta*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 26 October 2022

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 26 October 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair explained that the first half of the meeting would be dedicated to discussing the budget. He explained that he had asked Mr Sinclair not to join for the initial conversation. The Chair went on to update on a recent meeting with the Minister where he had noted the frustration around budgets and in particular the difficulties associated with in year cuts. The Chair went on to express the importance of maintaining the commitment to double the budget to sport and physical activity during the term of this parliament and he fed back that the government continue to stand by this commitment.

The Chair talked about the evenings Scottish Sports Awards ceremony, expressing his view that it will be a fantastic evening and a chance to celebrate this years successes.

The Chair noted that it is fabulous to be at Oriam for the meeting and a tour of the facility will be available during lunch.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Dunlop started his report with a focus on the challenges faced by local partners. He gave an overview of the presentation given by Community Leisure Scotland, supported by Mr Walsh, the CEO of Highlife Highland, to the Minister, where a detailed assessment of the impact of cuts at a local level was given. Mr Dunlop noted that COSLA have launched a Save our Services campaign which aims to draw attention to all the services that Local Authorities provide and the risks associated with losing them.

Mr Dunlop updated that the Active Scotland Delivery Group have now met with a renewed focus on collaboration across agencies to support the delivery of the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. It is hoped that a refreshed approach will give the group some more momentum. The Board discussed the approach and asked if anything further can be done to gain more traction with this work. The importance of political leadership was discussed and the fact that the organisations involved sit across a range of Ministers. Mr Dunlop agreed that he will continue to update the Board on progress.

Mr Dunlop updated on the ongoing discussions between Allwyn, who have been awarded the National Lottery 4th Licence, and Camelot who currently hold the third licence. To support the transition Allwyn is in the final stages of buying Camelot which should help mitigate some risks.

Mr Dunlop updated on the latest piece of work published by Public Health Scotland, PHS, which describes the importance of a system-based approach to physical activity. Mrs Lynn added that Active Highland have met with Ms Jackson, Health Improvement Manager for PHS and are keen to use the systems-based approach to help with local planning, the initial meeting was very positive.

Mr Dunlop updated that he recently attended a UK Sport meeting in Birmingham with UK and British Governing Bodies and Home Country representation. Topics covered included the future of sport and performance sport, the changing landscape that we are operating in, financial pressures and expectations and demands on the sporting system.

Mr Dunlop highlighted the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships are under financial pressures and therefore we are offering medical support and expertise at a reduced fee. We will also consider any other support that we can provide to the Championships team as the event gets closer.

The Board asked if there are any comparative studies we could look in to from other countries on getting children more active? Mr Williamson gave some examples and agreed to bring further information to the February Board with an update on our research approach.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Decision

7 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget

Mr Dunlop provided an overview of the budget. He explained that in year cuts have now been asked for which amount to £3.65 million. This is the amount of additional funding given this financial year, all of which has been allocated and some of which has been paid to partners. Mr Dunlop explained that all payments have now been put on hold until we have absolute clarity on this years budget and an indication of next years budget given the multi year investments that we make.

Mr Cobb provided the Board with a detailed overview of the implications and options, including both Scottish Government and National Lottery utilisation.

➤ *The Board noted the 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget paper.*

8 2023-2024 Business Plan and Budget

Mr Cobb presented on the 2023 - 2024 budget plan and noted that although this discussion is taking place earlier than usual it should help with planning next years budget. Mr Cobb provided an overview of early indicative figures and noted that a recruitment pause has been introduced to help with the cuts and we are also looking at the Trust Company budgets.

Mr McKay presented on the business planning process, the emerging themes and how this was being progressed alongside the budgeting process.

The Chair thanked Mr Dunlop, Mr Cobb and Mr McKay for their updates and recognised that the team are in a difficult situation but have done a good job in clarifying both the situation and the options.

The Board noted that the update was helpful and asked what the final liability is? Mr Dunlop noted that it is mainly reputational but legally our terms and conditions cover us.

Mr Dunlop noted that we have communicated with both local and national partners and that by taking an open and transparent approach to the changing and challenging financial situation partners have been understanding and want to work with us to find solutions.

The Board discussed the impact of the financial pressures on projects and asked if there was signs of planned projects being cancelled. Mr Cowan explained a range of capital projects and scenarios which have resulted in increased costs and in some instances projects being cancelled. Mr Cowan went on to explain how we manage and support these conversations and decisions.

The Board discussed the use of Lottery funding for some of the emerging work and new ideas. The Chair clarified that Lottery Funding cannot be used to 'back fill' any Scottish Government cuts to programmes that are currently Scottish Government funded. Mr Cobb added that using Lottery money for some of the emerging and new work was appropriate and within our plans.

The Board expressed frustration around the in year cuts to budgets and the impact on long term planning for sportscotland and our partners, noting particularly the impact on inclusion projects and work which must have some security to have any chance of succeeding. The Board went on to note that while we should use Lottery Funding for some new work it did not cover or replace the planned work associated with the Scottish Governments commitments to increase budgets and that that work would be on hold until new monies were available.

The Board thanked the team for the clear presentation of the situation and the options. Mr Dunlop requested in principal approval today to move the business plan and budget forward.

The Chair noted that everyone is content on an in principle basis and that further details will be brought the February Board meeting.

Mr Sinclair joined the meeting.

Mr Sinclair highlighted that following discussions with Mr Dunlop the Active Scotland team are doing their best to ensure the views of the **sportscotland** Board are represented. Mr Sinclair also noted that the commitment remains to doubling the budget but political budget issues still exist.

The Board asked if there was a way to help the Government understand the overall societal impact of sport? Mr Sinclair noted that there is significant evidence which highlights the impact and importance of sport and that this is understood by Ministers.

The Board asked if the Active Scotland Delivery Group is working to ensure collaboration and joined up decision making is happening? Mr Sinclair updated that the group has recently reconvened and sighted the example of the partnership between **sportscotland** and Public Health Scotland as something that must be replicated with other national and local agencies.

The Board noted that budget allocation is usually related to outcomes and asked if there is anything we need to do differently in terms of long term strategic planning? Mr Sinclair noted that there is nothing more that we can do at the moment and highlighted that during the Annual Review the Minister gave a glowing review and was very impressed with the work of **sportscotland**.

The Chair thanked Mr Sinclair for being so candid and asked him to pass on the Boards concerns to the Minister as we will be unable to achieve our outcomes with budget cuts.

- *The Board noted the 2023-2024 Business Plan and Budget paper.*

9 Board Committees and Development

Mr Dunlop noted that with Board member departures there are spaces on the Committees and in addition with this being Ms Bain's last meeting the Vice Chair post and the Clean Sport representative post will also be vacant. The Chair noted that he will arrange to speak with each Board member to gauge interest in the role of Vice Chair and the job description will be reviewed.

The Board asked about the committee terms of reference. Mr Dunlop noted that they are reviewed annually by each committee and updates will be brought to the April Board meeting.

- *The Board noted the Board Committees and Development paper.*

For Discussion

10 Oriam Scotland Sports Performance Centre

Mr Cowan provided a background on the centre highlighting that in 2011 a commitment was made to deliver a national football academy for £25 million. Football, Rugby and other sports were engaged and a lot of expressions of interest were received. Heriot Watt invested alongside Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and Edinburgh City Council and the centre opened in 2016.

- *The Board noted the Oriam Scotland Sports Performance Centre presentation.*

11 College Sport

Mr Wyllie presented on the paper and updated that meetings have now taken place with College Principals, Vice Principals and Scottish Student Sport. Currently eighteen colleges have submitted a note of interest.

The Chair commented on the positive response from the sector and the emerging plans which offer a great opportunity to build on our systematic approach to the development of sport.

The Board discussed the opportunities to link this work with other networks and asked for more information on how this will be managed. Mr Wyllie noted that as part of his conversations with each college he is discussing their local networks and connections as this will be a significant feature of making this work a success. Mr Wyllie went on to explain the learning that we are taking from both the Active Schools network and the Community SPort Hub network and that we will make sure we both learn from these and connect them as the work develops. Mr Dunlop added that we are entering this partnership with a long term view and that it will be important to give the work time to develop.

- *The Board noted the College Sport paper.*

12 Local Authority and SGB Reviews

Mr Lunn updated that SGB review meetings have now taken place with twenty-five of twenty-seven sports. The review meetings with Rugby and Cricket have been scheduled for the new year.

Mrs Lynn updated that thirty-two review meetings with local authorities and leisure trusts have now been completed.

The Board discussed the trends with SGB investment and asked how SGBs are managing with inflationary pressures. Mr Lunn gave examples of SGB investments and why they go up or down over a period of time, he went on to explain that inflation is having an impact of SGBs and also on their member clubs who are paying more for leases and lets as well as more for travel and competition.

The Board asked for more information on Councils that are seen as 'at risk' around the commitment to Active Schools? Mrs Lynn noted that discussions are ongoing, recognised the challenging circumstances that LAs find themselves in but hoped that the significant investment and track record of delivery from the network will mean that we can reach agreements with all LAs, accepting that some may need to be managed on one year agreements.

The Board discussed the impact of facility closures and reduced operating hours. Mrs Lynn explained that we are working with all local authorities to understand the details in each area and offer support to review options but accepted that there will be closures and these will have a negative impact.

The Board noted that there has been some turnover of SGB CEOs and asked if this was cause for concern? Mr Lunn explained that it was part of the natural cycle and turnover rates were no higher than at other times and so he was not concerned.

The Chair thanked Mr Lunn and Mrs Lynn and in principle agreed the recommendations.

➤ *The Board noted the Local Authority and SGB Reviews.*

13 NDPB Framework update

Mr Williamson introduced the paper and explained how we will interact with the template for consistency but noted that there are slight differences between each organisation. Mr Williamson highlighted that a tracked changes version of the template can be found in the appendix.

The Board commented that the document was very interesting and asked about the wording of the insurance clause and suggested that the narrative on point 74 was out of date. Mr Williamson will review.

➤ *The Board noted the NDPB Framework update.*

For Information

14 Trust Company Board draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

15 Audit and Risk Committee meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

16 Any Other Business

The Chair updated that the CEO recruitment application closing date has now passed, applications have been shortlisted and interviews will commence next week.

The Chair announced that this will be Professor Mahoney's last meeting and thanked him for his helpful, insightful and candid contributions over his time on the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee which were always highly valued. Professor Mahoney thanked the Chair, the rest of

the Board and the staff team and noted that it has been a great journey and a real privilege to be part of the Board.

The Chair announced that this will be Ms Bain's last meeting and thanked her for valuable knowledge on the Ethics Committee, her input to the Audit and Risk Committee as well as her sharp and insightful contributions as Vice Chair. Ms Bain thanked the Chair, Board and staff for their support and friendship over the last eight years.

17 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 February 2023 (Inverclyde)

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.