

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at the **sportscotland** National Centre Inverclyde on Tuesday 27 February at 09:30

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Mr A Bain
Ms M Campbell
Mr S Lindsay
Mr D McDonald
Mr T Mistry
Ms H Ousta
Ms S Sandilands
Mr S Sweeney
Mr A Watt

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr F Dunlop
Ms R Barrington
Mr C Burn
Mr N Cobb
Mr M Dingwall-Smith
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mr D McKay
Ms I Riach
Ms L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Ms K U'ren and Mr C Grant*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 12 December 2023

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 12 December 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

Regarding the TSIT investment, Mr Dunlop updated that the first venue has opened at Oriam and the Moray project is due to open in the next few months.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair commented on the previous evenings discussions which focussed on major events, reflecting on the need to be purposeful around which events and which specific outcomes we are supporting.

The Chair updated on the recent UK Sport Board meeting which included discussions on the establishment of Sports Org and Systems Master Planning which is explained further in the Executive management report.

The Chair highlighted that he is due to attend the Interministerial meeting later this week which is taking place at the World Indoor Athletics Championship. It will be attended by all Ministers and Chairs from the Home Countries.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Dunlop updated on the results of the recent national surveys; the Scottish Household survey and the Scottish Health survey. Both surveys show marginal changes but nothing which is deemed to be statistically significant, this is considered to be a positive result given the pressures that have been on individual and public finances.

Mr Burn provided an update on the UK Sport led System Master Planning work which is focussing on structural reform which would allow the high performance system to be more efficient.

Ms Barrington updated on the office estate, including the decision to close Caledonia House and the ongoing work to consider our requirements, across the remaining estate.

The Board asked if we will keep the money from the sale of Caledonia House as we own the property, Ms Barrington responded that this is still to be decided. The Board asked if we have a sense of how the staff team are feeling about the changes being made. Ms Barrington replied that there is a mix of responses but everyone has embraced hybrid working. The Board then asked if

we are comfortable with the risk, Mrs Barrington noted that we are. The Board asked what will happen with the Scottish Governing Bodies that are based in Caledonia House. Mr Dunlop replied that a meeting with the residents is scheduled tomorrow and the commitment has always been to support them through this transition.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Decision

7 Long Term Planning

Mr McKay provided an update on the long-term planning process and highlighted the balance between generating new ideas and recognising the stress on the sector maintaining current activities. The Board were asked if they thought we are focusing on the right activities and if they could see any gaps in the plan.

The Board agreed with the focus on making sport more inclusive and accessible to more people, they asked what the monitoring and research against the last round of inclusion projects was telling us? Mr McKay explained that the different projects had different focus areas, some impacting larger numbers than others, but that will always be the case on very focussed EDI work. The Board discussed the relative challenges of very specific and targeted investment and the need to consider how the learning can help scale up the approach. Mrs Lynn explained that the projects had come from local partners and were based on community need, the feedback from partners is very positive.

The Board discussed the challenges faced by rural communities, the impact of the facilities review and the importance of the EKOS research which will give us important information on local investment into sport, physical activity and leisure provision.

The Board discussed the school swimming investment, the impact of the pilots last year and how this will be taken forward. Mr McKay explained that the learning from the pilots had been captured and that if additional monies are made available from the Scottish Government this would be one of the areas that would be considered, he did however note that a full roll out would come with a significant cost.

The Board discussed the importance of volunteers and the need to continue to provide support to new and existing volunteers. Mrs Lynn responded that this is an important theme in the club and community review and is central to all conversations.

➤ *The Board approved the Long Term Planning paper.*

8 Business plan and budget 24/25

8.1. Budget development 24/25

Mr McKay introduced the paper, highlighting what changes have been made to the Business plan and that any final feedback will be adopted in the final version which will come to the April Board meeting for approval.

Mr Cobb presented the changes to the 2023 / 2024 budget and how this had been managed in setting the 2024/2025 budget. Mr Cobb went on to explain that this was all done in the context of the next three years and with consideration to various scenarios and options over this period.

The Chair thanked Mr McKay and Mr Cobb for their very helpful and clear papers.

The Board discussed the Lottery spend profile and the need to closely monitor this, they also discussed the various scenarios and the need for careful management. Mr Lindsay, the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee explained that the committee have and continue to discuss both the Lottery balance and the various scenarios, he confirmed that updates will come back to the Board as this work evolves and or changes become clearer.

➤ *The Board approved the business planning and budget development paper.*

8.2. LA and SGB investment

Mr Lunn presented on the SGB investment process and updated on the changes to sports investment, Mr Lunn explained that investment can fluctuate across the period of an SGB plan and gave some examples of this.

Mrs Lynn provided an update on the LA investment process which is now in the second year of the four year partnership agreements with thirty one of the LAs, and West Dunbartonshire Council continue one year agreements. Mrs Lynn highlighted that workforce and estate challenges remain and are being considered during the process of setting LA budgets.

The Board asked how conversations go with LAs when discussing budget setting. Mrs Lynn replied that the majority of LAs have not included Active Schools in potential savings for 2024 / 2025 but it always remains a possibility given the local pressures and decisions that need to be made.

➤ *The Board approved the LA and SGB investment paper.*

9 Political Engagement

Mr Dingwall-Smith introduced the paper, provided an overview of work currently being done and highlighted the new work which is now planned, including the partnership with COSLA and consideration as to how the Chair can engage more regularly with local political leaders.

The Board supported the approach, recognising it will take time to build relationships and influence at a local level.

➤ *The Board approved the Political Engagement paper.*

10 SGB Independent Complaints and Oversight Options

Mr Lunn introduced the paper noting that it has been developed as a response to a letter we received from the Minister requesting that we look into SGBs complaints process. A small working group has been formed and have considered a range of options which include building on what we already do, through to a more independent approach led by a regulatory type body. complaints.

The Board discussed the issue and the options, including the pros and cons. The Board recognised that an independent regulatory board would be a decision for the Scottish Government and it would need to be appropriately resourced. Mr Lunn shared updates from other countries and he updated on the work and discussions led by UK Sport for Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes. The Board reflected that most issues seem to stem from poor practice or adherence to policies and that the first step should be to provide further support to SGBs to ensure their policies are fit for purpose and to staff and volunteers, through training, to make sure they have the skills and experience to implement the policies. Mr Lunn provided an update on the Case

Management service which we have recently invested in to support more complex case management.

The Board agreed that feedback and further discussion should now take place with the Minister. The Chair confirmed that this will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting with the Minister.

➤ *The Board noted the SGB Independent Complaints and Oversight Options.*

For Discussion

11 Clean Sport – UK Anti-Doping policy

Ms Riach gave an overview of the paper, explaining the approach and responsibilities of staff, she also thanked Mr Watt, who was now the Board representative for clean sport, for his support.

Mrs Riach went on to explain the Food First approach which aims to upskill athletes to understand their nutrition requirements and provide these through an appropriate diet, (rather than supplements).

Mr Watt thanked Ms Riach and Mr Robison for all their work. He explained that as an organisation we are signed up to the UKAD framework which includes a requirement for annual updates to the Board and for ongoing staff training. Ms Riach added that onboarding of staff is very important, ensuring all new staff have the appropriate training.

The Board discussed worldwide trends in relation to clean sport, recognising there continues to be a range of positive tests, both current and historic. There was a further conversation around the use of banned substances in more recreational sport, particularly gym use.

The Chair thanked Ms Riach for a really interesting discussion.

➤ *The Board noted the Clean Sport – UK Anti-Doping policy.*

For Information

12 Q3 Business Plan report

Mr McKay updated that there have not been any changes to the format but more detail provided and the report now picks up on some of the priorities from the strategic guidance letter.

Noted and taken as read.

13 Corporate Parenting

Mr McKay noted that this is the final version of the report with updates made after receiving feedback from the Board feedback and will be published on our website.

Noted and taken as read.

14 Communication update

Noted and taken as read.

15 Trust Company Board meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

16 Audit and Risk Committee meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

17 Any Other Business

None.

18 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 April 2024 (Inverclyde)

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