

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

780th Plenary Meeting

20 September 2023

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Jillian van Turnhout, Dónall Curtin, Aoife Granville, Andrew Clancy, Philomena Poole, Brian Lavery, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Teresa Buczkowska, Mark O’Kelly, Róise Goan and Linda Coogan Byrne.

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 –

21 June 2023

29 June 2023

11 July 2023

Plenary Action Tracker

Operational Matters for Decision

Director’s Report and Matters for Information

[REDACTED]

YPCE Policy

[REDACTED]

Peer Panel

Business of Council

Council Diary 2024

[REDACTED]

Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Awards and Schemes

For Information:-

- Policy and Strategy Committee – Minutes 10 May
- Risk Register
- Communications Report

23 – 09 – 100 Apologies

None

23 – 09 – 101 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.

[REDACTED]

Annual Report 2022- Members **noted** that the Annual Report has been laid before the Oireachtas and can now be published.

23 – 09 – 102 Minutes of Plenary Meeting held

- 21 June 2023 - Members **agreed** the Minutes;
- 29 June 2023 – Members **agreed** the Minutes;
- 11 July 2023- Member **agreed** the Minutes.

23 – 09 – 103 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker.

23 – 09 – 104 Operational Matters for Decision

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Design, Brand & Print Agency Contract – Members **approved** the contract.

Irish Translation Services – Members **approved** the procurement of services and **agreed** that the contract with the preferred bidder should come back to Council for approval. Members **agreed** that an Irish speaker should be added to the procurement evaluation panel.

Arts Advisers Services – Members **approved** the procurements and **agreed** that the contracts with the preferred bidders should come back to Council for approval. Members **noted** that an updated paper on the role of advisers will be on the October agenda.

Art 2023 – Members **agreed** the recommendation.

Provision of Records Management and Archiving Services – Members **approved** the procurement of services and **agreed** that the contract with the preferred bidder should come back to Council for approval

Agreement to sign the climate adviser contract – Members **approved** the contract. Members sought clarity on whether the preferred bidder is working with other state agencies and what engagement to-date has taken place with the SEAI.

23 – 09 – 105 Director’s Report and Matters for Information

[REDACTED]

New Dance Company Call for Proposals Update – Members **noted** the update. Members **agreed** that the composition of the evaluation Panel should be circulated to Council Members by email, for information.

Public Art Update – Members **noted** the update. Members sought clarity on whether Local Authorities are fully aware of the scheme and suggested that there is a need to convey information to all government departments. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Members **agreed** that it would be important for public realm work to be part of the scheme.

HR update – Members **noted** the update. Members agreed that a mapping exercise of MGAW objectives/plan v required resources should be completed to identify resource requirements and available capacity within the staffing structure. Members noted and welcomed the accreditation received from Investors in Diversity. Members suggested other accreditation bodies and to look at what the Dept of Justice are doing in the EDI accreditation space.

Process for AGF Funding – Members **noted** the update.

Next Generation Update – Members **noted** the update.

ICT BAU Update – Members **noted** the update.

Dublin Port – Members **noted** the update.

Beyond Borders: PRSF/UK-IRL Arts Councils' scheme – update – Members **noted** the update.

[REDACTED]

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

23 – 09 – 105 Committee Reports

Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 06 September 2023

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

- Minutes 10 May 2023 meeting agreed.
- Members agreed a proposed update to the Duties section of the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Strategy committee.
- Members received an update on the Three-Year plan.
- Policy development framework- members had a good discussion of language e.g. Organisational Strategy, Strategic Policies and Art form/Art practice policies and also discussed importance of ensuring time spent on both creation and implementation phases.
- Policy Champions - agreed the paper would be brought back to the committee in November with further detail on the role and responsibilities of the champion.
- Safeguarding Project – agreed the proposal to Adopt Vulnerable Adults Policy. Agreed that this comes to Council at the earliest opportunity.
- Members discussed the EDI implementation plan and the Equality Data and Arts Council Awards Report 2022.
- Members received a verbal update on the development of the Circus, Street Art and Spectacle Policy.
- Members noted the review of Resource Organisations research.

- Members agreed the draft Policy for Children and Young People’s Arts.
- Members noted that an update on the implementation of the architecture policy will come to the next meeting.

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

23 – 09 – 106 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 107 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 108 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 109 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 110 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 111 Draft YPCE Policy
Liz Meaney, Arts Director remained in the meeting for this item.

Members **approved** the YPCE Policy and congratulated Seóna and the YPCE Champions on getting the policy to this final stage and thanked them for all of the hard work throughout. Members **noted** that the Policy & Strategy Committee will monitor implementation and revert

to Council with updates. Members also **noted** that the Policy should be a model for other future policies.

23 – 09 – 112 Arts Council Awards and Disability Benefits Update

Deirdre Behan, Strategic Development Director and Toby Dennett, Strategic Development Manager joined the meeting for this item.

While Members welcomed the progress update, they expressed an urgent need for the Arts Council to take an active role in trying to bring about change in this critical area. Members **agreed** that a short briefing on the initiatives that we are recommending and prioritising (c 5 or 6) should be prepared. Members **agreed** that an interim review by Policy & Strategy would be good to tease matters out. All necessary technical advice required should be sourced.

23 – 09 – 113 [REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 114 Peer Panel Development Update

Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director remained in the meeting and Liz Meaney, Arts Director joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the update and asked that Council engagement be built into the requirements.

23 – 09 – 115 Business of Council Amendment

Members considered the recommendations and supporting legal advice provided. Members **agreed** the recommendations in relation to both routine & non routine expenditure. Members also **agreed** to retain the right to request an additional contract stage approval for any procurement, where it is deemed appropriate to do so. Members agreed that the impact of the change would be reviewed at the June 2024 Plenary.

23 – 09 – 116 Council Diary 2024

Members discussed the Council Diary 2024. Members noted that an additional September Plenary meeting should be included, also suggestion that all Grants decisions meeting should be in-person and the need to correctly reference the Collection’s Committee. Members **agreed** that the Council Diary should come back to the October meeting for final approval.

23 – 09 – 117 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 09 – 118 Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Members **approved** the Aosdána Cnuas recommendations.

23 – 09 – 119 Awards and Schemes

Members **noted** the Awards and Schemes

23 – 09 – 120 Matters for Information

Policy and Strategy Committee 10 May Minutes – Members **noted** the minutes.

Risk Register – Members **noted** the report.

Communications Report - Members **noted** the report.

23 – 09 – 121 Any other business

Members were notified that an exceptional additional item will be discussed at next week's Arts Grants Plenary meeting and that a paper on the matter will be circulated to Members.

There were no other matters arising.