

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held in Edinburgh on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 09:00.

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Mr D Cameron
Mr D Gass
Mr C Grant
Miss H Ousta
Mrs C Riddell
Professor L Robinson
Mrs S Sandilands
Mr D Skinner
Mr R Stone
Miss K U'ren
Ms F Wood

In Attendance

Council Officers

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

Mr J Lunn
Ms J Lynn
Ms P Lombardi – Minute Secretary

Scottish Government

Mr Derek Grieve

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the new Board members. He noted that Item 10 on today's agenda would be taken last.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Apologies were noted as follows:*
21 February Strategic Discussion: Mr D Cameron, Professor C Mahoney and Mrs C Riddell
22 February Board Meeting: Professor C Mahoney and Mr G Walker.

2 Declarations of interest

- Declarations of interest were noted from:
 - Mrs Sandilands – agenda item 6 (reference BBC)
 - Miss Ousta – agenda item 7 (reference SFA)
 - Mr Cameron – agenda item 7 (reference Cairngorms NPA)

It was agreed that Miss Ousta would absent herself from the meeting during the relevant discussion. Mr Cameron's and Mrs Sandiland's interests were deemed not to be in conflict.

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 26 October 2016

- *The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

(Previous Agenda) Item 7: Mr Ogg reported that the Strategic Planning team continued to work on ensuring the robustness of **sportscotland's** datasets and these would be used to link with datasets from other organisations as appropriate. The Board examined options to accelerate establishing strong evidence-based data and it was agreed that borrowed resource – for example, student internships – was something to consider. An update report would be provided to the next Board meeting.

Item 8: Mr Grieve confirmed that he had conveyed to the Minister by note the general discussion and mood of the December Board meeting. The Minister had noted the feedback but had not elaborated. For clarity of communication and to assist in taking forward the Minister's direction, Board members would find it useful to have sight of post-Board briefings provided to the Minister. Mr Grieve felt that this was not appropriate; issues around communication required further discussion.

Item 12: Mrs Lynn circulated the information on investment in sport by local authorities requested at the last meeting.

Item 13: Mr Harris confirmed that work was underway with Tennis Scotland and a further update would be provided at the August Board meeting.

5 Chair's Report

The Chair noted the current financial challenge and external pressures such as recent negative media coverage and doping in sport.

He had attended the UK Sport Board meetings to hear appeals against funding decisions for the Tokyo cycle, which had been a difficult but fair process. UK sport were now looking at designing a commercial strategy, something with which **sportscotland** could usefully connect.

The next strategic discussion, to be held on Tuesday 18 April (ahead of the Board meeting on 19 April) would be a joint session of the **sportscotland** Board and the Trust Company Board and would give all members an opportunity to view the new facilities at Inverclyde.

In terms of how the recent media coverage dovetailed with other positive work being done with the BBC, the Board suggested that it would be valuable to consider how **sportscotland's** Communications Strategy was evolving and this might usefully be discussed at the next meeting.

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

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris explained the purpose of his report (for the benefit of new members) and highlighted in particular:

Safeguarding – Mr Lunn explained that ongoing work with the media in this area, particularly around understanding of the role of the PVG scheme as part of a child protection system, had led to a more balanced approach. Mr Lunn had supported the Minister at a recent Health & Sport Committee session where the Minister had focused on the system and minimum operating requirements, emphasising that PVG is only one part of the system. Continued work with Disclosure Scotland to gain more understanding of its compliance function would help to ensure a more joined-up approach and stronger collaboration. Mr Grieve noted that the Minister had decided on a roundtable discussion to reinforce positive messaging around the totality of the approach.

Mr Lunn outlined for Board members the key areas of work with Children 1st and the expertise it provides to **sportscotland**, notably in the areas of compliance. The same access to support and training given to SGBs is also provided to Local Authorities; support is also provided by Disclosure Scotland. The leads in the area of Child Protection are working together to discuss improvements and clarify what good practice looks like.

Dundee Regional Sports Centre – Following the decision by Dundee Football Club to no longer be part of this project, the proposal and facilities requirement are being reviewed before the Council decides how to progress.. The question of how long the funding allocation should remain in place would be a natural part of the budget discussion.

Stirling Council. The Council's retendering of the facilities management contract in sports development services had yielded no positive result and this remained a risk.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Business Planning

7.1 2017–18 Budget

Mr Harris reiterated the message that **sportscotland's** aim is to build a world class sporting system for everyone in Scotland. Although the organisation was facing Scottish Government spending cuts and a drop in National Lottery income, Board members should be reassured that management was not taking a short-term view and would continue to try to influence the Scottish Government's thinking.

Mr Harris outlined the proposed steps to address the gap for 2017/18, which would include subjecting the budget to severe scrutiny, with new requests put on hold and a clear rationale behind any planned increases, strengthening internal controls and making efficiency management a priority to save on delivery costs.

Mr Harris also explained that there would be implications to the end of the 2015/19 corporate plan period for revenue and staffing structure. He explained that there may need to be a restructure of staffing across the organisation. Looking ahead to 2018/19 he indicated that there would be a temporary cap placed on facilities investment, in all cases looking at the impact and risks involved.

Board members were asked to debate how best to try to influence the Scottish Government and its key decision-makers about the value of sport and to give their views on the proposed approach to budget reductions.

The Board was keen to hear from Mr Grieve what advice he would give as sponsor partner. Mr Grieve's view was that in the face of such enormous budget pressures, **sportscotland's** 'priorities' approach was sensible. He suggested that assumptions around some elements could be revisited to see how they might be better delivered.

The Board asked Mr Grieve how they might go about strengthening the communication approach to try to inform and influence Ministers' thinking. Mr Grieve noted that Ministers were focused on areas of the Scottish budget where there was evidence of a direct correlation between investment, activity and impact. Board members were frustrated that despite evidence linking physical activity with improved mental health and other health benefits it did not seem to be helping to persuade Ministers. It would be helpful for the sponsor partner to assist in facilitating access to work towards encouraging engagement and improving communication in this area.

Board members agreed that the questions raised today demonstrated the importance of having the Minister's support in backing their decisions, because if direct lobbying was encouraged the whole budget reduction exercise would become unmanageable.

Mr Grieve offered assistance to develop a handling strategy, work to help deflect public reaction to the budget cuts and facilitate earlier involvement of the Minister. In terms of any handling advice, members were clear that this would need to be through joint meetings with **sportscotland** and were keen to have greater opportunity for consultation with the Minister.

Concluding the discussion, the Chair thanked the management team for addressing the budget cuts so professionally in such a difficult situation. He asked members to remain positive, look forward and focus on the organisation's belief in the power of sport.

➤ *The Board noted the 2017-18 Budget proposals.*

Miss Ousta left the meeting ahead of the discussion on **SGB investment**.

Mr Lunn explained the position in terms of SGB investment and noted that the numbers had been revisited since figures were provided to the Board at its December meeting. The Board appreciated that a thorough risk-assessment had been completed rather than applying a simplistic formulaic exercise.

The next steps would include discussions about communication to ensure that the information was conveyed properly. The Board asked to be kept informed on the impact and outcome of these difficult conversations.

➤ *The Board noted the updated figures on SGB investment.*

Miss Ousta rejoined the meeting.

7.2 Q3 Report 2016–17

Mr Ogg asked that if Board members had any questions on the content of the report they should contact him or the other Directors for clarification. He noted that the Inverclyde Project would be delivered on time and on budget. The Board members wished to record their thanks and appreciation to the Inverclyde Project team.

➤ *The Board noted the Q3 Report.*

8 Performance Sport Update – Winter Games 2018

MW updated the Board on Mission 2018 PyeongChang, providing a general review of progress and preparation.

➤ *The Board noted the Performance Sport Update on the Winter Games 2018.*

9 Anti-Doping Update

Mr Whittingham highlighted some of the previous work of the **sportscotland** Ethics Committee and updated Board members on outputs from the anti-doping operations group and highlighted how the outputs from the October 2016 Board strategic discussion had been incorporated. He updated the Board on the proposed actions and in particular the sanctions being taken against those athletes caught doping. Members welcomed how the actions had reflected the October Board strategic discussion.

The Board endorsed the idea of ‘rebranding’ to “clean sport” and wondered if this should be clearly defined as part of **sportscotland**’s investment terms and conditions. Mr Whittingham confirmed that it would make no difference contractually within the terms of the WADA compliance policy and procedures. The Board discussed the opportunity of tying the outcome of “clean sport” into future funding decisions and agreed that this was something that could be looked at as part of the overall review.

➤ *The Board noted the content of the Anti-Doping update report.*

10 Young People’s Sport Panel – presentation and discussion

The Board heard from members of the third Young People’s Sport Panel, who shared some of their own stories and their involvement and experiences since joining the Panel. The YPSP has an evolving plan to achieve continuous improvement. The common aim is to raise the profile of sport and influence and shape its future in Scotland. Although the overall aim is the same, each panel agrees to focus on particular issues depending on members’ interests. 2018 is the Scottish Government’s themed Year for Young People and the current Panel is focused on the need to promote the message, especially within schools, of the benefits of sport. Panel members’ noted a key challenge for them was managing their time. To help this, the current panel had split themselves into three groups each one focusing on a particular equalities issue. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the panel for their presentation and valuable contribution.

➤ *The Board noted the presentation by members of the Young People’s Sport Panel.*

For Decision

11 sportscotland Representation and Appeals Process

- *The Board agreed the proposed amendments with the understanding that Mrs Riddell would have an opportunity to make specific comments on the document using her legal background and experience.*

For Information

12 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Draft Minutes – 6 February 2017

13 Scottish Sports Council Trust Company Draft Minutes – 26 January 2017

14 Inverclyde Project Update

15 Any Other Business

The Chair reiterated his welcome to the incoming board members, for whom induction sessions would be planned shortly, and thanked them for their contributions to today's meeting. He thanked outgoing Board members Rod Stone and David Gass for their intelligent and insightful input and assistance over the years and their passion for sport.

16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the **sportscotland** Board will be held on Wednesday 19 April 2017

17 Dates of 2017 Meetings

19 April; 21 June; 23 August; 25 October; 13 December.

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

Agenda Item	Responsible Officer	Planned Action	Actions Taken
7	Mr Lunn	Board to be informed of outcomes of funding conversations with SGBs.	Oral update at April Board meeting.
11	Mr Ogg	Mrs Riddell to review content and wording of Representation and Appeals Process from legal perspective.	Meeting held with Ms Law-Reed on 9 March 2017.