

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council Board Meeting held at the **sportscotland** National Centre Inverclyde on Tuesday 30 June at 09:00

Present

Members

Ms M Campbell, Chair
Mr A Bain
Ms M Connolly
Ms J Gotts
Mr T McDaid
Mr T Mistry
Ms G Treasurer
Mr A Watt

In Attendance

Council Officers

Mr F Dunlop
Mr C Burn
Ms A Langley
Mr M Cowan
Ms L Cook

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business

1 Apologies for Absence

➤ *Ms H Ousta, Mr S Lindsay, Mr S Sweeney and Mr A Kerr.*

2 Declarations of Interest

➤ *None.*

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 April 2026

➤ *The minutes of the Board meeting held on 28 April 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.*

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair paid tribute to Ewan Hunter, CEO, Scottish Handball who sadly passed away last week and noted that our support has been offered to Scottish Handball colleagues.

The Chair updated on the UK Sport Board and noted that we will be hosting a meeting with UK Sport and the Home Country Chair and CEOs at Inverclyde in October.

The Board discussed the previous nights engagement with colleagues from Public Health Scotland and the value in such sessions. Mr Dunlop and Ms McAuley will progress with a partnership agreement between the organisations to focus on joint work.

The Chair opened a discussion on the merits and timelines of developing a new Corporate Plan. The Board agreed that we should work towards a new plan from April 2028.

6 Executive Management Report

Mr Dunlop updated on the new Government, key appointments and early work that is emerging. Mr Dunlop gave an overview of the work progressing under the Scottish Governments Public Service Reform, (PSR), strategy, including a recent meeting led by the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform. The Board discussed PSR, the work **sportscotland** had done in the past year and how we continue to connect and deliver against the PSR strategy.

Mr Burn gave further context to the SGB Coalition work which aligns well with PSR through shared services and a focus on the preventative agenda. Mr Burn explained that this work is due to report at the end of August but that he is confident that there is an agreed way forward.

Mr Burn updated on the allocation and investment of the new monies, he recognised how the strength of the local and national partnerships alongside our internal teams working very well together had allowed us to progress quickly. Mr Burn went on to explain that the work has helped identify the need and demand from sports and that it is clear that the demand still significantly out-weighs the amount of new money available, and that is before facilities investment is

considered. Mr Burn confirmed to the Board that more information will come to the August Board meeting on Club and Community Sport.

Mr Burn updated the Board on specific SGB changes and challenges which the team are currently supporting.

Ms Langley explained the changes in timelines to the end of year audit and subsequent production of the annual accounts and report. Ms Langley updated that this change and the reasons for it have been discussed at the recent Audit and Risk Committee. The Board asked for reassurance that lessons are being learnt and that changes will be made to give assurance going forward. Ms Langley assured the Board that we have reflected on why this has happened, made changes and that we will meet our obligations to complete and publish our annual accounts and report.

Ms Langley confirmed that the sale of Caledonia House has been concluded.

The Board asked for an update on the staff conference. Mr Dunlop replied that 85% of staff fed back that the conference was good or very good. Further informal feedback has been positive with good ideas about how we build on this for future annual staff conferences. The Chair acknowledged the change in approach to Board member attendance and asked that thought is given to how we create a staff / Board engagement session at future events.

The Board asked for an update on staff working arrangements. Ms Langley updated that we have recently launched our revised Hybrid Working Policy which seems to have been well received. Ms Langley went on to explain that we will be monitoring office usage and requirements and that will help inform our requirements from 2028 onwards when current leases end.

➤ *The Board noted the Executive Management Report.*

For Decision

7 Board annual program of work

Ms Langley introduced the paper which outlines the Board work plan for the year. The Board were asked for feedback, including topics for Monday night discussion sessions.

The Board discussed a range of areas including, outdoor and adventure sport, physical activity and social prescribing, public sector reform and UK Government changes and developments. The Executive team will continue to develop the planner with the input of the Chair.

The Board asked about the engagement with the newly established Anti Racism Observatory for Scotland, (AROS). Mr Dunlop updated that he had met with AROS and that while it was early days he believed there was good opportunity to continue to develop our work and learning in this space. Mr Dunlop added that Prof Khadija Mohammed who had led our work on an anti racism plan had also spoken at the staff conference and was going to be running internal workshops for staff.

The Chair noted that the Board accept the proposal as the program of work for the year ahead.

➤ *The Board approved the Board annual program of work.*

8 People Development Committee Terms of Reference

Ms Langley updated that the Committee met in May and agreed to include oversight of EDI and climate and sustainability work within the committee remit.

The Board noted that the Audit and Risk Committee previously had a Chair and Vice Chair and suggested deleting the vice chair position which has never been filled. Ms Langley will update.

- *The Board approved the People Development Committee Terms of Reference*

9 Trust Company Memorandum of Understanding

Ms Langley updated that the Trust Company discussed the Memorandum of Understanding at their May meeting and agreed to update titles but there were no substantial changes.

The Chair noted that it has been three or four years since the last review of the Trust Company. Ms Langley explained that she is in discussion with the Chair of the Trust Company and the Centre Manager / Principal about the correct scope and approach for a review that would take account of the long term capital and revenue costs of the national centres.

- *The Board approved the Trust Company memorandum of understanding.*

For Discussion

10 Sport for Life – Facilities

Mr Cowan presented an overview of our work and approach to facilities.

The Board discussed the issues and challenges which had been highlighted in the national estates review. This included the current provision, the future demand, accessibility, decarbonisation and the financial pressures and models, and the role of sportscotland in all of this.

The Board discussed the opportunities and challenges around accessing the school estate. Mr Cowan replied by explaining that the school estate was not necessarily designed for community access, he went on to explain that while there are some collective challenges around the school estate the work required was at a local authority level to better understand the demands and barriers at a more local level. Mr Cowan finished by explaining his view that we needed to continue to provide a mix of school, community, club and private facilities.

The Board discussed how we use the report to raise and address the issues that it highlights. Mr Cowan explained that we will be offering support to local authorities through our geographical approach to understand better the local and regional circumstances and to use that as a basis for planning. Mr Dunlop added that we will also be using the report in the autumn to continue to the discussion with local and national government.

Mr Cowan explained that there was now a need to revisit the national / regional facilities that were delivered as part of previous investment streams. This approach recognises that there is not necessarily investment for new facilities of this nature but that further developments of the existing facilities could be considered.

The Board recognised that while capital budgets have reduced significantly, local authorities and other partners continue to invest in their estate. The Board also noted that **sportscotland** continues to invest what Lottery monies it can in facilities but for many years there has been no Scottish Government core capital investment.

The Chair thanked Mr Cowan for the helpful presentation.

- *The Board noted the Sport for Life – Facilities paper.*

11 Draft Annual report

Ms Langley noted that this report would normally come alongside the financial reports because they are complimentary but on this occasion it will be reviewed as a standalone. The report sets out the activity that has been delivered in the previous year against the plan that we published. Ms Langley acknowledged the length of the report and re assured Board that the main communication of the report will be through case studies and more bite sized pieces, with the full report available for those who wished to read the detail.

The Board agreed that the presentation and communication of the report needs to split up but recognised the benefit of the full document being available.

The Board reflected on the earlier discussion on PSR and suggested reviewing the document through that lens.

The Chair summarised that the report will maintain its current format and it will then be brought to life through the website, case studies, etc.

➤ *The Board noted the draft annual report.*

For Information

12 Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games preview

Noted and taken as read.

13 Quarter 4: 2025 – 2026 progress report

Noted and taken as read.

14 Audit and Risk Committee draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

15 People Development Committee draft minutes

Noted and taken as read.

16 Any Other Business

Mr Burn provided an update on accreditation for the Commonwealth Games and Ms Cook will circulate further information when it becomes available.

17 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 31 August and Tuesday 1 September 2026 (Glenmore Lodge)

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