

Document 3.1

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

735th Plenary Meeting

7 April 2020

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair, Paddy Glackin, Jillian Van Turnhout (unable to participate in meeting from 2.40pm due to connectivity issues), Mark O’Kelly, Loughlin Deegan, Helen Shaw, Martina Moloney, Sinead Moriarty, Teresa Buczkowska, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Dónall Curtin.

In attendance:

Martin O’Sullivan Acting Director & Company Secretary, Ciara Branagan Finance and Council Executive.

Note: Meeting took place via Zoom video conference.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda
Covid-19 Progress Update on work done to date
Communications approach and planning
Covid-19 Crisis Response Award update on scheme
Covid-19 Assessment Approach
Review of short- medium term planning
Proposed Stress Test Approach
Organisation Survey Report
Response Scheme Documentation

20– 04– 037 Apologies

Melatu Uchenna Okorie

20 – 04– 038 Chair’s Introduction

Conflicts of Interest- The Chair **noted** that members had already declared their conflicts and requested members to declare any further conflicts that they may have with the agenda items and reminded members to advise him of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting. In relation to the Partnership, Strategic and Arts Centre recommendations, members who had declared conflicts left the meeting prior to discussion on those recommendations.

20 – 04– 039 Covid-19 Progress update on work done to date

Members were updated on a range of matters including, the new short-term scheme, ongoing survey work being undertaken with arts organisations and artists, completion and submission of Organisation Impact Report to DCHG, government and external communications and related difficulties and an operational update on remote working. Members **noted** the update.

The Chair outlined the background to short-term scheme which had been established as an additional means of getting immediate financial support to individual arts alongside other measures such as fast-tracking bursary payments and annual grants to arts organisations. DCHG had agreed to match the €0.5m budget side aside by the Council with a quick turnaround on decisions to facilitate early payment of the awards – approximately 330 artists to benefit for the scheme. Due to government imposed restrictions on all external

communications it had not been possible to open the scheme as planned; following ongoing contact with DCHG, and to prevent further delay, it was agreed that the scheme would be announced as part of a wider DCHG announcement.



Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** the detail of an 'Open Letter' to artists and arts organisations reassuring them around ongoing Arts Council supports and future engagement together with specific clarifications in relation to the Crisis Response Award.

20 – 04– 040 Covid-19 Crisis Response Award Assessment Approach

Members **agreed** to delegate decision making authority to the Executive for the Covid-19 Crisis Response Award.

20 – 04– 041 Communications Approach and Planning

Members discussed in detail the new government information office (GIS) protocol in relation to the clearing of all communications by GIS. Members **noted** the difficulty faced by the Executive. Members asked for a copy of the DCHG/GIS communication protocol to be uploaded to Diligent.

Members also discussed in detail the Arts Council's proposed new light touch platform for uploading and disseminating digital work during the Covid-19 crisis. Following a detailed discussion Members expressed concerns about the scope and objectives of the proposed approach and **agreed** to suspend further work on the initiative. Members noted that the existing website and other platforms including those of media organisations could be possible outlets for the work.

20 – 04– 042 Proposed Stress Test Approach (using example)

Members **noted** the proposed approach and **agreed** that the stress test model should be further developed for the April Plenary.

20 – 04– 043 Any Other Business

Thank you

Members asked for the staff to be acknowledged and thanked for their professionalism and commitment during this unprecedented crisis.

There were no other matters.

Chair: _____

Date _____