

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at the **sportscotland** National Centre Inverclyde on Tuesday 21 February 2023 at 09:30

Present

Members

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

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr F Dunlop
Mr M Whittingham
Mr N Cobb
Dr N Elliot
Mr B Fleeting
Ms P Horton
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mr P Reid
Mr D Williamson
Ms L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Other

Mr B Watson

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *None.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *Mr Bain noted an interest on the local authority investment paper.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 7 December 2022

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 7 December 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

Mr Dunlop highlighted that the Remuneration Committee reviewed the job description for the Vice Chair role which is included as an appendix to item 17.

The Board requested the papers include hyperlinks in the agenda to navigate through the papers easier.

None.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed Mr Dunlop as the new CEO and noted that this will be Mr Whittingham's last meeting. The Chair commented that a good discussion was had last night during the strategic session and asked Board members to get in touch with Miss Cook with any suggestions for future evening topics.

The Chair updated on discussions around the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international sport and the position of the IOC and UK and Scottish Governments.

The Chair noted that he is looking forward to continuing to meet with each Board member and appreciates the honest feedback.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Dunlop highlighted the update on the Active Scotland Delivery Group which has now developed a first draft of collaborative actions. The next meeting of the group will be in April at which point it is expected that the actions will be refined.

Mr Dunlop updated that the Health, Social Care and Sport committee met with Gordon Arthur, CEO and Anjan Luthra, Chair, Cricket Scotland and himself. Mr Dunlop updated on the three strands of work which come from the Changing the boundaries report, these are, the referrals, the governance review and the EDI plan. Mr Dunlop explained that **sportscotland** will now consider additional investment to support Cricket Scotland deliver the next phase of work.

Mr Dunlop updated on the 4th Lottery Licence and since the last meeting, Allwyn have completed the buyout of Camelot which helps mitigate the risk associated with transition.

The Board commented on the £20 million investment coming into grass roots sport from Westminster directly to the Scottish FA. The Chair commented that the Scottish FA have been positive about working with us and ensuring the maximum impact of this money alongside any additional monies being invested into football.

The Board noted the Esports championships taking place in Dundee and asked for an update on our engagement. Mr Lunn explained the work that we had done to date and that we continued to offer support and ensure connection between Scottish and British bodies.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 SAMH presentation from Billy Watson

The Chair introduced Mr Watson, CEO of SAMH who presented on the great partnership which has been developed and the meaningful work being carried out by sportscotland and SAMH staff. Mr Watson also updated on SAMH's organisational strategy and updated the Board on the development of the Scottish Government's mental health strategy.

The Chair thanked Mr Watson for his presentation.

The Board commented on the positive and important work and asked if more could be done through the Active Schools network? Mrs Lynn explained that the Active Schools network have had access to the SAMH training with the intention of giving the staff team the basic skills to have a supportive conversation, further education and support will be provided in phase two of the partnership. Mr Watson noted that his wife is a teacher at a school in a high SIMD area and the impact can be seen there but we are really looking to step it up during phase two. We need to look at what the impact is and decide how best to measure it and then look at targeting.

The Board discussed the work completed and the plans outlined in the next partnership agreement, this included the importance of building capacity at a local level. Mr Watson noted that the charter is key and has already helped with local work. Mrs Lynn noted that additional resources from SAMH are being issued directly at a local level.

Mrs McCheyne noted that the Communications team are working together with the SAMH Communications team, this work has just begun but there is huge potential to develop it further.

The Board asked about the budget, Mrs Lynn noted that as well as monetary investment we are also investing staff time. Mr Watson noted that we are already seeing growth and can work together on third party funding projects like the Coop investment into local sports groups.

The Board observed that some elite athletes have commented on the negative impact their high performance career has had on their mental health, whilst acknowledging that the Institute is there to help, asked if we are still doing the right thing or is there a different approach we could take? Mr Watson noted that our performance and psychology capacities are really good and well served and SAMH do not have any real value to add in that area.

The Board noted that there are always issues getting volunteers to attend training sessions but there is a massive appetite for mental health training. Mr Watson noted that they are working on a college transition programme which is being developed with colleges, it does not currently have a sport element but is something that could be explored.

The Board thanked Mr Watson and encouraged staff to continue developing the partnership and through that the support to the workforce at all levels.

➤ *The Board noted the SAMH presentation.*

8 2023 Business Plan and Budget update

Mr Dunlop noted that the next three papers are all connected.

Mr Dunlop provided a quick recap for new Board members noting that during June, August and October meetings we reviewed the key elements of the sporting system, including opportunities and challenges. Emerging themes and budgetary considerations were discussed at the December meeting with a recognition of the significant challenges that continue to face the sector and particularly local partners and the Boards commitment to do what we could to protect and maintain the people infrastructure that **sportscotland** invests in.

Mr dunlop went on to explain that the draft Business Plan and budget have been designed to take account of the above and to do what sportscotland can to help the sector navigate the challenges and changes ahead.

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

9 Budget development 2023-2024

Mr Cobb presented an update on the budget paper which builds on the paper from the December Board meeting and provides an update now that we have a better idea of the Scottish Government investment. The plan for the budget has been announced which noted the continuation of our funding and has enabled us to present a balanced budget. The National Lottery investment is received monthly as a result of the income from ticket sales. Projections are received from DCMS and the purchase of Camelot by Alwyn as mentioned by Mr Dunlop mitigates some risk concerns. The impact of Covid-19 means activities were reduced but it's great to be able to release funds now.

The Board noted that prior to the December meeting the Scottish Government announced our budget was to be cut by £3.65 million and asked for clarity on what our budget from the Scottish Government is now? Mr Cobb noted that we were going to receive the additional £3.65 million in the current year in addition to the original published budget, we then lost £2.65 million giving a final Grant in Aid investment for 2022-23 of £33.55 million.

The Board noted that in the business plan clause 28, it states that we will scope out a review of the facility estate and asked for some clarity on what that means. Mr Dunlop noted that this work is something that has been recognised for a while as a medium to long term issue to replace aging and inefficient facilities. The Board asked who should lead on this work? Mr Dunlop noted that if we do not take it on it is unlikely that anybody else would, but we would need to do it sensitively with partners.

The Board asked about the utilisation of the lottery balance and if more detail should be given to the Board and whether a policy is required to help guide the utilisation of the balance. Mr Cobb explained that that Lottery balance with commitments is brought to the Board each year as part of the budgetary process. The board agreed that the ARC should consider such a policy and report back.

The Board asked about the CAPX budget and how this is set. Mr Cobb explained that Grant in Aid monies are revenue but can be converted to capital as required. This tends to be done to support the Trust company, however there are times when monies are needed to support, in this case, new ICT equipment.

The Board asked if we should be more aggressive on using the Lottery balance? Mr Dunlop noted that consideration was given to spending the balance at a greater rate, but it was felt that using the resources over a four / five-year period was more sustainable. It was agreed that the policy to manage the Lottery balance which was previously discussed would help guide these types of decisions. If additional monies come from the Scottish government, then plans are in place to spend new monies to accelerate and expand current and new programmes.

The Board asked for more information on monitoring. Mr Williamson noted that data is gathered annually and therefore there is nothing we can do on monthly or quarterly basis, and the survey could not be conducted during Covid-19. We are now restarting the data collection and will gather more data and analyse the current situation.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions, noted that members are happy with the detail provided and that the Business Plan and budget would be brought back to the April meeting for final approval.

The Chair thanked Mr Sinclair for his help and intervention with the Scottish Government budget.

➤ *The Board approved the Budget development 2023-2024 paper.*

10 LA and SGB Investments

Mr Lunn presented an update noting that this is the third paper in the process and Mrs Lynn outlined the risks facing the Local Authorities as they were further along in the process now. The recommendation for the uplift of staffing costs in line with the cost of living has also been tabled in the paper.

The Board discussed the movements in investment levels for sports and asked for more information to help understand the decisions. Mr Lunn explained the journey and long term development that a range of sports had been on, giving examples of sports that had monies cut years ago and we have slowly built them back up, others that have come forward with targeted interventions and plans around inclusion and sports that have been added to the Commonwealth Games programme and so we are now investing against those opportunities.

The Board discussed the investment levels for LA and asked Mrs Lynn to explain examples of how those decisions had been made. Mrs Lynn noted the ongoing partnership work, where clear plans and priorities align with **sportscotland** we have looked to progress additional work.

Mr Whittingham noted that ambition is seen in all sports now and everything we have done as a team is linked back to our outcomes.

The Chair asked the Board if they are happy to approve the recommendations, the Board all agreed.

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

11 Concussion

Dr Elliott provided an overview of sports concussion and how the Scottish guidance has been developed and reviewed to be launched at a UK level in mid March. The Chair thanked Dr Elliott for his presentation and commented on the impressive work being done to lead the way.

The Board asked if there is an opportunity to educate schools on the matter or implement a school policy, Dr Elliott noted that some schools have already approached us for advice and Universities have picked up the data and are incorporating it in to first and second year studies.

➤ *The Board noted the Concussion paper.*

12 **Communication Strategy**

Mrs McCheyne provided an overview of the communications strategy and work being done, including profiling the National Lottery.

Mrs McCheyne asked the Board members to contact Miss Cook if they would like to receive the press cuttings or if they would be interested in attending any events. Mrs McCheyne also asked the Board members to follow us on our social media channels and participate in #sporthour if they are a Twitter user.

➤ *The Board noted the Communications Strategy paper.*

13 **Research discussion paper**

Ms Horton presented on the overall research approach and noted that a data and research area is being created on our website which will be updated with information on EDI. Areas of future research have been identified which will include the impact of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis.

Mr Williamson presented an overview of the WHO target and the trends from national surveys and data. It was agreed that this discussion will be continued at the next Board.

➤ *The Board noted the Research discussion paper.*

For Decision

14 **Quarter 3 report**

Mr Dunlop highlighted a few variations but noted the rest of the report remains on track.

➤ *The Board approved the Quarter 3 report.*

For Information

15 **Communication update**

Noted and taken as read.

16 **Trust Company Board draft minutes**

Noted and taken as read.

17 **Remuneration Committee meeting draft minutes**

Noted and taken as read.

18 **Any Other Business**

The Chair wished Mr Whittingham all the best for the future and thanked him on behalf of the Board for all his input to High Performance Sport.

19 **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 April 2023 (Inverclyde)

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