



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

MINUTES

Board Meeting 17 December 2021 09.30 to 11.00 Via Teams

Present:

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| Robert Wilson (RW) | Chair |
| Malath Abbas (MA) | Board Member |
| Ewan Angus (EA) | Board Member |
| Yahya Barry (YB) | Board Member (until 10am) |
| David Brew (DB) | Board Member |
| Duncan Cockburn (DC) | Board Member |
| Stephanie Fraser (SF) | Board Member |
| Duncan Hendry (DH) | Board Member |
| Philip Long (PL) | Board Member |
| Carol Main (CM) | Board Member |
| Elizabeth Partyka (EP) | Board Member |
| David Strachan (DS) | Board Member |

Present:

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| Sarah Munro (SM) | Board Member |
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In Attendance:

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| Iain Munro (IM) | Chief Executive |
| Ian Stevenson (IS) | Director, Finance |
| Lyndon Jones (LJ) | Minutes |

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| 1. | Apologies and declarations of interest |
| 1.1 | Apologies were noted from Sarah Munro. Also noted, YB would make his apologies and leave the meeting at 10am. |
| 1.2 | New Declarations of Interest or relevant to the agenda |

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| | No new declarations. DC declared he was a Board member of Aberdeen Performing Arts in relationship to item 3. |
| 2. | COVID Update |
| | <p>IM reported on the FM announcement of Tuesday 14 December about the impact of the new Omicron variant and announcing a further financial support package of £100m for hospitality, food supply and culture. Discussion with the Officials had followed on the provision for the Culture sector. It was confirmed that a budget of £20m would be provided for Culture and Events sector impacts, with £18.2m to be made available through CS. An internal team were now looking at ways to run interventions to ensure the fastest flow of resource. It was noted that individuals and freelance staff play a large part in the overall ecology for the creative sector and this would be recognised as a priority in the support.</p> <p>Responding to questions on how organisations can help with the distribution of the support, previous models of devolved delivery had proven less effective than required. IM also confirmed previous emergency funding had required that organisations use, in part, their support to honour their commitments to individuals.</p> <p>The need to deliver quickly was discussed, and it was recognised that all funding would require to be committed by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>All recognised that whilst further funds were very welcome, there would still be considerable risk given the fragility of the sectors and the uncertainty of recovery.</p> <p>It was a fast-moving context and the Board would be kept up to date.</p> |
| 3. | Draft Budget – 2022/23 |
| | <p>Under this item, the Board was requested to approve the draft budget for 2022/23 and agree the RFO awards.</p> <p>In the context of extremely pressured public finances, it was very welcome to receive an uplift in the budget from SG, with the additional £3m increase specifically to cover targeted support for Screen Scotland, Youth Arts and the Culture Collective.</p> <p>(It was noted that YB made his apologies and left the meeting at this point).</p> <p>IS spoke to the various elements of the budget, noting that some elements were still to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Board discussed the detail, including the use of National Lottery reserves in assisting the transition on the revised funding framework.</p> <p>The paper also noted the Pay Policy position that had also been published, noting concerns on the limitations in comparison to previous years, and that no financial provision was being made available to support its implementation. Details would be further discussed by the SLT and F&GP Committee.</p> |

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| | <p>The RFO settlement was discussed and agreed.</p> <p>Also noted was the publication by SG of the multi-year spending review framework which would conclude in spring 2022, likely to be May.</p> <p>All were content to approve the draft budget and RFO awards.</p> |
| 4. | AOB |
| | <p>Due to the fast pace of change, it was requested that a Board call be arranged for 9.30am on 6 January to provide any update on emergency support. It was noted that PL and SF might not be able to join the meeting.</p> |
| 5. | Date of next meeting |
| | <p>Board call – 6th January at 9.30</p> <p>Board meeting – 20 January 10.00 – 14.00</p> |

Rebecca Wilson