

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

711th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

14 February 2018

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe *Deputy Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Helen Shaw, Brian Maguire, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Joan Sheehy, Martina Moloney, Monica Spencer, Miriam Dunne.

In attendance:

Martin O'Sullivan *Finance Director & Company Secretary*.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 5-7 December 2017

Director's Report

Report on Council Evaluation

Capacity Building Initiative

Private Investment Advisory Group TOR's

Festivals Investment Scheme 2018

Visual Arts Workspace Grants 2018

Cnuas Recommendations

Appeals Panel Recommendations

18 – 02– 001 Apologies

None

18 – 02– 002 Chair's Introduction

Conflicts of Interest- The Chair **noted** that members had already declared their conflicts and requested members to declare any other conflicts that they may have with the agenda items and reminded members to advise her of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

18 – 02 – 003 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 5-7 December 2017

17-12-119- *Grant Recommendations 2018- Venues Funding- Smock Alley Theatre*- Members **agreed** that the minute should read '*Members agreed to offer additional funding of €20,000___*'

The Minutes of the 5 December Meeting were **agreed**.

18 – 02– 004 Matters Arising

Culture Fox Report

A member expressed a concern that a Report on Culture Fox might have been provided to third parties in advance of being discussed with Council. It was **agreed** that the Report should be put on the Agenda for the next Plenary Meeting, as planned by the Director.

Theatre Spatial & Resource Committee

Following discussion members **agreed** that Loughlin Deegan and Monica Spencer would work with Liz Meaney, Arts Director, to draft terms of reference and bring them back to the Policy & Strategy Committee for agreement.

The Gate Theatre

Following a detailed discussion on a number of matters, including the matters for noting in the Director's Report, members **agreed** that in the first instance it would be best for the Chair and Loughlin Deegan to meet with a delegation from the Board of the Gate Theatre to allow for a discussion to take place on relationship principles, the 2018 business plan and programme.

18 – 02– 005 Reports

ARC Committee 13 February Meeting

Joan Sheehy, Committee Member, briefed members highlighting the matters agreed as follows:-

- Members welcomed the incoming Committee Chairman Jack Crowley.
- *Minutes of Meeting held on 4 December 2017* were approved;
- *Report on Committee Performance 2017* was noted;
- *Mazars presented their report on Internal Financial Control;*
 - *No high priority findings*
 - *Internal Auditor will present to the next meeting the results of their ICQ with SMT in order to give this Committee broad assurance re the SIC*
 - *Internal Auditor will also review the Internal Audit Universe with a view to updating their Internal Audit plans for 2019 and beyond*
 - *Next internal audit modules scheduled for March to cover Governance and Risk*
- *The Update on Internal Control Recommendations and Data Protection Recommendations* was noted;
- *The C&AG Letter of Engagement 2017 Audit* was noted;
- *The Draft Financial Statements 2017* were noted;
- *Risk register* was noted.

The report and recommendations of the ARC Committee were **agreed**.

Business & Finance Committee 13 February Meeting

Miriam Dunne, Committee Chairman, briefed Members highlighting the following matters:-

- *Minutes of 4 December 2017-* were agreed;
- *Report on Committee Performance 2017 -* was agreed;
- *Management Accounts 2018 -* were agreed;
- *Budget 2018 update -* was agreed;
- *Touring 2019 Budget of €1.5 million -* was agreed;
- *Procurement of Services / Consultants– 2018 -* was agreed;
- *MGAW Corporate Plan 2017/18 -* was noted;
- *HR report –* was noted;
- *FOI report –* was noted;
- *ICT report –* was noted;
- *Premises Update –* was noted;
- *Risk Register –* was noted.

The report and recommendations of the Business and Finance Committee were **agreed**.

Separately members **agreed** that an update on the transition to the new organisation structure should be brought to the March Plenary Meeting.

Policy & Strategy Committee 14 February Meeting

John McAuliffe, Committee Chairman, briefed Members highlighting the following matters:-

- The approaches in relation to Multi Annual Funding and the Annual Review Process for the Strategic Funding Programme;
- An update on the Acquisition Process for the Arts Council Collection;
- An update on the development of the Equality and Diversity Policy, including agreement on the TOR for the Working Group;
- An update on the policy alignment process – with specific focus on international and arts participation;
- An update on the review of film artists;
- A review of Committee Performance.

Members noted the report and **agreed** the recommendations.

Irish National Opera Working Group Meeting

Loughlin Deegan updated members highlighting that good progress had been made on governance matters and noting the INO's successful launch. Members welcomed and **noted** the positive update.

Abbey Working Group 12 February Meeting

Members welcomed and **noted** the positive update.

18 – 02– 006 Director's Report

EVA International Meeting

Members **agreed** that the Executive should meet the organisation in the first instance.

Venues Review

Member noted that CHL Consultants have been appointed, following a procurement process, and that the cost of the contract is €55,456 exclusive of VAT. Members **approved** the contract appointment. It was also **agreed** that the schedule of the agreed contract services should be circulated to Members.

Update on Festivals Investment Scheme

Members **noted** the update on the 2018 Festival Investment Scheme and **noted** that the scheme will return to two rounds for 2019 festivals. Members **agreed** that a budget of €1.4m should be allocated to the scheme for 2019 and that the same process for assessment and administering awards will remain in place, with the executive making recommendations up to a maximum award of €35,000.

Update Reports on Strategic Funding

Members **noted** the update.

Update on approach to supporting sector to develop best practice in the area of harassment and bullying

Member **noted** the update.

Update on survey and analysis tender – appointment of Behaviour & Attitudes

Member **noted** the update.

Update on New Music Dublin Festival

Members **noted** the update.

Update on Child Protection

Members **noted** the update.

Director's Diary Report

The Director's Diary Report was **noted**.

18 – 02– 007 Corporate Governance

Mazars, the Arts Council's Internal Auditors, attended and provided a briefing on their new 'Governance for Directors on State Boards' handbook.

Council Evaluation 2017

Members **noted** the feedback from the Council Evaluation.

18 – 02– 008 Private Investment

Capacity Building Phase 1 Programme

Members **agreed** the programme approach and the €300k project budget.

Private Investment Advisory Group

Members **agreed** the Private Investment Advisory Group draft terms of reference and for the work of the Group to now commence. Both Council members Joan Sheehy and Loughlin Deegan expressed an interest in being members of the Advisory Group.

18 – 02– 009 Awards

Festival Investment Scheme 2018

Members **noted** the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Visual Arts Workspace Grant Awards 2018

Members **noted** the third party scheme awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes. Members **noted** some inaccuracies in the draft financial appendix and asked for these to be corrected in the final version. Members also **noted** that Visual Arts Workspace Grant Awards 2019 is to be brought in-house with recommendations going to an Arts Council Panel.

18 – 02– 010 Cnuas Recommendations

Members **approved** the recommendations.

18 – 02– 011 Appeals Panel 5 & 6 February Recommendations

David Thomas Fox- Application Number: A278957- Travel & Training Award 2018, Film- No failure in process identified. Appeal not upheld.

Beara Arts Festival- Application Number: A278867- Festival & Investment Scheme- Band A- No failure in process was identified. Appeal not upheld.

Boyne Music Festival- Application Number: A278910- Festival & Investment Scheme- Band B- No failure in process was identified. Appeal not upheld.

The Well Review- Application Number: A278133- Publications/Title by Title Scheme 2018- No failure in process was identified. Appeal not upheld.

Cyclone Repertory Company- Application Number: A278550- Strategic Funding, 2018- No failure in process was identified. Appeal not upheld.

Mick O'Kelly- Application Number: A277792- Visual Arts Bursary Award, Round 2 2017- No failure in process was identified. Appeal not upheld.

The recommendations of the Appeal Panel were **agreed**.

Garage Theatre- Application Number: A278571- Venues Funding, 2018- Appeal Upheld. The panel considered the information presented to them and were concerned with the lack of rationale for the decision and on that basis upheld the appeal. Members considered the recommendation and requested additional information to inform their deliberations. As the information was not available to the meeting Members **agreed** to defer their decision.

18 – 02– 012 Any Other Business

Communications

Members **agreed** to defer discussion on Communications until the March Plenary.

[Redacted]

Section 30, FOI Act 2014, Functions and Negotiations of an FOI body.

Grant 2018 Letters

[Redacted]

Member **noted** that a review paper on the entire process is to be brought back to Plenary in April.

Section 30, FOI Act 2014, Functions and Negotiations of an FOI body.

[Redacted]

Section 37, FOI Act 2014, Personal Information

There were no other matters.