

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 10:00

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Mr D Cameron
Ms M Campbell
Mr C Grant
Prof C Mahoney
Mr S Lindsay
Mr M Munro
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
Mr B Fleeting
Ms P Horton
Miss F Lilley
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mrs D McAuley
Mr D McKay
Mr S Roberts
Miss L Cook

Public Health Scotland

Ms F Jackson

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Mrs S Sandilands, Ms C Bain and Mr A Sinclair.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 April 2021

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 28 April 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair noted that we had explored options around a face to face meeting but for a number of reasons this was still felt to be inappropriate.

The Chair welcomed Ms Jackson the Health Improvement Manager (Physical Activity) at Public Health Scotland to the meeting.

The Chair expressed thanks to all staff who are continuing to support the sports sector and that is it good to see so much progress with sport recommencing in instances like the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics, Wimbledon and at grass roots levels in parks across Scotland.

The Chair noted that Mr Harris and himself have met with the new Minister and raised the issue of the ongoing challenges faced by local partners, particularly around facilities and facility access.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris updated on initial discussions with Maree Todd who has been appointed as the new Minister for Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport. Mr Harris raised with the Minister the issue of the sustainability of Scotland's facility infrastructure and access to the school estate and they have agreed to meet regularly to discuss.

Mr Harris noted that the National Lottery is still performing well with strong income returns. The trend data is also strong which provides assurance for the future.

Mr Harris noted that the UK Sport equality, diversity and inclusion plan has been published and that we will make sure appropriate connections with our own EDI work are put in place.

Mr Harris noted that the Trust Company governance status will be reviewed.

The Board asked if there was a possibility of the Scottish Government investing in sports facilities as opposed to the National Lottery. Mr Harris noted that Scottish Government needs to recognise the value of the local authority sport and physical activity infrastructure. The economics of this are huge in order to sustain those local infrastructures and **sportscotland** can only contribute in a small way through National Lottery. This is essentially a matter between the Scottish Government and COSLA to determine.

The Board asked for an update on the work with COSLA, Mr Harris noted that we currently have good support from COSLA Officer, Gillian Gibson and continue to look for opportunities to present and discuss with COSLA committees the importance of sport and physical activity and the associated challenges facing the sector.

The Board questioned if there was a plan in place to ensure local authorities take a consistent approach to utilising the level up fund, Mr Harris noted that this is a UK Government policy. The UK Government also have a fund that will support community ownership of facilities which we offered to assist with distributing but were declined. The Chair and Mr Harris agreed that they should raise this with the Minister.

The Board asked for an update on issues between Scottish and GB Badminton. Mr Harris updated on discussions with Sally Munday which were aimed at resolving issues and he indicated progress was being made.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Discussion

7 Public Health Scotland partnership update

Mrs McAuley provided an update on **sportscotland**'s partnership work with Public Health Scotland followed by Ms Jackson who presented a document which demonstrates the positive impact of physical activity and sport on population health.

The Board expressed their thanks and commented on how useful the document is, noting that it is clear, powerful and concise and asked if it will be shared with local authorities. Ms Jackson and Mrs McAuley confirmed that the document will be shared across partners.

The Board asked how the effectiveness of **sportscotland**'s partnership with Public Health Scotland can be evidenced and demonstrate change. Mr Harris noted that we are in a good position with Public Health Scotland and are engaging a session to look at how we will work and are looking to develop a similar partnership with Transport Scotland, if **sportscotland** can achieve this on a national level with real commitment then it should have good outcomes. Mrs McAuley noted that an evaluation meeting has been scheduled to explore how we measure impact and accountability.

➤ *The Board noted the Public Health Scotland partnership update.*

8 Business Plan 2021 onwards update

Mr McKay provided an update on the overall Business Plan, emphasising the focus on inclusion. Mr Fleeting gave an update on work being carried out with local authorities and Scottish governing bodies and the opportunity to bring teams together at the National Centre Inverclyde. Mr Cobb then provided an update on finances and noted that the quarter one budget update will be brought to the August Board.

The Board questioned the rationale behind issuing a pay award whilst still amidst a pandemic. Mr Dunlop noted that the pay award was discussed in detail at the Remuneration Committee and follows guidance issued by Scottish Government.

➤ *The Board noted the Business Plan 2021 onwards update.*

9 Tokyo 2021 and Birmingham 2022 update

Mr Whittingham presented an update on the Tokyo 2021 Olympics and Paralympics.

The Board noted a lot of negativity in the media and asked what the risk was that members of the UK Team test positive for Covid-19 whilst they are in Tokyo. Mr Whittingham noted that every effort has been made to follow guidelines and tests will be administered to ensure that nobody boarding a plane tests positive. However, secure protocols are in place for anybody who does test positive and a positive test would be treated as highly confidential with no names being given to the media.

The Board queried if all athletes have been administered the vaccine. Mr Whittingham noted that it is not mandatory and some athletes have chosen not to get it but the IOC have funded vaccination centres around the world.

➤ *The Board noted the Tokyo 2021 and Birmingham 2022 update.*

10 Board Recruitment and Succession planning

Mr Dunlop introduced the paper noting it covers three areas, the Board recruitment process commencing in the Autumn, the succession planning update and Board development. Mr Dunlop asked the Board to provide feedback on Board recruitment and development.

The Board recognised the need to recruit individuals with a strong governance background, discussed the benefits of bringing in some expertise around health and also the importance of inclusion in our strategy.

The Board noted that we have a good induction process but asked how we measure success and ensure that the Board continues to be fit for purpose, it was agreed that the Chair and Mr Dunlop should explore options for Board development.

The Chair asked all to contact Mr Dunlop or himself with any more suggestions of skills that we should look for.

➤ *The Board noted the Board Recruitment and Succession Planning paper.*

11 2020-21 Quarter 4 Business Plan report

Mr Dunlop introduced the report and provided an explanation for a number of delayed actions. In particular Mr Dunlop updated that the EQIAs which were not completed in Q 4 have now been completed.

The Chair noted that it is good to see progress and is a testament to the full staff team.

➤ *The Board noted the 2020-21 Quarter 4 Business Plan report.*

12 Tackling Racism and Racial Inequalities in Sport Review (TRARIIS)

Mr Harris provided an overview of work that has been done so far, including the next steps. Mr Harris also noted the range of staff members who have been engaged and supported this work.

The Board commented on how striking the findings of the report are and were disappointed that only eighteen people contributed from Scotland and asked what we could do to address the lack of participation. Ms Horton explained that the team involved at **sportscotland** attempted to encourage more involvement, but timings may have been an issue. Mr Harris added that some people are reluctant to speak about their lived experience as this can be traumatic.

The Board asked who is best placed to deliver the action plan and what **sportscotland**'s role will be. Mr Harris responded that a sector wide approach is essential, that we will work with partners to understand and identify where and how we can have the greatest impact.

The Board welcomed the report and expressed their desire to stay in touch with how this translates into meaningful action. The Board also commented on the importance of honest feedback and that we should continue to facilitate this. Mr Harris noted that he attended some of the lived experience interviews and agreed that honest and direct feedback has been very useful.

The Chair linked the previous agenda item regarding Board recruitment and discussed how we can improve the recruitment process to ensure it does not inhibit people from applying. It was recognised that the process is managed by Scottish Government but that we should do everything we can to influence the process.

➤ *The Board noted the Tackling Racism and Racial Inequalities in Sport Review (TRARIIS).*

For Decision

13 Transgender Guidance

Ms Lilley presented the update to the previous guidance on participating at a domestic level and noted that national level guidance is the responsibility of International sport federations.

Ms Lilley also thanked the Board for attending the SCEG and Carbmill training sessions and providing feedback. The Board noted that the sessions were very useful.

The Board questioned if the guidance is detailed enough or if it might be perceived that **sportscotland** are defaulting out of the debate. Ms Lilley noted that it is difficult to have a single approach which fits all sports, **sportscotland** are regularly updated by the Governing Body Equality group and that it is up to the governing bodies to set the policy and correct course of action for them as there is no one size fits all solution. Carbmill are currently producing resources for the UK and Plan4Sport are being used to provide additional support to Scottish Governing Bodies.

Board members are asked to contact Miss Cook if they missed the initial opportunity to attend training and would like to attend a future session. Board members are also asked to contact the Chair with any further comments.

➤ *The Board approved the Transgender Guidance.*

For Information

14 Communications update

Noted and taken as read.

15 Trust Company Board meeting draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

16 Any Other Business

None.

17 Date of Next Meeting: 25 August 2021, Microsoft Teams

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