

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

770th Plenary Meeting

19 October 2022

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Dónall Curtin, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole (from 2.45pm), Róise Goan.

In attendance:

Maureen Kennelly, Director, Martin O’Sullivan, *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Ciara Branagan, *Finance and Council Executive*.

Note: Meeting took place via Zoom video conference and in person at Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre, Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes 14 September Plenary Meeting

Plenary Action Tracker

Director’s Report and Matters for Information

Operational Matters for Decision

HR Update

FOI Procedures and Processes

Trust Funds

Property Update and Refurbishment Proposal

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Awards & Schemes

For Information:-

- Policy and Strategy 24 May 2022 Minutes
- Risk Register
- Communications Report

22 – 10 – 124 Apologies

Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Teresa Buczkowska, Andrew Clancy, Linda Coogan Byrne.

22 – 10 – 125 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.

Dance Policy- launch was **noted**.

Meeting with Minister Catherine Martin, on 22 September- Members **noted** the meeting.

Diary 2023- Members **noted** that the 2023 Diary had been uploaded to Diligent (with dates for two committees to be added).

Chair's Activity Report- Members **noted** the report of meetings and events attended covering period to the end of September 2022.

22 – 10 – 126 Minutes 14 September Plenary Meeting 2022

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 14 September Plenary Meeting subject to the amendments raised by Donall by email in advance of meeting.

[REDACTED]

Members also **agreed** that the draft Minutes should be circulated one week in advance of the paper issue deadline, with five working days response timeline for Members.

22 – 10 – 127 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members **agreed** the following action should be further updated as follows:-

- *Dance Policy* - wording needs to be updated to reflect ongoing funding commitment to the development of dance policy beyond core set-up costs at the initial stage of the establishment of the new company.

22 – 10 – 128 Operational Matters for Decision

[REDACTED]

Legal Services Procurement

Members **agreed** that the services can proceed to procurement.

Proposal to tender for a new website

Members **agreed** the €150,000 budget for tender.

22 – 10 – 129 Director's Report and Matters for Information

Council Performance Review-

Members **noted** the update, Members **agreed** that in addition to Council, all three standing committees and the Collections Committee should be evaluated.

Separately, Members **agreed** that a paper on the current Panel process should be brought for discussion to the November agenda. Members asked that the paper address all Panel operational matters.

Review and Evaluation of RAISE Programme- Members **noted** the update.

Arts Council Collection: Autumn Exhibitions- Members **noted** the update.

[REDACTED]

Ireland at Venice National Tour 2023 – Niamh O'Malley: Gather
Members **noted** the update.

Arts in Early Years and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) Pilot – Expression of Interest-
Members **noted** the update.

Other matters referenced included:

Awareness Campaign- Members **noted** that the Arts Council are working with Arts Centres re access matters, that a media planning agency has been procured and that enhanced emphasis on the creative part of the campaign is currently underway.

Pavee Point Selection Panel- Members **noted** that a member of the traveller community will sit on the selection panel.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director's Diary Report
Members **noted** the update.

22 – 10 – 130 Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee Meeting 13 October 2022

Philomena Poole, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- The minutes of 29 June meeting were approved;
- Draft Qtr 3 2022 Management Accounts and Outturn 2022 were agreed;
- Discussed Budget 2023;
- Noted HR Report Update;
- Noted FOI Report Update;
- Noted ICT BAU & Business Continuity Plan Update;
- Noted Property Update;
- Discussion on Artists' Workspaces Register;

Members noted and **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Business and Finance Committee.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 13 October 2022

Dónall Curtin, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- The minutes of 24 May and 22 June meeting were approved;
- Internal Audit Update -
 - Security Assessment (Pen test) was agreed;
 - Communications Audit update was noted

- Compliance with Code of Practice- Terms of Reference was noted
- IA Plan Update was noted
- Discussed Progress Update on outstanding IA recommendations;
[REDACTED]
- Noted Risk Workshop Update;

Members noted and **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Policy and Strategy Committee - Jillian van Turnhout Committee Chair updated members on the 3 year plan progress to-date, Members noted the update and agreed that papers discussed should be shared with all members via the reading room.

22 – 10 – 131 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 10 – 132 HR Report

Alison Sleeth, HR Director joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the HR update. Members **noted** that this would be Alison Sleeth’s final time to attend a Council meeting and expressed a huge thanks to Alison for her contribution across many areas.

22 – 10 – 133 Aosdána Update

Karen Hennessy, Aosdána Registrar joined the meeting for this item. Members **noted** the presentation and agreed that a copy should be uploaded to Diligent. Members used the opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Registrar on all Aosdána matters.

Members noted the presentation. Members **agreed** that the presentation should be uploaded to Diligent.

22 – 10 – 138 Property Update and Refurbishment Proposal

Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the property update and **agreed** the recommendation to extend leases for #69 and #70 Merrion Square.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 10 – 139 Appeals Panel Recommendation

[REDACTED]

Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was no infringement or unfair application of the published process. The appeal was not upheld.

Members **agreed** the recommendation of the Appeals' Panel. Members asked for the recommendation to be uploaded to the Reading room.

22 – 10 – 140 Awards

Bursary Awards 2023

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 10 – 141 Matters for Information

Policy and Strategy Committee Minutes 24 May 2022- Members **noted** the Minutes.

Risk Register- Members **noted** the Register.

[REDACTED]

22 – 10 – 142 Any Other Business

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rua Red Arts Centre- Members expressed their thanks to the Board and Staff of Rua Red Arts Centre for accommodating the Arts Council's 770th Council Meeting and making the Council and Executive so welcome.

Separately, Members expressed their thanks to Ciara Branagan, Council Executive and Georgia Gannon, PA to the Director, for all of their preplanning and logistics support, to ensure the smooth running of the meeting.

Private Session

There were no other matters arising.