

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 10:00

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Ms C Bain, Vice Chair
Mr D Cameron
Ms M Campbell
Prof C Mahoney
Mr S Lindsay
Mr M Munro
Mrs S Sandilands
Ms K U'ren
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
Mr B Fleeting
Miss F Lilley
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mr D McKay
Mr C Robison
Mr D Williamson
Miss L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Mr C Grant.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 24 February 2021

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 24 February 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair updated on the recent SGB Chairs meetings which was well attended and useful in highlighting the challenges that Governing Bodies are currently working through.

The Chair informed members that Duncan Skinner, who previously sat on the **sportscotland** Board had sadly passed away earlier this month. The Chair remembered the good work Duncan had done both for sport and whilst on the **sportscotland** Board. The Chair will send a message of condolence to the family on behalf of the Board and **sportscotland**.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris updated on the Active Scotland Delivery Group and once again pointed out that performance of the group could be improved if there was greater commitment to collaboration from partner agencies and Scottish Government departments. He is hopeful that the new partnership agreement **sportscotland** has with Public Health Scotland can demonstrate to other national partners the potential for collaboration and joint working. The Board hoped that collaboration could be improved once the new Minister has time to understand what is required. Mr Harris reiterated that **sportscotland** remains committed and will work closely with Mr Sinclair and his team to support the new Minister to reset and refocus the group.

Mr Harris updated on progress being made around the Cycling World Championships with the next priority being to develop a partnership with Transport Scotland and work collaboratively around the event. The Board were pleased to hear the Cycling World Championships update and the potential for this to help develop the partnership with Transport Scotland.

Mr Harris provided a brief update on the ongoing work around Transgender and Sport and Race and Racism. He confirmed further updates and detail will be provided to the June meeting. The Board appreciated the opportunity to attend the Transgender workshops and found them to be very informative and educational.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Olympic and Paralympic Tokyo update

Mr Whittingham presented an update on the Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo. He covered the situation in Japan, how the Japanese Government and Organising Committee are planning for the Games and how the BOA and BPA are planning with a focus on athlete safety and welfare.

The Chair noted the positive statistics which demonstrated strong Scottish representation on British programmes, which highlights progress being made in the Scottish system.

The Board asked if extra precautions are being taken for para-athletes, Mr Whittingham stated that arrangements were not yet finalised but **sportscotland** and the governing bodies are supporting Scottish athletes. The BPA are also working closely with sports, team leaders and athletes to put in place as much support as possible.

The Board asked about the impact the pandemic is having on anti-doping protocols. Mr Whittingham stated that there has been some disruption to systems and protocols and that this remains an area of concern. The anti-doping systems and protocols for Tokyo are all in place however.

➤ *The Board noted the Olympic and Paralympic Tokyo update.*

8 Safeguarding and protecting children in sport update

Mr Robison presented on the partnership work Children 1st have been doing and noted that Governing Bodies appreciate this support.

The Board asked how sports are monitored, Mr Robison noted that Children 1st work directly with the SGBs and provide quarterly reports as well as assessing them annually and working with the sports on any issues.

The Board asked if the impact of Covid-19 has affected our work in the area of safeguarding or that of Children 1st and if we have an overview of the number of safeguarding cases. Mr Robison noted that resources are under pressure but are dedicated to safeguarding and so Children 1st should still be able to support SGBs. Mr Robison also confirmed that Children 1st provide us with a report that gives a breakdown of cases, as confidence in reporting increases, we may see an increase in cases.

The Board asked for further information on the SFA's adoption of safeguarding recommendations which were informed by the Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football (the SFA Independent Review). Mr Robison updated including highlighting the committee with expert and independent members that has been put in place to oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

➤ *The Board noted the Safeguarding and protecting children in sport update.*

9 Anti-Doping update

Mr Robison presented an update on Anti-Doping. It was highlighted that the updated policy was published on Monday and key changes can be seen in paragraph eight of the paper. Mr Robison stated that there has been an increase in anti-doping education. Mr Robison also updated now that Ms Bain is the Board lead for anti-doping, he will work directly with her to

ensure that the **sportscotland** Board have full oversight and a discussion annually at an appropriate Board meeting.

The Chair noted that Trevor Pearce, the UKAD Chair always praises the Anti-Doping work carried out by **sportscotland**.

➤ *The Board noted the Anti-Doping update.*

For Decision

10 Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) strategy

Mr Dunlop introduced the paper and noted the aim is to have a sporting system which is inclusive by design. The approach to EDI has been developed following updated research and broad consultation, including input from the Board at the previous two meetings.

The Board discussed the 'people' strand of the EDI strategy and noted Appendix 1, the Employee Information report. Mr Dunlop explained that more detailed action plans will now be developed for each of the three strands, this will include timelines. Mr Dunlop also explained that actions and progress will be captured through the business planning process, ensuring they are integrated into our internal operations and our work with partners.

➤ *The Board approved the Equality, diversity and inclusion strategy and the three associated reports.*

11 Business Plan 2021 onwards

Mr Harris introduced the paper and reiterated the focus of our planning would be on recovery from the pandemic and planning a more focused approach. **sportscotland** will continue to work with all 32 LAs whilst working more in depth with a much smaller number. Work will continue with all SGBs currently receiving investment and **sportscotland** will adopt a more integrated approach by working with groups of SGBs in in depth local authorities.

Mr McKay presented on the detail of the plan, followed by Mr Cobb who presented on the budget in line with the priorities and highlighted that the budget will develop through the year and be reported to Board as part of the quarterly reviews.

Mr Harris noted that work is now starting to develop plans with partners and work collaboratively with LAs and SGBs. Mr Harris also noted that we are looking to take an innovative approach to utilising our people resource.

The Board discussed the role that Leisure Trusts play in the provision of sport and physical activity in communities and the particular challenges that they face sustaining the facilities infrastructure locally in the face of severely restricted income. Mr Harris explained that this creates a significant risk around facility provision at a local level, including a range of facilities that may not re open. He emphasised that **sportscotland** will continue to work with local and national partners to understand the situation in each local area and continue to advocate both nationally and locally the importance of investing in these facilities to ensure they are sustained and maintained for local communities.

The Board discussed the opportunities to make the case to the new Government about the important role that sport and physical activity has made during the pandemic and the key role that it can play in the recovery from the pandemic.

➤ *The Board approved the Business Plan 2021 onwards.*

12 Memorandum of understanding (sportscotland and Trust Company)

Mr Dunlop introduced the paper and apologised that the changes to the Memorandum of understanding have not been tracked and were harder to follow. He explained that the changes did not have a material effect on the Memorandum of understanding but did bring the document up to date with working practice and titles.

- *The Board approved the Memorandum of understanding (sportscotland and Trust Company).*

13 Board and Committee Terms of Reference

Mr Dunlop introduced the paper and talked to each of the terms of reference. He confirmed that there were no proposed changes to the Board, the Audit and Risk Committee or the Remuneration and Succession Planning Committee.

Mr Dunlop explained the recommendation to disband the Ethics Committee, existing members had been consulted and were supportive of this recommendation given the work of the Committee has now developed and is captured elsewhere.

- *The Board approved the Board and Committee Terms of Reference and to the recommendation to disband the Ethics Committee.*

14 Corporate Risk Register

Mr Dunlop introduced the paper, he explained that SMT had reviewed the risk register which was then considered by the Audit and Risk Committee. At the Committee detailed discussions were had around ICT related risks and a new risk has been added to capture the discussions on returning to the workplace.

- *The Board approved the Corporate Risk Register.*

15 Public Health Scotland Partnership Agreement

Mr Harris introduced the paper, acknowledging the Board had seen and discussed early drafts of this agreement and this was now a final version for approval.

- *The Board approved the Public Health Scotland Partnership Agreement.*

For Information

16 Communications update

Noted and taken as read.

17 Audit and Risk Committee meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

18 Any Other Business

The Chair asked if the Board members would be keen to try and hold the June meeting in person. There was agreement that this should be explored and further information will follow.

19 Date of Next Meeting: 30 June 2021, Location TBC

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