

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at the **sportscotland** National Centre Inverclyde on Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 09:00

Present

Members

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

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr S Harris
Mr F Dunlop
Mr M Whittingham
Mr N Cobb
Mr B Fleeting
Mrs J Lynn
Mr C Robison
Mr K Ferguson
Ms S Harkin

Guest speakers

Mr T McDaid
Mrs A Robinson

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

- *Ms C Bain*
- *Mr C Grant*
- *Mr D McDonald*
- *Ms H Ousta*

2 Declarations of Interest

- *Ms M Campbell noted that she is on the Commonwealth Games Scotland Board.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 27 April 2022

- *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 April 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

The Chair noted that matters arising from page 5 will be covered as part of the Business Plan agenda item.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair reflected on a very good session the previous evening with lots of practical suggestions going forward.

The Chair updated the Board on the Whyte Review which was commissioned by UK Sport and Sport England to look into Gymnastics. The Chair expressed his significant concerns at the content of the review and discussed the implications and learnings that must be taken. The Chair did note that there is a new leadership team in British Gymnastics and that it has been recognised that a number of the issues and concerns in the review are being addressed.

The Board discussed that while there are a number of quality assurance processes in place, including independent reviews of sports there still appears to be issues that go undetected and that this needs further consideration. There was a discussion around the ethics of performance sport, particularly sports where such young athletes are involved, the Chair noted that UK Sport will be invited to the next meeting and the Tuesday night session will be used to discuss these issues further.

The Chair noted that the financial issues in Government and Local Government due to energy price rises and cost of living are causing serious challenges in the Scottish Government. Sport is still in a good position, but we need to be aware of the challenges ahead.

Finally, the Chair highlighted that the Commonwealth Games are very important for Scotland and for Scottish sport. The Chair also informed the Board that if anyone is attending

Birmingham Commonwealth Games to let Scotland House know and they will have access to Scotland House and any events that are taking place.

Action:

Have a discussion on the Tuesday evening before the next Board meeting regarding Performance Sport and the ethical challenges it faces.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris informed the Board that we continue to meet regularly with the Minister for Public Health, Womens Health and Sport, Maree Todd. Discussions are focussed on the major challenges facing the sector, with the next meeting planned with colleagues from the Leisure Trusts.

Mr Harris updated the Board on the National Lottery and how it continues to perform well. He explained that Camelot are doing a good job in maximising returns but noted that they are worried about the winter months due to the impact on inflation, utility cost and people ability to spend. Mr Harris highlighted issues regarding ongoing litigation with the fourth licence contract award and the risks associated with this.

Mr Harris updated the Board on the gender recognition reform bill and how it impacts on sport. Mr Harris noted that there has been lots of debate regarding this and that we have tried to stick to the facts as we understand them in relation to this Bill while at the same time reminding people that we have a guidance document which has been agreed across the Home Country Sports Councils and UK Sport.

Mr Harris updated the Board on a recent meeting with Community Leisure Scotland which includes the CEOs from the Leisure Trusts. Mr Harris noted that the challenges they face are significant. It included the uncertainty of the investment model/levels from their Local Authorities, rising costs and staff shortages. **sportscotland** is committed to supporting, advocating, and influencing and will work with the Trust CEOs to make sure this is co-ordinated and targeted in a constructive way. Mr Harris highlighted the challenges with delivering the equalities agenda when the infrastructure is fragile, given the importance of this agenda different approaches and tactics will continue to be developed.

Mr Harris thought it important to show the Board the depth of the Health, Social and Sport Committee recommendations for young people. Most of the recommendations already have policies in place and ultimately Mr Harris believes that the Active Scotland Framework could support most, if not all of the work if it was used more effectively.

Mr Harris updated the Board on the review into racism in cricket that is being led by Plan4Sport. The review will be completed and published in late July, with an exact date still to be set. Mr Harris explained that we are continuing to support Cricket Scotland in particular around re-establishing governance controls and leadership and that we will work with them when the report is published to help address any recommendations.

The Board asked for more information about the support for Cricket Scotland and the preparation for the report. Mr Harris explained that John Lunn has been seconded to Cricket Scotland and while that will come to an end we will continue to have a team of staff giving specialist support to the governance body.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Sport for Life – Schools and Education

Ms Lynn introduced Mr McDaid who is the Executive Director of Education at South Lanarkshire Council. Ms Lynn noted that the paper provides an overview of the current progress and direction of the schools and education environment. Ms Lynn stated that at the last Board meeting we talked about enhancing and building on the core work of active schools. Ms Lynn noted that out of 32 Local Authorities we have 27 inclusion projects across 18 Local Authorities. Some authorities aren't ready to commit at this stage. Ms Lynn will continue to update the Board on the inclusion projects.

Mr McDaid gave an overview of education in South Lanarkshire and some wider trends and implications for young people as we emerge from COVID. He explained the role that schools play in the community and the work to move back to schools being open and accessible for community clubs and groups. Mr McDaid talked positively about the partnership with sportscotland and the impact that the Active Schools network has had over the years. He explained the importance of now building on the universal offer that Active Schools provides with a more targeted and focussed approach around inclusion and in particular poverty.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Mr McDaid.

The Board discussed Community Sports Hubs and the challenges re open / re establishing a number of these, they asked what more can be done. Ms Lynn explained that through our network of Hubs Officers that we invest in we are continuing to work with all Hubs to see what support is required to get them back up and running, acknowledging that they may not all survive. Mr McDaid offered that the answers lie within the communities that these clubs and hubs are based in and that we should continue to work through the hub officers to find solutions.

The Board asked about Active Schools and any opportunity linked to the the expansion of nursery provision. Mr McDaid informed the Board that the doubling of hours for 3 and 4-year-olds has meant an increase of 600 hours to 1140 hours and that this is a positive change which will need to be monitored closely to understand the opportunities.

The Board asked about young people's wellbeing and where their confidence levels are as we emerge from COVID? Mr McDaid explained that there are a number of studies ongoing which are looking at the impact of COVID on young people, not surprisingly the impact is greater on those living in poverty. Mr McDaid explained that while **sportscotland** and active schools have a contribution to make responsibility lay at a local level. He went on to talk about the importance of us all continuing to engage and listen to young people who have a clear idea about what support they want.

The Board commented on active travel, climate change and sustainability getting outdoors and understanding the value of exercise. It was agreed that this continues to be an area of opportunity.

➤ *The Board noted the presentation.*

8 Sport for Life - Places

Mr Dunlop presented the paper and highlighted the range of challenges and opportunities that are faced in considering the future facility provision. Mr Dunlop draw the Boards attention to Appendix 1 which was a report produced by Community Leisure Scotland describe the circumstance they are operating under with Covid still having an impact on services and highlighted the economic challenges and the expectations on climate change and decarbonisation. Mr Dunlop noted that while we have a good grasp on these challenges we will need to stay close to our local partners in the months ahead as decisions around facilities are made and understanding the implications these decisions could have on sport will be critical.

Mr Dunlop summarised where we are with TSIT. This has been a challenging piece of work with a number of projects currently under review as costs go up and priorities at a local level change. The Board asked that we continue to review the likely hood of these projects progressing and the implications and opportunities if they do not all progress.

Mr Dunlop updated on the recent announcement by Falkirk Council that they intend to bringing schools back under the control of the council and he noted the opportunity that this should present. Finally, Mr Dunlop explained that there is still lots of ambition and demand from local partners to build facilities and that sportscotland investment can still add value to these projects.

The Board discussed the importance of outdoor spaces for sport and physical activity noting good demand and progress with the cycling facilities fund.

The Board acknowledged the importance of the school swimming pilot and the close link between schools with pools and school swimming, noting also that a number of aauthorities have replaced schools without replacing pools. Mr Dunlop explained that there is work ongoing with Scottish Swimming to look at the swimming pool estate, acknowledging that this work was essential to help inform opportunities around swimming.

The Chair noted that Meadowbank is now open.

➤ *The Board noted the Sport for Life – Schools and Education.*

9 Clean Sport

Mr Robison and Mr Ferguson presented the report on clean sport and noted it to be a positive update. Mr Robinson highlighted some key points and noted that the work is structured in 3 areas which the steering group oversee. The revised code gives the national agencies clear responsibilities which are taken forward though the steering group. The key role of the steering group is leadership and coordination. Mr Ferguson gave an overview of the Assurance Framework and noted that it is a key part of the revised national anti-doping policy. It has made the Governing Bodies responsibilities explicit.

Uk Anti-doping have been very responsive to Govern Bodies needs and to the feedback. They have introduced a number of support mechanisms one of which is the exemption process. Mr Ferguson gave a few examples of Governing Bodies who have used this in a positive manner.

Education can now be delivered to compliant Governing Bodies. We are now support Governing Bodies with the delivery of our education strategies and their implementation plans.

Mr Robison finished by highlighting the food first programme and noted the innovative approach that the institute has is world leading.

The Chair noted that this is an important issue and its good that we have a close working relationship with UK Anti-doping.

The Board discussed the food first programme and issues with poverty and cost. Mr Whittingham explained the programme further including how educating athletes on the right food aligned to their sport and ambitions can be done in an economical way, it was also acknowledged that a number of athletes receive lottery funding support as a contribution to costs.

The Chair asked that we be kept up to date on this important matter.

➤ *The Board noted the Clean Sport report.*

10 Commonwealth Games Birmingham

Mr Whittingham updated the Board on the final preparation for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, he thanked the Scottish Government for their support over the past couple of years which has allowed athletes to continue to train.

Mr Whittingham explained the Mission 2022 process which is designed to support sports and athletes, he explained it is a collaborative process, working alongside Commonwealth Games Scotland.

Subject to final selections and quotas Mr Whittingham expected the team size to be around 251 athletes the ages of 16-75. 127 athletes are female and 124 are male, there are 25 para-athletes. 18 of the 19 sports will be represented by Team Scotland with Cricket being the only sport we did not qualify for.

The Board asked Mr Whittingham to explain the RAG status for each sport and whether we should expect it to be more green. Mr Whittingham explained there are many factors and more uncertainty than normal going into these games, for example, the congested international calendars and the impact of a positive COVID test.

The Board discussed the quota system that has been introduced by the Commonwealth Games Federation and the challenges that this presents. Mr Whittingham explained that this is an ongoing discussion with Commonwealth Games Scotland who have the responsibility to work with other nations to influence the Commonwealth Games Federation.

➤ *The Board noted the Commonwealth Games Birmingham paper.*

For Decision

11 Quarter 4: 2021-2022 Progress Report

Mr Dunlop presented the final report for last year's business plan and noted that the traffic light report highlights all the actions completed. Mr Dunlop noted in Table 3 the Budget exception report, and explained the variation on the national and regional facilities spend. Mr Dunlop also noted that Appendix 1 Ministerial guidance letter has been in place for a period of time and we have started discussions with Scottish Government regarding an updated letter and how it aligns with our business plan and our reporting.

The Chair noted the report as being very clear. The Board discussed the variance on national and regional facilities, Mr Dunlop explained that Scottish Government will agree to this money being carried into the next financial year and that the remaining balance is from Lottery which can again be carried into next year.

The Board noted that the IIP rating slipped from silver to bronze and if this was a surprise? Mr Dunlop noted that it wasn't a surprise and that it links to the work we are doing around people strategy and culture work in the organisation. Through the Remunerating Committee we are discussing all the pieces of work and starting to address the actions we need to take.

The Board asked for clarity on the proceeds of the Cumbrae sale and where the money will go. Mr Dunlop noted that the proceeds will come to **sportscotland** but is working with Scottish

Government to confirm and finalise the details. The Board asked what the valuation would be? Mr Dunlop informed the Board that it is advertised at offers over £550,000.00.

➤ *The Board noted the Strategy Report for 29 April 2022. Corporate strategy and business plan. Quarter 4: 2021-2022 progress report.*

For Information

12 Communications update

Noted and taken as read.

13 Trust Company Board meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

Mr Dunlop highlighted to the Board that Cumbrae is now on the market.

Mr Dunlop also highlighted 2 claims one at Glenmore and one at Inverclyde. These claims are Trust Company issues but ultimately the MOU between the Trust Company and **sportscotland** mean any settlements will need **sportscotland** support.

The Board asked if Cumbrae was being maintained. Mr Fleeting explained that Cumbrae has had essential maintenance only. The site has been maintained to a suitable standard for sale.

14 Any Other Business

None

The Chair requested that only Board members remain for a 15-minute meeting.

15 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 August 2022 (Inverclyde)

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