

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ on Wednesday 24 February 2016 at 1000 hours.

Present

Members

Mrs L Martin CBE, Chair
Mr D Cameron
Ms S Jackson
Professor G Jarvie
Professor C Mahoney
Ms C Riddell
Mr R Stone
Ms F Wood
Mr M Young

In Attendance

Council Officers

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

Mr Ewen Cameron (part)
Mr M Cavanagh (part)
Mr S Hodge (part)
Mr J Kent
Mr J Lunn
Ms J Lynn
Ms K McCheyne (part)
Mr S Roberts

Ms P Lombardi – Minute Secretary

Mr E John (East Lothian Council) (part)

Scottish Government

Jamie Hepburn MSP (part)
Mr Derek Grieve

Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and, on behalf of the Board and other meeting attendees, congratulated Mr Young on his appointment as the new Chair of **sportscotland**.

Apologies were noted from Mr D Gass, Professor L Robinson and Mr G Walker.

Business

1 Declarations of interest

- *There were no new declarations of interest.*

2 Minutes of Meeting held on 16 December 2015

The Chair noted a very positive visit and meeting held at Glenmore Lodge in December and recorded the Board's thanks to the staff there for the excellent support provided.

- *The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 were approved.*

3 Matters Arising

- *The actions from the previous meeting had been completed and there were no matters arising not covered by today's meeting agenda.*

4 Chair's Report – s (16) 01

The Chair noted from her work with the Commonwealth Games Federation – in particular visits to the Bahamas and South Africa – that the Prime Ministers and Sports Ministers of those and other nations would appreciate any available information from **sportscotland** to assist them in growing 'sport in the community' within their own communities.

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

5 Executive Management Report – s (16) 02

Mr Harris updated Board members on the areas of note within the Executive Management Report that highlighted those key activities and actions undertaken by the Strategic Management Team of **sportscotland** not contained in other substantive papers.

Scottish Government

Corporate Parenting: Mr Harris noted **sportscotland**'s work with local partners around the integration of our corporate parenting responsibilities. The Board expressed interest in hearing from the young person who had shared his story with the corporate parenting training session group; this was something that could be arranged for a future Board meeting.

Scottish Living Wage: The Board was pleased to see **sportscotland** accredited as a Scottish Living Wage Employer and sought confirmation that this would also be a requirement for its contractors.

Strategic Partnerships

Argyll & Bute Council: Mr Harris reported that following work over a 12-month period by partners and facilitated by **sportscotland** staff. A Framework for Sport & Leisure had been endorsed by the entire Council. This reflected well on the role played by **sportscotland** staff.

Operational

Community Sports Hubs: Mr Harris reported strong progress, with the 153 hubs established so far delivering growing participation, a good balance between leisure provision and community-driven activity and demonstrated self-leadership by communities.

It was also noted that the Scottish Government Community Empowerment team was in discussion with colleagues in the LEADER Programme around hubs and the potential model for self-leadership by communities. It was agreed that Mr Harris and Mr Cameron would discuss this further.

Representation and Appeals Process: It was confirmed that any appeals following representations made to the Board would be handled independently by UK Sports Resolutions. In order to furnish Board members with the full background ahead of any deliberations, Mr Ogg would circulate details of what had been agreed with UK Sports Resolution.

The Board also discussed how best to try to quantify the return that **sportscotland** might expect from governing bodies in terms of recognition of its investment. In this respect clarification of the language used around 'grants', 'awards' and 'business partnerships' might help progress.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement & Mental Health, joined the meeting.

The Minister congratulated Mr Young on his appointment and thanked Mrs Martin for her Chairmanship over what had been an exciting and important period for **sportscotland**. The Minister noted the key role for **sportscotland** in the Government's wider ambition to create a fairer society, considering new models of sport delivery and funding for a truly inclusive sporting system where people were encouraged to be more active more often.

For Decision

6 **sportscotland Draft Business Plan/Budget 2016/2017**

Mr Harris highlighted the spending review outcomes as outlined in the paper and noted the challenges inherent in working with a reduced budget. Mr Ogg confirmed that through efficiencies, careful management, a 'priorities' approach and consolidation of National Lottery funding, the only real change from the previously approved two-year Business Plan was the 2016-17 budget numbers.

The Board sought reassurance that efficiency savings in the internal organisation – particularly in the areas of ICT and Communications – would not put the organisation at risk through delays in investment. Mr Ogg responded that although manageable at present, the situation was complex and required careful monitoring due to the nature of the organisation with its multiple sites, functions and areas.

The Board discussed the link between physical activity and sport with attainment and achievement and the importance of the physical education agenda to encouraging participation in sport. The £1.7m PE investment for the last four years had been vital in developing links between schools and communities. Mr Harris confirmed that there was ongoing debate between Education Scotland and Ministers and that **sportscotland** continued to seek collaboration with Education Scotland in terms of resourcing support. The Board emphasised the importance of continuing this dialogue and reinforcing the positive impact

that sport can have on education. It was agreed that Professor Jarvie would circulate the links to the available reports on the impact of sport on education and achievement so that conclusions could be drawn, formulated and communicated.

- *The Board approved the refreshed Business Plan and attached budgets.*

7 Investment in Scottish Governing Bodies

7.1 Rugby

Mr Cavanagh provided information on positive progress made within Scottish Rugby since the Board's agreement to a one-year investment, including: appointment of key personnel; creation of a club sustainability fund; a three-fold increase in competition numbers (principally from state schools); a strategic review process and more investment into the women's game

In addition, Scottish Rugby continued to work towards advanced equality status and a review of the academy structure, with the intention to introduce smaller centres ("academy satellites") and a desire to increase the number of top-level coaches.

- *The Board agreed the £774K annual investment and the in principle four-year investment.*

7.2 Cricket

Mr Hodge reported that with new leadership now in place at Cricket Scotland, the organisation itself had requested to be re-audited earlier than planned in order to underpin improvements and changes in the governance of the SGB. Constitutional changes include: co-opted members on to the Board, representation from the women's game, altered terms of office and the addition of four independent directors.

In addition, there is a commitment to put in place by March 2017 a new membership data monitoring system. The new leadership has generated increased confidence in the organisation, with Cricket Scotland hosting the ICC Conference this year and projecting a small surplus in budget. It was understood that the re-audit, due to take place mid-March, would need to show significant improvement before any release of funds.

- *Subject to the above, the Board agreed total investment of up to £431,250 to Cricket Scotland Ltd for 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.*

The Minister left the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 and reconvened at 12:20.

7.3 Golf

Mr Cameron reported that following a period of substantial change, a new Board was in place at Scottish Golf Limited (the amalgamation of SGU and The Scottish Ladies Golfing Association). The new organisation was working to reverse the previous challenging trends in club membership and making welcoming club environments a priority, with a focus on growing the game, recognising and encouraging the participation of junior players and families.

- *The Board agreed the 2016–17 investment to Scottish Golf Limited of £1.025m.*

8 Investment in Partner Organisations

8.1 Scottish Sports Association

The Chair noted that the decision taken by the Board at its December meeting was being revisited today. Following discussion, the Board upheld its previous decision.

- *The Board agreed an investment of £72,000 for the next year and confirmed its position that funding would then cease.*

For Discussion

9 Equalities Research – *presentation postponed*

It was noted that the presentation would be rescheduled to a future Board meeting. In the meantime, Board members' attention was drawn to the link to the full on-line report (contained within the paper). A hard copy of the report would be sent to those members who wished to receive it in that format.

Eamon John, Healthy Living Manager, East Lothian Council, joined the meeting.

10 Local Government (Scotland) Context

With Local Authorities reporting a trend towards significant financial cuts that were likely to have an impact on sport and physical activity provision, the meeting discussed how best to evidence the contribution that physical activity and sport make to wider policy agendas.. There was concern that whilst sport and physical activity continue to make a positive overall contribution to outcomes nationally and locally, the changes to Local Authority structures due to financial challenges could lead to a diminution in the focus on sport.

The Board debated various aspects of the challenges facing Local Authorities, including: how to measure the impact of sport; how to generate maximum income; negotiating commissioning arrangements and models for delivery; and ensuring clarity in contracts between Councils and their Trusts.

An area where **sportscotland** might be able to lend support was around sharing good practice and helping to identify areas for improvement. In helping Local Authorities prepare their strategies, **sportscotland** currently adds value by offering strategic facilitation, including assistance to determine the needs and how these relate to the adequate provision of sporting facilities in each area. The Heads of Service group was looking at ways to provide general advice and written guidance around this.

It was agreed that it would be useful to bring back a particular Local Authority example to a future Board meeting to demonstrate how some of the ideas and suggestions discussed work in practice.

- *The Board noted the content of the paper and subsequent discussions.*

11 **sportscotland** Communications – Future Plans

The Board received a presentation on **sportscotland**'s communication strategy from the new Head of Communications, Kate McCheyne, including updates on web site content and imaging, social and digital platforms, PR and media coverage and internal communications.

The Board was keen to see the messages about the impact of sport and the work of **sportscotland** reaching those not connected with the world of sport. Avenues to achieve this

could include collaborative and co-operative working, networking, research and sharing best practice.

It was agreed that the Board would receive a further update on the progress of the recent changes in 6–8 months' time.

- *The Board noted the Communications – Future Plans presentation.*

12 Business Plan Q3 Report

Mr Ogg explained the changes to the budget portfolios (agreed with the sponsor team), noting that the less than expected spend was due to delays across some Active Places and Sports Facilities projects. These recent changes were in addition to those agreed regarding the transitioning of £7.8m for the Inverclyde Project to 2016-17. Further efficiencies had been found – mainly within Communications and ICT – and Mr Ogg confirmed that none of these would affect the health and safety of the organisation.

- *The Board noted the content of the Q3 report.*

For Information

13 Audit Committee Minutes (Draft)

Mr Cameron (Committee Chair) noted that to help ensure a quorum for all meetings an external member would be sought for the Committee. The Committee Terms of Reference would be reviewed accordingly.

14 Ethics Committee Minutes (Draft)

Mr Young (Committee Chair) noted the conversations in progress with the SMT to agree what assistance may be required in progressing work on the 'five pillars'.

15 Health and Safety Report

16 Any Other Business

Mr Ogg noted that in future requests for updated information regarding Board Member interests would be sent to Board members twice a year.

The Chair asked all Board members to submit a brief individual personal profile to ensure that information on file and available on the web site remained current.

17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the **sportscotland** Board will be held at Heriot-Watt at 10:00 am on Wednesday 20 April 2016. Details of the National Performance Centre tour (likely to be held the evening before) will be circulated in due course.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

Agenda Item	Responsible Officer	Planned Action	Actions Taken
5	Mr Harris and Mr Cameron	Discussions to continue around Community Empowerment Team / LEADER Programme.	Ongoing.
5	Mr Ogg	Details of what had been agreed with UK Sports Resolution to be circulated to members.	Completed.
6	Professor Jarvie	Links to the available reports on the impact of sport on education and achievement to be circulated to members.	Completed.
9	Mr Ogg	Hard copy of Equalities Research Report to be sent to those who requested.	Completed.
16	Board Members	Board members to submit a brief updated personal profile.	Two updates received to date.