

# sportscotland

## Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at The Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 26 October 2016 at 09:00.

## Present

### Members

Mr M Young, Chair  
Mr D Cameron  
Mr D Gass  
Professor G Jarvie  
Ms C Riddell  
Professor Leigh Robinson  
Mr R Stone  
Mr G Walker  
Ms F Wood

## In Attendance

### Council Officers

Mr S Harris, Chief Executive  
Mr S Ogg  
Mr M Whittingham

Mr J Lunn  
Ms K McCheyne  
Ms P Lombardi – Minute Secretary

## Scottish Government

Mr Derek Grieve

## Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Business

### 1 Apologies

➤ *Apologies were received from Professor Craig Mahoney.*

### 2 Declarations of interest

➤ *Mr Gass noted his interest in Agenda Item 10 and this was deemed not to be in conflict.*

### 3 Minutes of Meeting held on 24 August 2016

- *The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2016 were approved.*

### 4 Matters Arising

Mr Harris noted that there was nothing further to report at this time on the Chalamain Gap matter. The Board would be informed as soon as any new information was available.

### 5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the most recent UK Sport Board meeting, which had included discussions on strategy and funding for mega events. Scotland's input and good reputation is well recognised; nevertheless decisions made at the UK Sport Board's December meeting will have implications for investment decisions in Scotland.

At the personal invitation of Pope Francis, the Chairman had attended the recent Vatican City Conference where the theme was sport and leadership with a focus on societal values across the world. There was recognition at the conference that Governments were likely to invest more money into sport. Further information from the conference would come into the public domain in due course. The Board discussed the benefits of seeing sport not just as a diversionary activity but as something that has a central role with business, health, technology, etc., to help address some of the underlying problems through discussions with other traditional and non-traditional stakeholders. The Board agreed that this area merited further debate.

- *The Board noted the Chairman's Report.*

### 6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris referred members to the Minister's Strategic Guidance letter appended to his report, which indicated clear support for a systemic approach with some customisation through partnership working around issues such as working to address equalities. In the period to March 2017 the business plan would be refreshed and discussions held with the Board and stakeholders.

The Board discussed how it might best influence and provide strategic leadership to achieve the outcomes sought and to outline the type of partnership support required. There was a need to manage competing demands on resources and try to widen engagement with communities, identifying the gaps, and agreeing on how to prioritise. Mr Harris confirmed that these were issues he and the Chairman planned to discuss with the Minister in their upcoming meeting and the Board would be kept informed.

Mr Harris provided an update on current dealings with the Scottish Sports Association, which was continuing its appeal following an unsuccessful representation to the Board against the decision to cease funding after March 2017. The SSA was now in discussion with the Scottish Government and **sportscotland** about identifying a short-term solution towards a more sustainable future for itself.

Board members expressed some disappointment that their decision not to fund SSA, following a full discussion and the follow up representation process, was now being potentially undermined. They asked that the legal position be checked to ensure that the rigorous and transparent process they had followed was clearly documented.

Mr Grieve confirmed that although the Minister supported the decision reached by the Board, she was nevertheless keen that the SSA be given every chance to demonstrate how it could better contribute.

Board members would be informed on any progress with the appeal at the December meeting, but in the meantime were reassured by the Executive that the sequence of events, rationale and supporting evidence were all documented for the appeal process.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

## For Discussion

### 7 Board Programme and Development

The Board discussed the future programme and development plan, which had four key elements: policy and strategy; business management; ambassadorial; information and briefing. Members agreed that the strategic discussion held the evening before had been very productive. Future topics for such discussions should feed into the business plan, with the staff team identifying where Board members might be able to add value. The Board suggested some possible topics for future strategic discussion sessions:

- Technology and how it is used in sport – the digital age
- Scotland in the international sporting world
- Accessibility
- Developing partners – including commercial
- Club and community sport

➤ *The Board endorsed the approach as outlined in the paper.*

### 8 Rio 2016

Following Mr Whittingham's report from the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Board discussed the importance of harnessing the advantage of Scotland now being seen as a 'superpower', with home-grown athletes gaining selection to Team GB and winning medals. This would include learning lessons, capturing data and using this success to help to try to protect investment in sport. Acknowledging the success achieved on the world stage through the support given to high performance as part of building a world class sporting system for everyone in Scotland, the Board was keen to continue examining how performance sport linked with and influenced school and community activity.

➤ *The Board noted the content of the Rio 2016 report.*

### 9 Communications

Mrs McCheyne explained that the Communications team was working on a bank of key briefing documents with the aim of ensuring that everyone communicating the role and work of **sportscotland** was delivering consistent messaging. Through a short workshop she outlined to Board members three examples of messages emerging from this work and asked for their perceptions:

1. Building a world class sporting system for everyone in Scotland.
2. Inclusivity and empowering communities.
3. Empowering and developing our young people as leaders.

Board members appreciated the rationale behind the workshop and noted that they would continue to be consulted on messaging. A key messages sheet would be welcome and Board members looked forward to a wider presentation on the full Communications strategy at a later meeting.

## For Decision

### 10 Trust Company Chair

The Board's approval was sought for a minor modification to the Memorandum of Understanding between **sportscotland** and the **sportscotland** Trust Company to provide more flexibility in the way that **sportscotland** can nominate the Chair of the Trust Company Board. In the short term this will allow David Gass to take over from Professor Jarvie as Chair of the Trust Board and serve until the end of September 2017 (extending his term of office to cover the handover period and completion of the Inverclyde project).

➤ *The Board approved the proposal.*

## For Information

### 11 Inverclyde Project Update

### 12 Any Other Business

Mr Grieve noted that the 2017/18 budget announcement was expected on 15<sup>th</sup> December (the day following the December Board meeting)

The Chairman and Board members thanked Professor Jarvie for his considerable and very valuable contribution during his eight years' service on the **sportscotland** Board.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:00 noon.

### 13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the **sportscotland** Board will be held on Wednesday 14 December 2016.

### 14 Dates of 2017 Meetings

22 February; 19 April; 21 June; 23 August\*; 25 October; 13 December.

*\*Post-meeting note: Following discussions with Audit Scotland on the accounts closure timetable, there may be a requirement to move the August Board meeting into September.*

Agenda Item	Responsible Officer	Planned Action	Actions Taken
5	Mr Harris	Board to be informed of the outcome of discussions with the Minister for Sport and Public Health.	Oral update at December Board meeting.
5	Mr Harris	Board to be informed on progress with SSA appeal.	Oral update at December Board meeting.