

sportscotland

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 29 April 2020 at 10:00

Present

Members

Mr M Young, Chair
Ms C Bain
Mr D Cameron
Ms M Campbell
Mr C Grant
Mr S Lindsay
Prof C Mahoney
Mr M Munro
Mrs S Sandilands
Ms K U'ren
Mr G Walker
Mrs F Wood

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr S Harris, Chief Executive
Mr F Dunlop
Mr N Cobb
Mr J Lunn
Mrs J Lynn
Mrs K McCheyne
Miss L Cook

Scottish Government

Mr A Sinclair

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *None.*

2 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting and adapting to the new set up.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the **sportscotland** staff team for adapting well to working from home during the pandemic and going above and beyond to ensure business carries on where possible.

The Chair updated the Board on the new ways of working and the regular discussions he is having with Mr Harris, the Minister and the other home country sports councils. The Chair also noted that UK Sports main focus at the moment is athlete welfare.

3 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

4 Minutes of Meeting held on 26 February 2020

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 26 February 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record pending an amendment to section 12.*

5 Matters Arising

None.

6 Scottish Government update

Mr Sinclair updated that most of the Active Scotland team have been redeployed but those remaining are focusing on enabling the nation to remain active and composing an exit strategy to restart sport when it is safe to do so.

7 Executive Management Report

Mr Harris updated that SGBs have received their first six months' worth of payment and have responded positively.

Mr Harris highlighted that Community Leisure UK have conducted a survey with their members, examples of some responses are contained within the report which has been helpful to pre-empt what may be required to rebuild and recharge the sport sector. Mr Harris emphasised the importance for forward planning of speaking with sports, trusts and other partners to understand their individual needs.

Mr Harris updated that Scottish Government has issued further guidance on the coronavirus job retention scheme which will be examined to see if it can apply to the Trust Company.

Impact

Mrs Lynn provided an update on Local Authority and Trust partners who are currently in crisis mode.

Mrs Lynn highlighted North Ayrshire as an example of some of the positive work which is taking place, they have six hubs which staff are working at to help deliver food to those in need. Mrs Lynn noted that a few partners have utilised the furlough scheme.

Mrs Lynn also highlighted that Partnership Managers are currently working with partners to pull together information on their circumstances which will help with understanding on how **sportscotland** can support them and shape our actions.

Mr Lunn provided an update on the current situation with Scottish Governing Bodies, highlighting that due to individual circumstances some SGBs had to make quick decisions whilst others had more time, currently intelligence is being gathered to understand what position SGBs are in, the impact on clubs and communities and what support is required. Mr Lunn noted that SGBs continue to have access to expert resource support and Mrs Lynn added that a Covid-19 area has been created on the **sportscotland** website containing business and financial support.

Mrs Lynn shared a positive example of West Lothian Gymnastics Clubs use of social media and online resources to continue to maintain engagement with their members and local community and noted that other clubs also have similar positive stories.

The Board questioned if facilities were at risk of closure, Mrs Lynn responded that we are in contact with LAs to try and pre-empt what changes may look like.

The Board queried the impact Covid-19 is having on grass root sports, Mr Harris noted that this is part of a wider discussion being had with Scottish Government and COSLA and the team have already formed some good ideas on what we could do with a focus on community. Mr Harris noted the media's focus is on broadcast sports but assured the Board that we are having conversations at all levels.

The Board expressed that it was impressed with the speed at which the **sportscotland** team has adapted and dealt with the current situation.

The Board questioned if we are monitoring which partners are recouping staffing costs through the furlough scheme. Mr Harris noted that the situation is being monitored and gave examples of conversations he has had with a number of leisure trust CEOs.

The Board expressed concerns of the media and their interpretation of where our focus lies, The Chair assured the Board that this is not an accurate depiction of the work that is being carried out and conversations that are being had with the Minister and the Scottish Government team.

The Board asked if elite athletes were able to gain access to facilities if they lived in close proximity, Mr Harris noted that UK Sport are working on a plan to enable athletes to return to training. A meeting is scheduled for Friday with UK Sport and the home countries to discuss the project which UK sport is leading on.

The Board questioned the impact Covid-19 has had on staff and their general health and wellbeing. Mr Harris updated that he has provided all staff with a weekly update with an emphasis placed on how this is not business as usual, a flexible approach should be taken particularly by those with caring responsibilities and encouraged people to reach out to their line managers should they be experiencing any difficulties. Mr Harris added that this approach has received positive feedback.

Impact

Mr Cobb provided an update on the financial impact the pandemic has had, highlighting the decline in National Lottery retail sales but increase in online sales and the pressure on the National Centres with potential additional funding being required depending on the length of the closure. Mr Cobb updated that the Leadership Group are currently reviewing their planned budget to identify savings and in doing so create scope for investment in partners when we understand better the situation. Mr Cobb also noted that we are in contact with our suppliers to ensure continued support.

The Board offered their expertise to support anywhere they may be of benefit. Mr Harris thanked the Board for the offer during these unprecedented times.

The Board expressed a concern that the Audit and Risk Committee has not met since October 2019, the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee noted that they will aim to hold a meeting in the next six to eight weeks.

Communications

Mrs McCheyne provided an update on the work the communications team has been doing since the pandemic hit and noted that the monthly themes have been suspended with a focus being placed on health and wellbeing. Mrs McCheyne highlighted that internal communications have contained guides to mindfulness and home workouts, and we have also created an online hub to support staff.

Mrs McCheyne highlighted that external communications have been focused on supporting networks, sharing content and pulling together weekly roundups in Sport First. Mrs McCheyne highlighted that Sport Hour went ahead but the topic was changed to mental health, hosted with the Scottish Association for Mental Health and it was the most successful Sport Hour yet. Mrs McCheyne thanked Mrs Sandilands for connecting the team to the BBC Learning team who she is currently working with.

The Board asked if **sportscotland** should have more visibility with the wider public. Mrs McCheyne noted that it has not been business as usual so the focus has been internal and with partners but will eventually look to reach wider. The Chair added that is important to know which sectors we want to reach.

The Board asked for an update on Cumbrae. Mr Dunlop explained that the Trust Board is scheduled to meet in two weeks and Cumbrae would be discussed at that point.

8 Any Other Business

Mr Dunlop noted that Glenmore Lodge's website has suffered a data breach, as it's hosted externally cyber experts have been contracted to examine the breach and analyse which files have been accessed. The breach has been reported to all the necessary bodies. The Board questioned if there was risk of a financial penalty, Mr Dunlop noted this is a potential risk.

9 Date of Next Meeting: 23/24 June 2020, **sportscotland** National Centre Inverclyde

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