

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 25 August 2021 at 10:00

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Ms C Bain
Mr D Cameron
Ms M Campbell
Mr S Lindsay
Mr M Munro
Mrs S Sandilands
Ms K U'ren
Mr G Walker
Mrs F Wood

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr S Harris
Mr F Dunlop
Mr M Roberts
Mr M Whittingham
Mr N Cobb
Mr B Fleeting
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mrs K McCheyne
Mr D McKay
Miss L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Dundee City Council

Mr G Colgan

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Professor C Mahoney and Mr C Grant.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 25 August 2021

Mr Dunlop provided an update on the Trust Company Board governance review which will focus on the financial, legal and governance structures and arrangements. The Trust Company Board welcomed the review and a small working group has now been formed, chaired by Mrs Wood.

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 25 August 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair commented on the Olympics and how positive and inspiring they have been and how he was looking forward to the Paralympics.

The Chair noted that Covid restrictions have changed and the country has now entered level 0, he commented on the sense of optimism as sport continues to restart however balanced this with an acceptance that the situation is still very fragile and many partners continue to face real challenges. The Chair thanked staff and partners for their continual commitment during the pandemic.

The Chair commented on how important our relationship with the Scottish Government is and would like to discuss with Mr Sinclair how we might improve communication across the Scottish Government.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris updated on the Active Scotland Delivery Group which held the first meeting with Maree Todd chairing. COSLA and the Chief Medical Officer have now joined the group.

Mr Harris updated that the National Lottery budget continues to perform well. Mr Harris congratulated Team GB athletes and acknowledged the National Lottery's contribution and that athletes had once again taken the opportunity to thank and promote the National Lottery during the Olympics.

Mr Harris noted that the new cohort of the Young Peoples Sports Panel are very enthusiastic about the opportunity and he is looking forward to meeting them in person but until then the Chair and Mr Harris will continue to do walk and talks with panel members.

Mr Harris noted that there are two years to go until the Cycling World Championships which should be a fabulous event and the opportunity lies in how we create capacity and culture change as a nation with other organisations. Mr Harris suggested a future discussion with the Board around the event and the opportunities associated.

Mr Harris updated that the UK has taken on the secretariat for the International Working Group of Women in Sport and as part of this all of the Home Nation Sports Councils and UK Sport have made a contribution to costs.

Mr Harris noted that Barry Cawte has been appointed as the new Chief Executive for Scottish Hockey.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Olympic Games Tokyo 2021 debrief

Mr Whittingham provided an overview of the debrief report highlighting that overall 65 medals were won. Mr Whittingham will bring a more detailed report with more information to the October Board meeting once an analysis has been conducted.

The Board expressed congratulations to the athletes, coaches, support teams and all involved. The Chair also commented on the good profile which was created by the Communications team. The Board noted the athletes achievements demonstrates the value of the system working and asked how we make the point that it is not just about producing one outstanding athlete but a system that will help bring people with talent to a level to be able to compete. Mr Whittingham noted that the athletes all acknowledge the importance of system and the pathway.

The Board asked if there have been any issues with doping, Mr Whittingham noted that the IOC have not revealed information on doping challenges at this stage. The Chair suggested that a fuller discussion on clean sport should be added to the agenda of a future Board meeting.

The Board asked what plans we have in place to celebrate the successes of Scottish athletes, Mr Harris noted that he has spoken with Mr Sinclair and had a discussion at the SMT meeting and Mr Sinclair is going to discuss with Minister what we might do to reflect on the success.

The Board congratulated everyone involved on the wonderful and inspiring results and suggested that it would be great to have athletes visit schools either in person or digitally around active Schools to help motivate children to get involved. The Chair echoed that we all feel proud of the system and athletes and should celebrate more and hope it has an impact on the wider system.

➤ *The Board noted the Olympic Games Tokyo 2021 debrief.*

8 Business Plan 2021 onwards

Mr McKay provided a brief overall of the key points of the paper. Mrs Lynn gave an update on some targeted work with partners and provided examples from Dundee City Council and Clackmannanshire Council. Mr Cobb noted that the accounts have been delayed and will be presented at the October Board meeting and then provided an update on the budget.

The Board questioned point 30 in the report which notes a £1m reduction in initial allocation from Scottish Government and asked for clarity on what that means and why it happened. Mr Cobb noted that there was an additional £1m in the budget this year which was assumed had

been allocated for a specific purpose, it had now been clarified that this was not the case and that the money will be allocated through the quarterly budget review process.

The Board commented on their support for the approach to work with and align common outcomes with local partners, they asked how this will be monitored to see what impact that approach will have. Mr Harris noted that work is continuing on the monitoring approach, this is being supported and informed by our own team, the local partners and with expertise through the partnership with Public Health Scotland.

➤ *The Board noted the Business Plan 2021 onwards.*

9 Strengthening partnerships with local partners – Dundee City Council (Greg Colgan)

The Chair welcomed Mr Colgan, the CEO of Dundee City Council to the meeting. Mr Harris introduced Mr Colgan and noted that he will focus on the challenges that local authorities are facing, solutions, inclusion and facilities.

Mr Colgan highlighted that poverty, deprivation, drug abuse and addiction and poor mental health are amongst the main challenges that Dundee City Council are facing. The Council are looking to strengthen the already strong partnership with **sportscotland** to help tackle these issues through the provision and engagement of local communities in sport and physical activity. Mr Colgan used Community Sports Hubs as a good example of current partnership success. The team are all very committed to find ways to minimise or eradicate these issues and are very keen to work in partnership and develop a set of metrics to measure success.

The Chair recognises the need for partnerships to add value and hearing that sport can be part of the solution is positive.

The Board commented on how inspiring the presentation was and refreshing to hear the perspective on a healthy lifestyle and endorse the approach and offered the Boards input/support as they are very keen to contribute.

The Board asked if there is an opportunity around esports to work together to explore any potential benefits and look at getting younger people engaged that may not be interested in sports but could be encouraged to live a healthier lifestyle through esports. Mr Colgan noted that Dundee are looking at building an Esports arena and are more than happy to work together and look at options to take back to the economic development team.

The Board noted that there are barriers in participation and asked if Mr Colgan had any thoughts on innovative ideas to remove these barriers to give more people access to sport. Mr Colgan believed that using existing community groups and members to promote what is on offer and make people more comfortable about those initial engagements with new activities was key. The Chair commented on wanting to learn from other LAs and suggested looking at other countries as well to see how they deal with barriers. Mr Colgan noted that Dundee are looking at Iceland and their youth model where the Government pay for people to participate in activities.

The Board commented on how this presentation had demonstrated and highlighted the progress and development which has been made over the past few years. Board members also commented on how positive it is to have been on the journey from early discussion on strengthening partnerships and working better together.

The Chair thanked Mr Colgan and reemphasized how inspiring the presentation was and how keen **sportscotland** are to work in partnership to reach these goals.

➤ *The Board noted the Strengthening partnerships with local partners presentation.*

10 Facilities development overview

Mr Cowan provided an overview of the paper highlighting a focus on inclusion and areas of high deprivation led by local need. Mr Cowan highlighted the issues and challenges that have arisen due to Covid-19 but noted that to date no projects have stopped because of the pandemic.

The Board asked about tennis and if there is an opportunity for us to assist councils with courts requiring upgrading. Mr Cowan recognised the issues and the team can see the problem but are struggling to get traction in terms of change. Tennis Scotland are looking at options to take on and manage tennis courts in Glasgow and have gathered intelligence but we need to decide what can be done through **sportscotland**.

The Board asked if our approach to facilities investment was still correct given the changing landscape and the financial challenges faced by local partners. Mr Cowan highlighted the approach that will be taken to more strategic investments against local plans, Mr Harris added that through the Strategic Forum the challenges associated with facility management had been discussed.

➤ *The Board noted the Facilities development overview.*

11 Quarter 1: 2021-2022 progress report

Mr Dunlop introduced the report and highlighted that Mr Cobb's earlier budget update should explain the variances in the finance section. Mr Dunlop went on to highlight the updates against the environments and the progress that had been made in quarter 1.

➤ *The Board noted the Quarter 1: 2021-2022 progress report.*

12 Covid-19 response and future actions

Mr Roberts noted that updates have been provided throughout the pandemic but given the relaxation of the restrictions now felt a good time to give a more detailed update on progress and future plans. The sector working closely together has made us much more effective. Mr Roberts also noted that great work has been done from all teams in the organisation.

Mr Roberts updated that restrictions on international travel are still bringing a lot of queries but we are working with Mr Sinclair and the Active Scotland team and Event Scotland on this.

Mr Roberts noted that our website is being revamped to include new guidance and that it will be ready for the end of the week. Yesterday the First Minister confirmed the number of positive cases is at the highest level although deaths remain low, we continue to monitor and promote the government guidance.

The Board commented on how reassuring the report was but asked how the staff are feeling with the return to hybrid working. Mr Roberts noted that staff surveys suggest that people are in a good place and feel supported. It is believed that a return to office will be welcomed by people living alone or with young families. Mr Dunlop added that feedback has been that the organisation has supported well and has relied on line managers being close to staff to ensure specific support is given.

➤ *The Board noted the Covid-19 response and future actions.*

For Information

13 **Playing our Part 2020-21: Summary of progress – annual review**

Mr McKay introduced the review noting that the style and approach has built on last years review focussing on case studies and utilising the digital style. The case studies have been developed further and promoted through Inside Track and a Gaelic version has been developed and contributes to the Gaelic language plan. The report notes support given through the pandemic.

Mrs McCheyne added that while working under the restraints of the pandemic we were unable to support filming and visit people was a challenge but more in depth articles will be produced for Sports First.

The Chair commented on how good the video is.

The Board commented on how difficult content gathering is and think despite all the challenges the annual review is great with and good production.

Noted and taken as read.

14 **Communications update**

The Chair commented that the social media coverage for the Olympics was very good and Mrs McCheyne added that the same approach will be taken with the Paralympics and that we are working closely with SGBs and SDS.

Noted and taken as read.

15 **Trust Company Board meeting draft minutes**

The Board noted the discussion at the Trust Board regarding responsibilities for the Cumbrae site and asked for further details. Mr Dunlop noted that the site is owned by **sportscotland** and leased to the Trust Company as far as we are concerned the responsibility on long term use of site is the responsibility of **sportscotland** however, there are some legal complications and considerations which we are seeking advice on. Mr Dunlop reassured Board members that we are unpicking and will come back through **sportscotland** board, Audit and Risk Committee or the Trust Company Board when we have clarity.

Noted and taken as read.

16 **Any Other Business**

Ms Bain noted that as the Board nominated representative for UKAD she attended a very interesting workshop which discussed a range of issues around education and support. Ms Bain also noted that there is an eLearning module available if any Board members are keen to do it.

17 **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 26 – Wednesday 27 October 2021 (Inverclyde)

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