

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

785th Plenary Meeting

07 February 2024

Philomena Poole, Deputy Chair, Jillian van Turnhout, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Teresa Buczkowska and Andrew Clancy.

In attendance:

Maureen Kennelly, Director, Martin O’Sullivan, *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Ciara Branagan, *Council Secretary & Payroll Manager*.

Note: Meeting took place in person and via Zoom video conference.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of Plenary Meeting held on 13 and 14 December 2023

Plenary Action Tracker

Operational Matters for Decision

Director’s Report and Matters for Information

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Awards and Schemes

For Information:-

- Risk Register
- Communications Report

24 – 01 – 001 Apologies

None

24 – 01 – 002 Chair’s Introduction

Conflicts of Interest- The Deputy 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 her of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

In relation to Council vacancies the Deputy Chair announced to members that progress is being made with a high volume of applications through the PAS process. Members noted the resignation of Ms Linda Coogan Byrne from the Council due to work commitments and thanked her for all she had contributed during her term.

Members also noted that the Audit and Risk Committee Chair position remains vacant and **agreed** that Ms Niamh Muldoon will act as interim Chair until this position is filled.

24 – 01 – 003 Minutes of Plenary Meeting

Members **agreed** the Minutes of meeting held on 13 and 14 December 2023.

24 – 01 – 004 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. [REDACTED]

24 – 01 – 005 Operational Matters for Decision

Meet the Arts Council Events 2024 Expenditure – Members **noted** their earlier agreement to the required indicative budget following circulation to Members, in January. Members **agreed** that this approval should also be formally recorded in these minutes.

Regional Co-ordination Procurement for Creative Schools - Mags Walsh, Creative Schools Director, joined the meeting for this item. Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting subject to contract values being in line with tender budget.

Arts Advisor Recommendations- Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Sinead O'Reilly, Arts Director and Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director joined the meeting for this item. Members **noted** the key role played by advisers and asked for additional clarification on the moderation process in place to mitigate against potential bias. Members **agreed** that the matter will be considered as part of funding framework review. Members also **agreed** that the current Advisers Contracts Register including end dates should be uploaded to the Reading Room. In relation to the recommendations the following were reviewed:-

- *Literature - Arts Team Assessment and Adviser Services* – Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting, with the preferred bidders.
- *Arts Centres - Arts Team Assessment and Adviser Services* – Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting, with the preferred bidders.
- *Arts Participation – Arts Team Assessment and Adviser Services* - Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting, with the preferred bidders.
- *Multi-Disciplinary - Arts Adviser Services Procurement Approval* - Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting, with the preferred bidders.

Procurement Adviser - Adviser Services Procurement Approval - Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting, with the preferred bidders.

[REDACTED]

24 – 01 – 006 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 – 01 – 007 Director's Report and Matters for Information

HR Update– Members **noted** the update. Members **agreed** that names should be added to the organogram.

[REDACTED]

Revenue Enhanced Reporting Requirements - Members **noted** the update.

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

24 – 01 – 008 Committee Reports

Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 31 January 2024

Jillian van Turnhout, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- Soft launches of both the Music and Children and Young People policies and the excellent work being done by the Safe Guarding Advisory Group were noted;
- Minutes of 21st November meeting were agreed;
- Matters arising were noted;
- Review of Committee 2023 performance was noted and approved;
- Workplan 2024 was approved;
- Realignment of arts teams into performing, creative and combined was noted;
- Update on 2023 implementation report was welcomed and noted;
- Arts Council Strategy 2026 discussion noted;
- Update on Funding Framework delivery approach and timing with paper coming back to April meeting;
- Street Performance and Spectacle Policy was agreed and recommended for approval to Council;
- Research log was noted;

Members **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Policy and Strategy Committee.

24 – 01 – 009 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 – 01 – 010 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 – 01 – 011 Appeals Panel Recommendations

[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 **approved** the Appeals Panel recommendations.

24 – 01 – 012 Awards and Schemes

Members **noted** the Awards and Schemes

24 – 01 – 013 Matters for Information

Risk Register - Emer O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the report [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Communications Report - Members **noted** the report. Members **agreed** that the 2024 timeline and plan should be added to the Report. Members **noted** the ShowUp campaign launching in February.

24 – 01 – 014 Any other business

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

There were no other matters arising.