

Document 3.1

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

762nd Plenary Meeting

8 & 9 December 2021

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir (9 December only), Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Dónall Curtin, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Helen Shaw, Martina Moloney, Teresa Buczkowska, Pádraig Ó Duinnín.

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.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda
Minutes 17 November Plenary Meeting
Plenary Action Tracker
Director’s Report
[REDACTED]
Budget 2020
Third Party Schemes 2022
IT Transformation Project Update
Cnuas Recommendation
Awards and Schemes
Risk Register and Committee Minutes

21 – 12– 165 Apologies

Fearghus Ó Conchúir (8 December).

21 – 12 – 166 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.

Chair of Poetry Trust Governance Review- Members **noted** that a planned review is to be undertaken in early 2022.

Arts Council Northern Ireland Update- Members **noted** that an updated work programme would be agreed in January 2022.

New Laureate for Irish Fiction- Members **noted** that the announcement would be made on January 20.

Meeting with Minister- Members **noted** that the Chair and Director are due to shortly have a planning meeting with the Minister.

New Council Members- Members **noted** that a PAS shortlisting meeting (which the Chair was involved in) would be held in December following which a list of short-listed names would be submitted to the Minister.

21 – 12– 167 Minutes 17 November Plenary Meeting 2021

Members **agreed** the Minutes of 17 November Plenary Meeting.

21 – 12– 168 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members **agreed** that monthly updates to the tracker should be highlighted. [REDACTED]

21 – 12– 169 Director's Report

Charities Code of Governance

Members **agreed** the recommendation to write to the Charities Regulator subject to the Arts Council discussing the matter with the Charities Regulator prior to making a formal submission.

Charities Regulator and the Role of Company Secretary – Members **noted** Beauchamps advice.

Private Investment Advisory Group

Members **agreed** the recommendation to wind down the current configuration and reconstitute ideally with a Council Member as Chair. Members took the opportunity to thank the outgoing advisory group for their support and advice.

Public Health Advice Contract Extension

Members **agreed** the contract extension and noted that there was adequate budget in place.

Project Management Services in relation to Art 2023

Members **agreed** that these services could be procured.

Tender for Digital Marketing Services

Member **agreed** that the services could be procured noting an indicative budget of €48k (excl VAT).

EHRD Evaluation of 3-year plan

Members **agreed** that an independent evaluator should be procured to undertake a review of the first three year plan.

[REDACTED]

HR Update

Members **noted** the update.

Arts Council at 70

Members **noted** the objectives and outline programme for the initiative.

Update Production Capacity in the Visual Arts

Member **noted** the increase in tender value to allow for international consultation.

[REDACTED]

21 – 12– 172 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 – 12– 173 Budget 2022

Members noted the presentation. Following consideration Members **agreed** the 2022 budget. Members also **agreed** that an end of year media appearance should be targeted.

21 – 12– 174 Third Party Schemes 2022

Members **agreed** the third party schemes for 2022. Members **agreed** that the prison schemes should be reviewed to see how they can be expanded and developed with a view to strengthening the partnership and increasing investment.

21 – 12– 175 Business Transformation Project Update

Deirdre Behan, Strategic Development Director and Phil Ryan Project Manager joined the meeting for this item. Members **agreed** the recommended approach and revised budget.

21 – 12– 176 Cnuas Recommendation

Members **agreed** the recommendation.

21 – 12– 177 Awards

Project Awards Round 1(2022)

Members **noted** the awards.

21 – 12– 178 Matters for Information

ARC Minutes 14 October 2021- Members **noted** the Minutes;

Business & Finance Committee Meetings 14 & 18 October 2021- Members **noted** the Minutes;

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

21 – 12– 179 Strategic and Arts Centre (incl Ealaín na Gaeltachta) Funding 2022

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director, joined the meeting for this item.

Members were updated on the approach adopted by Managers in the preparation of their recommendations. Members acknowledged the comprehensive, detailed and accurate paperwork and noted the significant progress which had been made. Members particularly referenced the following:-

- the significant progress in terms of understanding from organisations as to what being a strategic / arts centre funded organisation now means;
- really elevated recommendations welcomed;
- noted level of maturity and understanding of Arts Council policies;
- noted careful moderation exercise that was undertaken;
- progress on scoring really welcome;
- noted exceptional progress by some organisations;
- noted success of capacity and agility schemes;

[REDACTED]

YPCE

Seona Ni Bhriain, Head of YPCE, joined the meeting for this arts practice area. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

Visual Arts

Claire Doyle, Head of Visual Arts and Claire Power joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

Traditional Arts

Paul Flynn, Head of Traditional Arts, joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Theatre

Rachel West, Head of Theatre, and David Parnell joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

Members **noted** that Rachel West would be leaving her Head of Theatre role expressing personal thanks for her collegiality, advice and support.

Music

Niall Doyle, Head of Music, joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Opera

Niall Doyle, Head of Opera, remained in the meeting and Imelda Dervin, Head of Key Performing Arts Orgs joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Literature

Sarah Bannan, Head of Literature, joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Film

Fionnuala Sweeney, Head of Film, joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Artists' Support

Fionnuala Sweeney, Head of Artists' Support, remained in the meeting for this arts practice area. Members **agreed** the recommendation.

Architecture

Fionnuala Sweeney, Head of Architecture, remained in the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Festivals

Karl Wallace, Head of Festivals, joined the meeting for this arts practice area. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Dance

Lisa McLoughlin, Head of Dance, joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

Circus

Davide Terlingo, Head of Circus, joined the meeting for this artform. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Members **agreed** that a sectoral consultation, with the focus on the next stage of development, should be progressed.

Street Arts & Spectacle

Davide Terlingo, Head of Street Arts and Spectacle, remained in the meeting for this arts practice area. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

Arts Participation

Ann O'Connor, Head of Arts Participation, joined the meeting for this arts practice area. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Arts Centre Funding including Ealaín na Gaeltachta

Val Ballance, Head of Arts Centres, joined the meeting. Members **agreed** the recommendations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 – 12 – 180 Any Other Business

HR Project Management Resource Procurement

Members **agreed** the procurement allocating a €48k (excl VAT) budget for the service.

Retiring Members

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the five outgoing Members for their significant contributions over the past five years to making the Arts Council and wider arts sector much stronger. He noted his regret that it was not possible to mark the occasion in-person due to the ongoing Covid situation but hoped it would be possible to meet early in 2022.

[REDACTED]

There were no other matters arising.

Summary of Actions

- Members **agreed** the Minutes of 17 November Plenary Meeting;
- *Action tracker*- Members **agreed** that monthly updates to the tracker should be highlighted;
- *Charities Code of Governance*- Members **agreed** the recommendation to write to the Charities Regulator;
- [REDACTED]
- *Public Health Advice Contract Extension*- Members **agreed** the contract extension;
- *Project Management Services in relation to Art 2023*- Members **agreed** that these services could be procured;
- *Tender for Digital Marketing Services*- Member **agreed** that the services could be procured noting an indicative budget of €48k (excl VAT);
- *EHRD Evaluation of 3-year plan*- Members **agreed** that an independent evaluator should be procured to undertake a review of the first three year plan;
- *Business and Finance Committee Meeting 2 December 2021*- Members **agreed** the recommendations of the 2 December Business and Finance Committee Meeting;
- *Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 2 December 2021*-Members **agreed** the recommendations of the 2 December ARC Committee Meeting;

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- *Budget 2022*- Members **agreed** the 2022 budget. Members also **agreed** that an end of year media appearance should be targeted;
- *Third Party Schemes 2022*- Members **agreed** the third party schemes for 2022.
- *Artists in Prisons*- Members **agreed** that the prison schemes should be reviewed to see how they can be expanded and developed with a view to strengthening the partnership and increasing investment;
- *Business Transformation Project Update*- Members **agreed** the recommended approach and revised budget;
- *Cnuas Recommendation*- Members **agreed** the recommendation;
- *Strategic and Arts Centre (incl Ealaín na Gaeltachta) Funding 2022*- Members **agreed** the recommendations - see minute 21-12-179;
- *HR Project Management Resource Procurement*- Members **agreed** the procurement allocating a €48k (excl VAT) budget for the service;

Chair: _____

Date _____