

# **sportscotland**

## **Council Meeting**

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at the **sportscotland** National Centre Inverclyde on Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 09:00

### **Present**

#### **Members**

Mr M Young, Chair  
Mr A Bain  
Ms M Campbell  
Mr C Grant  
Mr S Lindsay  
Mr D McDonald  
Mr T Mistry  
Mrs S Sandilands  
Mr S Sweeney  
Ms K U'ren  
Mr A Watt

### **In Attendance**

#### **Council Officers**

Mr F Dunlop  
Ms R Barrington  
Mr C Burn  
Mr N Cobb  
Ms A Costello  
Mr M Cowan  
Mr B Fleeting  
Mr J Lunn  
Mrs J Lynn  
Mr D McKay  
Mr P Reid  
Ms L Cook

### **Scottish Government**

Mr A Sinclair

## Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Business

### 1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Ms H Ousta.*

### 2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

### 3 Minutes of Meeting held on 29 August 2023

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 29 August 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

### 4 Matters Arising

Mr Dunlop updated that Mr Watt will pick up the **sportscotland** Board responsibility for UKAD.

### 5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair introduced and welcomed Ms Barrington, the new Director of Operations and Mr Burn, the new Director of Sport.

The Chair reflected on the ongoing challenges being faced by local partners and recent publicity around potential facility closures.

The Chair updated on discussions at the recent UK Sport Board on the future of events and the plans to do more work over the next six months as part of the development of a new events strategy.

### 6 Executive Management Report

Mr Dunlop updated on recent meetings with Marie Todd, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport and Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Health and noted that a meeting with the First Minister has been requested.

Mr Dunlop updated on the National Lottery income and growing concerns around this, he explained that Mr Cobb monitors the numbers very closely and provides regular updates. He went on to explain that there continues to be a positive view from Allwyn around increased returns to good causes in years to come. In the meantime, he explained we will carefully manage our lottery balance.

Mr Cowan updated on the status of the TSIT project. He reminded the Board that this is a ten year commitment which had been significantly impacted by COVID and inflationary / cost pressures. Mr Cowan explained the complexity of the projects still being considered where the tennis facility is often one part of a larger project. The Board discussed the challenges partners are facing in progressing projects and encouraged the executive team to continue to work through the potential projects to establish their viability.

Mr Cowan updated on the latest work with Scottish Swimming to consider the swimming pool estate. He explained that phase one has looked at the changes to pool provision and phase two will focus on innovations and energy saving developments.

Mr Dunlop updated on recent developments and progress with Scottish Cricket, including the appointments of a new CEO, Chair and Board Directors all of which will be announced soon.

Mr Dunlop updated on a new initiative to look at employment opportunities for people with a disability. The initiative is a partnership with Enable, Skills Development Scotland and Glasgow College.

Mr Dunlop updated that the sale of Cumbrae was continuing to prove difficult and that Mr Cobb was considering the financial implications.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

## **7 Richard Foggo**

Mr Sinclair noted Mr Foggo's apologies, but he hopes to join the December Board.

## **For Discussion**

### **8 Sport for Life – Performance Sport**

Mr Reid introduced the paper, explaining the importance of performance sport as part of the sporting system and the inter relationship between all parts of the system.

The Board raised and discussed a number of issues and points including the importance of athlete welfare and winning with integrity, the diversity of athletes progressing through the pathway, the budget allocation for performance sport and how this relates to the wider investment in SGBs and the associated monitoring and targets. Mr Reid gave examples of how over a number of cycles we work with sports to continually improve and evolve their approach. He explained the findings of recent research on the diversity and barriers to progressing through the performance pathway and the relationship between the pathway and the wider development of sport. Mr Reid acknowledged the challenges which often come down to cost issues.

The Board discussed the challenges facing the Commonwealth Games and importance of the Commonwealth Games to the development of sport in Scotland. Mr Reid gave examples of how sports have used the Commonwealth Games to grow and develop their sports including athlete development.

The Board reinforced the importance of performance sport as part of the sporting system, the need to continue to support performance sport, to take the learning and expertise developed in performance and find ways to share this across all aspects of sport and finally, how to best utilise the opportunities that performance sport and performance athletes have to promote sport. Mr Reid shared examples of athletes who are using the performance platform that they have to raise wider sporting and non-sporting issues. It was agreed that further consideration is given to this opportunity.

The Board discussed Esports and some of the considerations and developments in this area. Mr Lunn updated on the conversations with Esports Scotland over the years and that the approach has been to keep an open mind and open channels of communication.

The importance of coaches and coach education was discussed. Mr Reid explained a range of the support that was in place for coaches and discussed the importance of full-time coaches to performance sport. The Board asked about cross sport learning and networking.

The Chair summarised the detailed discussion and highlighted the importance of the approach that **sportscotland** take to support sports over the long term and not to take short term and reactive decision around specific medal opportunities.

➤ *The Board noted the Sport for Life – Performance Sport paper.*

## **9 Long term planning**

Mr McKay introduced the paper giving the following context: EDI remains the key driver and this is consistent with the Scottish Government priorities; the term world class gives the motivation to be ambitious; the system is in a period of change, and we need to be able to change with it and think about how we can do things differently.

The Board discussed the pressures on local partners and how this will change the system in the future, including the direct engagement with a growing network of community based organisations. Mr Dunlop agreed that this is a really important point and fundamental to what we do and how we do it, although he did consider that to ensure scalability and connection it was essential that we continued to work with and through local and national partners. The Board emphasised the need for innovation and cautioned against top down thinking and decision making and the importance of codesign and connection to those on the ground.

The Board asked about the approach to the planning and budgeting and the reference to a lighter touch approach. Mr McKay explained that we will continue to consider areas of work that should stop or that need to develop but that a full line by line review will not take place this year to allow more focus on the longer term planning process.

The Board asked for more information on the plans to utilise additional monies if the Scottish Government do deliver a doubling of the budget. Mr Dunlop reminded the Board that an extensive exercise was carried out previously with Board input and that the plans from that work are still in place and should monies become available are read to activate. He also acknowledged that as things are changing so quickly more work was required and that this was being undertaken as part of the longer term planning process.

➤ *The Board noted the long term planning paper.*

## **10 Investment principles SGBs and LAs**

Mr Lunn presented on the SGB investments and highlighted that the paper has been thinned out from previous years following feedback, this is the first in a sequence of three papers focusing on the process.

Mrs Lynn updated on a range of local authority discussions which were live, and which were focussing on budget pressures and associated decisions. Mrs Lynn emphasised the importance of our relationships with local partners so that we can influence, help and shape plans. Mrs Lynn finished by asking for thoughts and feedback from the Board on the potential to support partners with a cost of living increase against staffing investment.

The chair thanked Mr Lunn and Mrs Lynn for the updates.

The Board noted that we have previously discussed the difficulty with collecting data and asked if we have done anything or are there plans to do anything to reemphasize the importance to partners for submitting data? Mr Lunn updated on the ongoing considerations and conversations with partners around data collection and monitoring. Mr Dunlop confirmed a paper with further information will come to the December Board meeting.

The Board asked about the impact of last year's cost of living percentage increase to partners. Mrs Lynn explained that it was hard to report anything tangible but that the feedback from partners has been very positive. The Board asked if we should be prioritising SGBs rather than LAs as LAs will be caught up with any collective agreements reached through COSLA / Union negotiations. The Board also asked about the arrangements and impact of pensions and pension reform on SGBs. Mr Lunn added that a single pension model had been created that all SGBs can access but that is not as valuable as schemes open to LA employees.

The Chair highlighted that the Board are being asked to consider the proposal and All agree that they are happy with the approach to the investment process acknowledging that detailed budgeting considerations will come to the Board in February 2024.

➤ *The Board noted the Investment principles SGBs and LAs paper.*

## **11 Corporate Parenting**

The Chair welcomed Ms Costello who introduced the paper and provided an overview of the new plan. Ms Costello explained the special duties and responsibilities we have to care experienced children and young people up to the age of 26. Ms Costello provided an overview of the work that has been done to date and conversations that have been had with the care experienced champion's board.

The Chair commented on the great work being carried out and it's good that the YPSP have been involved.

The Board were supportive of the work, discussed the personal responsibility that each Board member held and asked that this be more explicit and asked about the connection to MCR Pathways. Ms Costello agreed to explore this further.

The Board discussed issues around reliable data and the challenges of accessing that data from different sources. There was a discussion on further Board engagement between now and finalising our next plan. Ms Costello will follow this up as part of the ongoing work.

The Chair thanked Ms Costello for paper and everyone for their contribution.

➤ *The Board noted the Corporate Parenting paper.*

## **For Decision**

### **12 Quarter 2: 2023-2024 progress report**

Mr McKay introduced the paper which provides an update on progress which has been made in the last quarter.

The Board commented that is good to see an increase in Active Schools numbers but asked how do these numbers compare to pre-pandemic figures? Mrs Lynn noted that they are increasing but are not up to the same level yet.

The Board asked for clarification on athlete tracking ahead of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mr Reid updated on the approach.

The Board asked for an update on the cycling facilities fund. Mr Cowan noted that the projects that are ambitious and more significant in scale and size show slower progress. The Board asked

if there is any issue with the budget? Mr Cowan noted that there is not as 50% is Lottery funding and 50% in Government, Mr Cobb added that it is all included as part of cycling facilities fund budget.

The Chair noted that we are clear on how we are performing and thanked Mr McKay for the update.

➤ *The Board approved the Quarter 2: 2023-2024 progress report.*

## **For Information**

### **13 Communication update**

Noted and taken as read.

### **14 Audit and Risk Committee draft minutes (27 June)**

Mr Grant asked if the work to look at linked risks had been completed? Mr McKay noted that this has been done and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee. Mr Dunlop noted that the risk register, and framework will be reviewed in January, taken to ARC in February and brought to the Board in April.

Noted and taken as read.

### **15 Audit and Risk Committee draft minutes (17 August)**

Noted and taken as read.

### **16 National Lottery Balance Management - Guidance Notes**

The Chair noted this was requested at the previous meeting.

Noted and taken as read.

### **17 Audit and Risk Committee draft minutes (29 August)**

Noted and taken as read.

### **18 Trust Company Board meeting draft minutes**

Noted and taken as read.

### **19 People Committee draft minutes**

Noted and taken as read.

### **20 Any Other Business**

The Board asked if it would be possible to visit Glenmore Lodge. Mr Dunlop noted that Mr Fleeting and Mr Roberts will have an item on the agenda for the December Board to provide an overview and update of the work of the Trust Company. It was agreed that Miss Cook would arrange a suitable time with Mr Roberts for a Board visit to Glenmore lodge.

### **21 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 December 2023 (Inverclyde)**

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