



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

MINUTES

**Board meeting
19 July 2021
10.00 to 13.20
Via Teams**

Present:

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Malath Abbas (MA)	Board Member
Ewan Angus (EA)	Board Member
Yahya Barry (YB)	Board Member
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
David Strachan (DS)	Board Member

In Attendance:

Iain Munro (IM)	Chief Executive
Isabel Davis (ID)	Executive Director (for items 7 & 8)
Clive Gilman (CG)	Director Creative Industries (for item 9)
John Campbell (JC)	Digital Transformation Director (for item 10)
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	Minutes

Apologies:

Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	Board Member
Sarah Munro (SM)	Board Member

1.	Apologies and declarations of interest
1.1	Apologies

	EP and SM had sent their apologies, PL noted he would step out of the meeting from 11 and return at 12 midday.
1.2	New Declarations of interest or relevant to the agenda CM, DH, MA and DS noted interests that would be relevant to item 9.
2.	Previous minutes
2.1	Board meeting 20 May The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
2.2	Matters arising It was noted that the amends to the ToR relating to the decision-making relationship between Committees and Board would be brought back to a future Board meeting.
3.	Committee Updates
3.1	Draft minutes A&R Committee – 22 June 2021 Meeting contained comprehensive but routine business, with the Chair noting the Committee noted and discussed the risks that could arise from the new funding framework. There was a presentation of the annual Data Protection report. The meeting included the planned annual private session of Committee members with the Internal Auditors where the exceptional pressures on the Senior Leadership team and staff arising from the pandemic during the past 18 months was discussed, noting to the Board the resourcing update in the Chief Executive report.
3.2	Draft minutes F&GP Committee – 23 June 2021 Regular business meeting including a positive review of the role and work of the Committee, which will lead to some slight changes to the ToR. Main discussion point of the Committee was concerns about the future of the Sector and the role of CS in providing supportive leadership, agreeing that the Board should continue to discuss this at future meetings. The audience research was discussed, noting that the research was conducted at a specific point in time and as reopening continues, new and different responses may arise.
3.3	Screen Committee a. Minutes 1 June 2021 The Chair noted that the minutes demonstrated the breadth of work that the Screen Team were proactively undertaking, highlighting the progress with skills development and the continued infrastructure developments. Additionally, the research on the economic value of the sector was progressing and due to report in the autumn. b. Minutes 8 July 2021 The main focus of the agenda would be covered in item 8. The Committee were also given sight of the briefing that formed part of the introductory Screen Scotland meeting with the Cabinet Secretary.
4.	Framework agreement

	<p>The A&R Committee had reviewed the draft revisions to the Framework Agreement with the Scottish Government which were now presented to the Board for approval, noting overall there were no substantive changes, just amendments to language and further clarity that CS statutory functions operate under both legislation from SG and The National Lottery. To note were delegated authority levels in the terms of major investments and where Creative Scotland needs to seek approval from SG.</p> <p>When asked, it was confirmed the framework did not restrict the ability to move funds internally in budgets. It was also confirmed that the framework didn't limit the ability of the organisation to engage across all policy areas within SG.</p> <p>The Board approved the Framework Agreement.</p>
5.	Emergency Funds Update
	<p>The current data for both COVR2 and PAVR2 was presented to the Board, comparing to the previous round of each fund and noting the wider context of the overall current picture on emergency funds. Assessments were continuing, with panel decisions taking place next week. Elizabeth Partyka and Ewan Angus would again join the panel for the COVR2 decisions, and other Board members invited to join the PAVR2 panel.</p> <p>The Board interrogated the data set, looking to understand if there were any issues arising, and noted funds were able to accommodate the recommended requests. These emergency funds were designed to provide support until end September, and a concern noted that after that point, there would still be a need for support that would continue to be discussed with the Scottish Government.</p>
6	Chief Executive Report
	<p>Points to note from within the report were the introductory meetings held with the Cabinet Secretary and Culture Minister, followed by the Screen Scotland specific meeting with the Cabinet Secretary. Both had been supportive conversations focusing on the needs of the sectors. The announcement of the new Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee was noted, with letters of congratulations being sent to both the Convenor and Deputy Convenor from CEO and the Chair, with the offer of introductory meetings.</p> <p>Other points of note within the rest of the report were the review across NDPB's of the sponsorship role with SG; and the proposal of a sector led creative economy recovery group to advise SG on sector recovery.</p> <p>The call for UK City of Culture 2025 bids was under way, with the Board keen to understand the role of CS and specific funding needs, noting CS had previously been involved. Given the number of bids from Scotland, CS would supportively engage with each bid but require to remain neutral across them all at this stage.</p> <p>In addition to the report contents, the Board were informed that climate change workshops were currently underway and attendance was encouraged. As part of the SG manifesto pledge, alongside COSLA providing support, Music tuition fees</p>

	<p>would be abolished, to aid diversity and reach. Meetings between SG and CS have taken place to discuss the potential role CS could play in the process of quarantine exemptions, currently processed through ACE.</p> <p>Finally, IM was looking at restructuring the Board and Leadership meeting agendas to align with CS strategic priorities, this would flow through future meetings.</p> <p>The Board noted that Gary Cameron had secured a new role at the Scottish Government and would be leaving CS. The Board recorded their thanks to GC for his excellent work at CS and wished him well in his new role.</p>
7.	Screen Scotland update
	<p>ID joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>Headlines for the Screen Scotland team included the recent positive meeting with the Cabinet Secretary. Negative press over the development of Kelvin Hall in relation to BBC Pacific Quay had been resolved, strengthening the working relationship with ScSc and the BBC. The Channel 4 review was an opportunity to put forward the value of the public services broadcaster in Scotland. The Edinburgh Film Festival had been confirmed with a smaller, quality offer this year. The TV Festival would be providing a fully virtual programme this year with ScSc sponsorship prominently in place over this and next year. Positive news in the production space was the confirmation of the filming of Good Omens 2 entirely in Scotland, providing traineeship opportunities that worked alongside the wider skills development work of ScSc underway.</p>
8.	Bath Road Studio Development
	<p>ID remained for this agenda item.</p> <p>ID providing the background, noting the original approval of the development in September 2019. The production pipeline was building strongly, alongside other studio activity, but was still in its formative period for the business model. The proposal being presented for Board approval would enable the ongoing business to continue to develop and move fully to the co-investment model with the appointed Operators. Due diligence had been undertaken with appropriate external legal and property advice as noted in the papers. The proposal had been scrutinised by the Screen Committee and their recommendation to approve was being put forward to the Board. The proposal had been scrutinised by the Screen Committee and they recommended that the Board approve a long-term deal with First Stage Studios Ltd (FSSL) of up to £2,912,500 over 10 years.</p> <p>One Board member requested further information before being able to make a decision. It was noted that that information was being progressed but not considered necessary by other Board members to make a decision, particularly in the light of the Screen Committee scrutiny that had already taken place and the original Board approval. It was confirmed that the business plan would be updated and shared with the Board.</p> <p>The Board agreed that momentum should continue, and approval was given by the majority of members. One member dissented and one abstained.</p>

9.	Funding Framework for Organisations
	<p>CG joined for this agenda item and highlighted the key points of the processes which included the plan to establishment a refreshed Open Fund for Organisations, and a transition year towards the future funding framework.</p> <p>To aid the process, three working groups had been established each to look at outcomes based on the design of the transition year, new funding framework and what we implement from the funding review.</p> <p>The challenges of transitioning in the current context of the pandemic would be challenging, especially also given the high level of expectations and ambitions across the sector for more resources. Communications with the sector to keep them informed was a priority and would be managed through a series of updates and user testing of the principles of the new approach as appropriate.</p> <p>(YB made his apologies and left the meeting)</p> <p>It was agreed that Board input would be important. Board meeting agendas would include a standing update item, with opportunities for more detailed discussion and input as the work progresses.</p> <p>The Board thanked CG for the update and looked forward to further discussions in due course.</p>
10.	CS Digital Services
	<p>JC joined for this this agenda item.</p> <p>Building on the excellent work of the Digital Transformation team, the Board were presented with a proposal that an autonomous subsidiary company be created to offer the digital tools and platforms CS had built (particularly the new Funding Management System), to the wider public sector, with the potential over time to extend to the Third Sector. There was already interest from public bodies and the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The next steps would be to present the detailed business case for approval, which the Board requested also included exit strategy options.</p> <p>There was unanimous support from the Board to progress to next steps.</p> <p>(CM and DH made their apologies and left the meeting)</p>
11.	YMI Formula Fund
	<p>The YMI Formula Fund Awards over £500,000 to Glasgow City Council and Aberdeenshire Council for 2021/22 academic year programme activity were presented for Board approval, in line with governance arrangements.</p> <p>Both awards had been fully assessed and recommended for funding.</p>

	The Board approved the awards of £540,644 for Glasgow City Council and £527,836 for Aberdeenshire Council (including the three members of the Board that had left the meeting who had provided their written approval).
12.	Risk Register
	The Board were asked to note the current risks above Board appetite that had been discussed at the recent A&R Committee meeting. It was noted that the annual Board detailed review of the risk register would take place at the October Board meeting.
13.	Any other business
	It was noted that the Board Strategy Day is scheduled to take place in person on 30 September and the agenda would include discussion on wellbeing economy, and the environment. More detail will follow, including location.
14.	Date of next scheduled meeting
	Strategy Day – 30 September Board meeting – 1 October Apologies were noted from DS and YB for both meetings.

Rebecca Wilson