

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 10:00

Present

Members

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

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr S Harris
Mr F Dunlop
Mr M Roberts
Mr M Whittingham
Mr N Cobb
Mrs L Dobbie
Mrs J Leavey
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mrs D McAuley
Mr D McKay
Miss L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Ms K U'ren.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 October 2020

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 28 October 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

The Chair updated that three members had expressed an interest in the UK Anti-Doping post and following a discussion Ms Bain will take on the role.

Mr Harris added that the UKAD policy is being developed and a conversation is due to be had between the four home countries to discuss the feasibility of completing the actions within the timescales.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair updated on the recent **sportscotland** Annual Review with the Minister and the positive feedback which was received. The Minister commented that he was pleased with **sportscotland's** reaction to the pandemic and how the sport sector came together. The Chair noted that credit should be given to all staff members.

The Chair provided an update on the Sports Cabinet, which was the first that allowed devolved administrations to be included. A collective approach was taken to coordinate the discussion on finance and messaging with an emphasis placed on the role and importance of sport. Ministers welcomed the approach and took the comments on board.

The Chair also updated on a European Commission event which he attended with Mr Harris, Thomas Bach gave the keynote speech covering the deeper issues of sport and solidarity and the meaning of sport.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris updated on the latest Active Scotland Delivery Group meeting which had a clear focus on physical activity. Positive conversations continue with Angela Leitch from Public Health Scotland, Mr Harris emphasised that more work is needed to ensure a stronger connection with other sectors to create meaningful engagement against the Active Scotland Physical Activity Delivery Plan.

Mr Harris noted that the Gambling Commission are raising the age limit from sixteen to eighteen but it is not anticipated that this will have a significant impact and projections look to be positive.

Scottish Government and **sportscotland** are conversing on a daily basis and the Government are developing a financial support package which will aid sports with spectator income loss.

Mr Harris highlighted appendix three which is the draft partnership agreement with Public Health Scotland and **sportscotland** with a focus on physical activity and in particular a commitment to work together on social prescribing. Mr Harris noted this is a great opportunity to drive the policy forward but requires input from other sectors.

The Board commented on the positive impact social prescribing could have not only on physical health but also on mental health and the financial benefit it could have on partners that are struggling due to the pandemic. Mr Harris agreed that it has huge potential and thanked the Board for their support. The Chair commented that although Covid-19 has brought a lot of challenges, opportunities such as this have also emerged.

The Board noted that the UK Government support package mainly consisted of loans which stopped applications as they would be impossible to pay back, Mr Harris noted that the Scottish Government is taking a different approach, the Ministers have still to make the final decision but **sportscotland's** recommendation is to help the organisations survive. Mr Sinclair agreed with Mr Harris and noted the confusion caused by the UK Government announcement.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Equality and Inclusion

Mr Dunlop introduced the paper and Mrs Dobbie presented on the reporting requirements.

The Board commented that equality and inclusion should be incorporated throughout all areas of the business and each Board paper. The Board also highlighted that all organisations should recognise that there is a high potential that they have been unfair and discriminatory in the past and learn from this.

Mrs Dobbie noted that different methods have been trialled in the past but have not worked and we should recognise our failures and learn from it. Mrs Dobbie also gave the example of binary issues experienced within the arts, with customers being annoyed at data collection but in sport customers tend to understand why certain questions are being asked.

Mr Harris noted that there is an opportunity to put equality and inclusion at the heart of everything we do, going forward everyone in the organisations will be asked for suggestions on how we can do this better.

The Board asked if there was an opportunity to partner sports that need support and guidance with sports that are doing well in this area, Mrs Dobbie explained that this does happen already and that we will continue to look for ways to support all sports. Mr Dunlop noted that we have an inclusion group which is currently internal and has a focus on driving change within the organisation rather than advising. Mrs Dobbie commented on the speed of responsiveness and the pace in which movements have developed during the pandemic.

The Board questioned the Equality Standard and if it was under review as the majority of SGBs are at level two, and if the four year review progress was enough for it to remain relevant.

The Chair commented on the good examples and asked Board members to get in touch if they had any more points to raise which have not already been discussed.

➤ *The Board noted the Equality and Inclusion paper.*

8 Business Planning 2021 onwards - update

Mr Harris updated on business plan noting that it requires flexibility to take account of the changing circumstances. The business plan has been developed with a focus which aims to be empathetic to partners needs and has taken a system based approach to join everything up.

Mr McKay provided further detail on the 2021 business plan.

➤ *The Board noted the Business Plan update.*

9 Club and community environment

Mr Harris introduced the papers which aim to provide an illustration of work being carried out within the club and community environment.

9.1. Strategic partnership with local authorities (North Ayrshire)

Mrs Leavey presented on partnership work with North Ayrshire Council as an example of how we can support Local Authorities. Mrs Leavey highlighted the community planning partnership and it's focus on equalities and ending poverty.

9.2. Community Sport Hubs – a more integrated and inclusive approach

Mrs Lynn presented on Community Sports Hubs and highlighted points from the paper which show a more integrated and inclusive approach to supporting partners through recovery from the pandemic.

The Board commented on Craigholme Sports Hub being sold and partners no longer being able to utilise the facility, and asked if this was a result of financial strain? The Chair commented that issues like this are emerging across the sector with partners being under stress. Mrs Lynn will find out the specifics but noted a Partnership Manager will be working directly to support as best we can.

The Board supported a more focussed and targeted approach and asked if we will integrate our work with mental health and social prescribing into this. Mrs Lynn agreed that we will look at good practice across our partnerships and use this expertise and learning as we develop CSH.

➤ *The Board noted the Club and community environment papers.*

For Decision

10 Short Term Action Plan – Q2 Report

Mr Dunlop introduced the Quarter two report which provides an update to the end of September, he noted that financial payments to Dundee and Changing Lives have now been paid.

➤ *The Board approved the Short Term Action Plan – Q2 Report.*

For Information

11 Communications update

Noted and taken as read.

12 Trust Company Board meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

13 Audit and Risk Committee draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

14 Any Other Business

The Chair re-emphasised the positive feedback received from the Minister during the Annual Review and thanked everyone for their contributions throughout the year.

15 Date of Next Meeting: 24 February 2021, Microsoft Teams

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