

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ on Wednesday 28 October 2015 at 1000 hours.

Present

Members

Mrs L Martin CBE, Chair
Mr D Gass
Mr Mike Hay
Ms Susan Jackson
Professor G Jarvie
Professor C Mahoney
Ms C Riddell
Professor Leigh Robinson
Mr R Stone
Mr G Walker
Ms F Wood
Mr M Young

In Attendance

Council Officers

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

Mr N Cobb
Mr J Lunn
Ms J Lynn
Mr Shaun Roberts
Mr D Williamson

Ms P Lombardi – Minute Secretary

Scottish Government

Mr Derek Grieve

Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and gave particular welcome to Mr Grieve, attending his first **sportscotland** Board meeting in his new role as Head of Active Scotland Division.

Apologies were noted from Mr Cameron.

Business

1 Declarations of interest

- *Mr Gass recorded his ongoing work with the Board of Highland Highlife. This was deemed not to be in conflict.*

2 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 August 2015

The Chair noted that the meeting with StreetGames referred to in the minutes had taken place on 26 October and a follow-up meeting was planned to explore partnership working.

- *The minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2015 were approved.*

3 Matters Arising

- *There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.*

4 Chair's Report – s (15) 01

The Chair noted in particular that she had met with Lord Dunlop, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, who had expressed interest in observing a **sportscotland** Board meeting and visiting one or more sites, in particular one of the outdoor national training centres. Lord Dunlop's office would seek to arrange this with Mr Harris.

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

5 Executive Management Report – s (15) 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

Department for Culture Media & Sport Consultation Paper

Mr Harris thanked Board members for their input and noted that **sportscotland's** contribution had been submitted, supported by written endorsement from the Scottish Government.

National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity

Mr Harris reported that the recently reformed National Strategic Group had had a successful first meeting. The focus of the group is very clearly on the contribution of each portfolio/agency to the Active Scotland outcomes framework and to examine the strength of collaboration between partners. The next meeting will be held in January and it is expected that sport will be given a platform along with education.

Strategic Partnerships

English Bridge Union – Judicial Review Judgement

Mr Harris reported that lawyers acting for Sport England and the Home Nations Sports Councils had been successful in defending the challenge of the EBU regarding recognition status. Permission to appeal had been denied but the EBU was considering an appeal to a higher authority. The EBU was also challenging the costs attributed to the case by Sport England. The estimated share of the cost to **sportscotland** is now estimated to be £7,000 at best and £22,000 at worst. However, there is some way to go before this can be accurately assessed.

Operational

Weightlifting

Mr Harris noted that Weightlifting had failed to ratify its governance changes at its AGM, and as a consequence **sportscotland** was considering derecognising it as a body. Work would continue with Weightlifting in open discussion about how it might best rebuild and refocus to ensure it was a governing body fit for purpose.

- *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

6 Scottish Government Spending Review

Mr Harris explained that the picture would become clearer as more information became available but that **sportscotland**'s planned approach was to apply a prioritisation process to the budget. Whilst **sportscotland**'s vision and mission were clear, movement and flexibility would be required once the spending review outcome was known. The possibility of revisiting priorities in advance would depend on the availability of necessary information.

Mr Harris noted that conversations were ongoing with the Ministerial team around additional grants and cash back proposals and Mr Grieve confirmed that he would continue to assist with that process. He also drew the Board's attention to the potential challenges ahead in the spending review, which could result in difficult decisions having to be made, but noted that the Chair and CEO would have the opportunity to continue discussions with the Minister prior to the spending review outcome.

- *The Board noted the current understanding of the **sportscotland** resource position.*

7 Corporate Plan 2015-19 – Performance Measurement Framework

Mr Ogg outlined the principles of the approach and the three key components of basic monitoring, basic evaluation and wider evaluation of data, which formed the basis for the impact measures that will help promote continuous improvement. The core indicators identified would be used in the first annual review of the new corporate plan, which will be brought to the Board meeting in June next year. The team would continue to develop the measures and, depending on the spending review and re-prioritisation process, the data would shape how the changes in priorities might impact on these measures.

- *The Board noted progress in developing the performance measurement framework for the 2015–19 Corporate Plan.*

8 Club & Community Sport Progress Report

Following the presentation by Ms Lynn and Mr Williamson on the progress and developments taking place within Club & Community Sport, the Board commended the good quality and quantity of information provided and discussed the challenges in monitoring progress, sustainability and commitment to involvement in sport throughout life. Mr Ogg confirmed that as part of the organisation's commitment to continuous improvement the senior team was working hard to ensure that people understood and appreciated the value of collecting, collating and using information. Work is in progress to train and upskill the workforce in how to encourage and support partners to tell their stories in order to build on the information being gathered. The Board suggested that looking at research methods in other organisations might be useful.

➤ *The Board noted the progress and developments within Club & Community Sport.*

9 Investment Process Overview

Mr Lunn provided a process summary of the four-year review cycle and the one-year awards. It was important that Board members clearly understood both the process of application and the process of assessment of each request for investment from key partners. This was illustrated to Board members by working through an example from a governing body. Investment strands both for governing bodies and local authorities had been scrutinised as part of the internal audit process and both reports would provide Board members with additional assurance of an efficient and effective process. It was noted that governing bodies and local authorities were very positive about the clarity of the process and its handling by **sportscotland** staff. Mr Lunn assured members that every effort would be made to support key partners should the ultimate step of reducing investment be taken.

The Board discussed the potential difficulties for local authorities to fund sport on the back of likely cuts to government funding. It was agreed that this should be debated more fully at the February Board meeting, where it would be useful to see whether there were any discernible trends in the level of commitment and expenditure across local authorities as the basis for looking at potential scenarios.

The Chair summarised the presentation and discussion. Given the depth and quality of information illustrating the robustness of the process of analysing and assessing investment requests, the process of approving the investments to governing bodies and local authorities at the December Board meeting should be much simpler.

➤ *The Board noted the content of the Investment Process overview.*

For Decision

10 Recognition of Sporting Activities and Governing Bodies

Approval was sought to recognise (again on a conditional basis) Caledonia Snooker Ltd as the Scottish Governing Body for Snooker and Billiards. If outcomes as set out are successfully achieved, this will be signed off by the Senior Management Team next year.

➤ *The Board approved the conditional recognition of 'Caledonian Snooker Ltd' as the Scottish Governing Body for Snooker.*

For Information

11 Inverclyde Project Update

Mr Ogg reported that the final details of the contract with the preferred bidder were being worked through prior to the contract being signed and that work on site had started under a Letter of Intent to help mitigate any further delay in the delivery of this important project. To help manage the range of the projects which would be on site simultaneously, a joint operational group would be set up with North Ayrshire Council and it was noted that the Board and Trust Board would be kept informed. Mr Ogg confirmed that the Employer's Agent would manage the change control process on behalf of **sportscotland**.

12 Trust Company Board Minutes

Mr Gass noted that the Trust Company Board had four new members, all of whom were already making a positive contribution.

13 Any Other Business

Mr Young reported on his attendance at the Fans Working Group, which, as part of the Community Empowerment Bill, looks at fans' involvement in football clubs. He was satisfied that there was clear input and constructive headway was being made.

14 Board Development

At the conclusion of the day's formal meeting business, Board members would convene to discuss the outcomes of the recent Board Effectiveness Review. Individual appraisal meetings would then be arranged with the Chair.

15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the **sportscotland** Board will be held in Caledonia House at 10:00 am on Wednesday 16 December 2015.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

| Agenda Item | Responsible Officer | Planned Action | Actions Taken |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 4 | Chief Executive | Arrangements to be made for site visit(s) and attendance at Board by Lord Dunlop. | Completed 16 November 2015 |
| 9 | Chief Executive | February meeting agenda to include debate on trends in sport and local government. | Work in progress |
| 11 | Director of Corporate Services | Board members to be kept informed of the work of the Inverclyde Project joint operational group. | Ongoing |
| 14 | Chair | Board member appraisals to be arranged. | Being arranged. |