

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at Dundee Regional Performance Centre on Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 11:15.

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Ms C Bain
Mr D Cameron
Mr C Grant
Mr S Lindsay
Prof C Mahoney
Mr M Munro
Mrs S Sandilands
Mr G Walker
Mrs F Wood

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr S Harris, Chief Executive
Mr F Dunlop
Mr M Roberts
Mr M Whittingham
Mr N Cobb
Mr M Cowan
Mr B Fleeting
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mr G Reid
Mr S Roberts
Miss L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Orkney Islands Council

Mr G Burton

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Apologies were noted from Ms Campbell and Ms U'ren.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *Mr Munro and Mr Whittingham noted an interest in the item on Athletics contained within the Chair's Report.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 11 December 2019

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 11 December 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Chair's Report

The Chair updated on the UK Sport Board and the continued push to get representation from Sport Wales and Sport Northern Ireland on to the Board from that organisation. A constructive discussion was had on developing better relationships. There was a further discussion on a range of current ethical issues facing sport and it was suggested that the **sportscotland** Ethics Committee is convened in the coming months to consider these.

Mr Munro and Mr Whittingham left the room.

The Chair updated on the process of the independent external review of UK Athletics will be carried out.

➤ *The Board noted the Chair's Report.*

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris provided an update on the Scottish Government budget settlement and thanked the Active Scotland team for their assistance. Mr Harris highlighted that there is still a large risk around the National Lottery income volatility.

Mr Harris met with Angela Leitch, CEO of Public Health Scotland, who recognises that physical activity has a low profile within the health sector but is keen to work in partnership with **sportscotland** and other agencies to try and change this.

Mr Harris updated that British Curling has began the decoupling process to move their staffing, finance and ICT systems from **sportscotland** and to manage this independently. Mr Dunlop is leading the project, the process should be complete by April 2020.

Mr Harris updated on his contribution to Sport Northern Ireland's restructure project board..

The Board asked for an update on access to the school estate, Mr Harris noted the team are continuing to work with all Local Authorities to evaluate access, Mrs Lynn added that an update to the previous **sportscotland** research on this was planned later in the year.

Mr Harris updated that a significant number of letters have been received from MSPs regarding local issues, the Board queried if there were consistent themes amongst the letters, Mr Harris noted recurring themes to be facility closures and restriction of hours. Malcolm Dingwall-Smith leads on drafting responses and takes a proactive approach to make the case for the importance of sport.

The Board noted the UK budget is still to go through and asked if we have a back up plan if any issues occur, Mr Sinclair noted that the budget is currently published with caveats and contingency plans are in place.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Working with Partners

Mrs Lynn introduced Mr Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager, Orkney Islands Council and Mr Reid who presented on partnership working between **sportscotland** and Orkney Islands Council.

Mr Burton highlighted the main challenges Orkney Islands Council face, which are resources, small staffing team, making best use of resource and getting input and support from some SGBs.

The Board commented on the high percentage of volunteer coaches and queried if there was some learnings that could be passed to other Local Authorities, Mr Burton believes this is down to a strong sense of community throughout Orkney.

The Board questioned how well our Corporate Strategy and structures support a rural environment. Mr Reid noted that the strategy promotes innovation, allowing rural areas to do things differently, for example relationships between Community Sports Hub Officers and Active Schools.

The Board queried if community planning partnerships can assist with transport issues, Mr Reid noted that some rural authority partnerships work well which could be used to encourage other partnerships to replicate a similar focus. There is still a need for stronger links. Mr Burton added that transport to the Scottish Islands will always be an issue but they are constantly working to try and support this.

➤ *The Board thanked Mr Burton and Mr Reid for the insightful presentation.*

8 Facilities Development – Strategic Approach

Mr Cowan presented on the approach to facility development in the coming years and the principles that will be used to **sportscotland**'s criteria for investment.

The Board commented on how good it was to hold the meeting at the Dundee Regional Performance Centre and experience an example of investment first hand.

The Board asked if a full report detailing how investment is targeted is available. Mr Cowan said there was. The report shows how areas of greatest need are evaluated through socioeconomic data, business intelligence and local partnerships.

The Board queried why a limit was set on investments, Mr Cowan noted that it has worked well in the past when managing demand but that if clubs and communities require more flexibility it could be looked at.

The Board questioned if the allocated funding to projects which have not progressed is still available, Mr Cowan responded that this will be picked up later as part of the finance presentation.

➤ *The Board noted the presentation.*

9 Enhancing Community Sports Hubs

Mrs Lynn presented an update on the current progress made with Community Sports Hubs and noted that the target of 200 hubs will be achieved by 31 March. Mrs Lynn added that the focus is on quality and sustainability, the only two Local Authorities not to have hubs are East Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde but work is in progress to ensure they have a hub in the future.

The Board asked if it was challenging to connect hubs with schools, Mrs Lynn commented that they work well together in some LAs but work is in progress to persuade officers of the merit of hubs.

Some Board members commented that they have visited a local CSH and thought it was exceptional but asked how we measure and share the wider impacts. Mrs Lynn noted that we use a varied of tools to share and promote good practice.

The Chair reminded Board members to contact Miss Cook if they would like to visit a CSH or another project.

➤ *The Board noted the presentation.*

For Decision

10 Business Plan Q3 Report

Mr Dunlop presented the quarter three report highlighting that we are on track with both budgets and actions. The Board commented on the straight forward layout.

The Board queried the stats of the **sportscotland** estate dilapidation report as it was delayed in the previous report, Mr Dunlop noted that the work has been prioritised and a plan is now in place and budgets have been aligned.

Mr Harris noted that the biggest challenge is facilities coming to the end of life, for instance Inverclyde's gymnastic hall roof and Glenmore Lodge's climbing wall. The Board asked if this is included in the operational budget, Mr Harris responded that it was but it must be converted from revenue.

The Board queried if there was a risk of the Olympics and Paralympics being cancelled due to the recent news reports of Coronavirus, Mr Whittingham noted that athletes travel plans are being monitored, the World Health Organisation are giving a briefing soon but it is too early to tell.

➤ *The Board approved the Business Plan Q3 Report.*

11 Business Plan/ Budget 2020 – 2021

Mr Harris introduced the paper highlighting that there have been no substantive changes since the plan was last discussed in August. The approach will be to bring new work forward and as this is approved at quarterly reviews, actions and budget will be added. Mr Harris noted that we are working hard on the visibility of the Trust Company outputs and will look to include these in the quarterly reports.

Mr Cobb presented on the budgets.

The Board asked if the slightly higher pay award this year was to combat inflation. Mr Cobb responded that it has been calculated in line with Scottish Government guidelines and money has been set aside in the draft budget.

➤ *The Board approved the Business Plan/ Budget 2020 - 2021.*

12 Scottish Governing Body Investment Recommendations

Mr Lunn introduced the paper which builds on the last two Board meetings and provides more detail on how we make decisions and covers some more strategic risks. Mr Lunn added that investment figures are in principle.

The Board queried if the LTAs £12m investment to Tennis Scotland will affect our funding. Mr Lunn said this was separate investment from the LTA in to Tennis Scotland.

The Board noted a recent media release around Scottish Rugby's senior staff salaries and discussed whether this should have an impact on their investment, Mr Lunn explained that the investment goes towards supporting development and grass roots projects and withdrawing our investment would not impact the senior staff salaries but could damage the projects and our partnership with rugby. The Board asked for confirmation that our investment is ring fenced for the development of rugby.

The Board agreed that this topic would be worthy of further discussion and should be based on the investment principles. There was also a discussion on the impact of sports receiving sponsorship and whether or not they would be penalised for this through **sportscotland** investment. Mr Lunn and Mr Harris both felt that sport should not be penalised against sponsorship income. The Board agreed entirely that sport should not be penalised against sponsorship income. However, a number of members felt that where sports elected to direct income toward significant increases in senior salaries there was a strong argument to revisit the merit of directing public funds towards these sports, as is the case with Scottish Rugby.

➤ *The Board approved the Scottish Governing Body Investment Recommendations. The Board also agreed to have a further discussion at a later date on the investment to larger and better funded sports, including Scottish Rugby in the context of our investment principles.*

13 Local Authority Investment Recommendations

Mrs Lynn introduced the paper and highlighted that West Dunbartonshire do not have sufficient resource at a senior management level to commit at this time to working in-depth. They are undergoing a reorganisation and the investment will be reviewed later this month. Inverclyde and Moray have made some progress but will be awarded a further one year partnership agreement.

Mrs Lynn highlighted Midlothian remains as a significant risk as they are undergoing another staffing restructure. They have also been awarded a further one year partnership agreement.

➤ *The Board approved the Local Authority Investment Recommendations.*

14 Cumbrae Review

The Chair invited Mrs Wood as Chair of the Trust Company Board to present, Mrs Wood updated the Board on the review process and asked the Board to approve the Trust Boards recommendation to close National Water Sports Centre Cumbrae at the end of the season.

The Board questioned if there are any restrictions around the sale of the site, Mr Fleeting added that he is working with the legal team on this.

The Board commented that the report shows the Trust Company underwent rigorous assessment and due diligence has been performed and the Board agreed to support the Trust Board's decision and thanked them for their hard work.

➤ *The Board approved the Trust Companies recommendation regarding the Cumbrae review.*

15 Strategic Partnership Glasgow City Council

Mr Harris introduced this paper, noting that a year ago a Board discussion was held with Glasgow City Council position regarding equal pay claim. This involved borrowing against capital assets such as sports facilities to fund the claim.

The Board queried if there are assurances from legal that any risk of leases being broken is mitigated, Mr Harris noted that the legal team believed the checks were satisfactory

➤ *The Board approved the action recommended in the paper and delegated authority to the Chief Executive.*

For Information

16 Communications Update

Noted and taken as read.

17 Board Annual Programme of work

Noted and taken as read.

18 Trust Board meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

19 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

20 Date of Next Meeting: 29 April 2020, Microsoft Teams

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

