

## Document 3.1

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

## 752<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting

### 21 April 2021

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

#### **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

Conflicts of Interest (Touring Funding 2021)

Minutes of Plenary Meeting held on 18 March 2021

Plenary Action Tracker

Director’s Report

Touring 2021 recommendations

[REDACTED]

Commemorations Programme Approach

Re-opening Guidelines

Presentation on Open Call Scheme

[REDACTED]

Awards and Schemes

[REDACTED]

For Information- Risk Register & Comms Report

#### **21– 04– 040 Apologies**

None.

#### **21 –04– 041 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]

*The Ireland Chair of Poetry Trustees* - Members **noted** ongoing discussions.

## 21 – 04– 042 Minutes of Plenary Meeting held on 18 March 2021

[REDACTED] the Minutes of 18 March Plenary Meeting were **agreed**.

### 21 – 04– 043 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker update.

Members **agreed** that the action tracker would be amended in the future to remove duplications and set delivery dates for all actions.

There were no other matters arising.

### 21 – 04– 044 Director's Report

#### *Open Call 2022 Budget*

Members **agreed** a forward commitment of €1.075m from the 2022 budget for the Open Call Scheme.

#### *Open Call 2021*

Member **noted** the four awards.

#### *Emergency Stabilisation Fund*

Members **noted** that an additional round of the Emergency Stabilisation Fund is to be offered in 2021 to Strategic and Arts Centre funded organisations.

Separately, Members **noted** a viability issue in relation to circus organisations funded through other schemes. Members **agreed** that the Arts Council should engage with the Department to support and assist the sector.

#### *Director's Diary*

Members **noted** the diary.

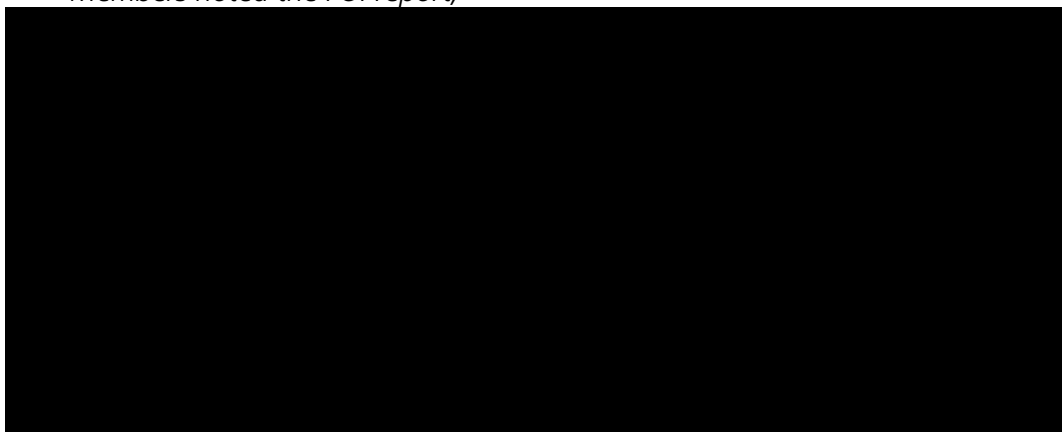
### 21 – 04– 045 Committee Reports

#### *Business & Finance Committee 20 April 2021*

Martina Moloney, Committee Chairman, updated members on the key recommendations:-

- *Minutes of 24 February 2021*- were agreed;
- *Members agreed the Quarter 1 2021 Draft Management accounts*;
- *Arts Adviser Costs*- agreed that existing classification would be subject to discussion outside the committee;
- *HR Report*- Members agreed that an updated table detailing numbers of 1) staff 2) agency support and 3) contractors in place should be included in the next HR report;
- *Members noted the ICT BAU report*;

- Members noted the FOI report;



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

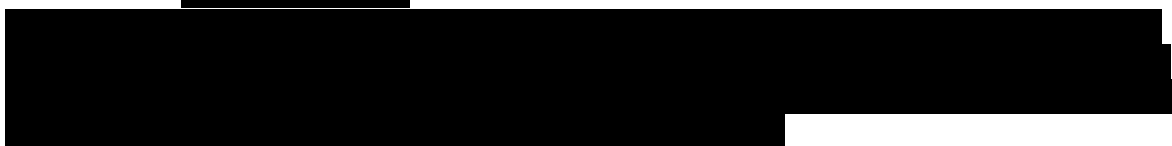
#### *Policy and Strategy Committee 21 April 2021*

Loughlin Deegan, Committee Chairman, updated members on the key recommendations:-

- Minutes 17 February were agreed;
- Update on digital work programme was noted;
- Update on current policy champions and related requirements/needs;
- Presentation around proposed approach for three year plan (2022-2025);
- Update on proposed approach to review the funding framework;
- Spatial Policy - update on progress;
- EHRD policy implementation update;
- Progress update on the revised paying-the-artist implementation plan;
- Considered first draft of the proposed architecture policy;
- Agreed €20k for traditional arts mentoring proposal;
- Presentation on Creative Schools evaluation - noted that this matter needs further discussion;

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

**21 – 04– 046**



#### **21 – 04– 047 Touring 2021 recommendations and 2022 Budget**

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Val Ballance, Head of Arts Centres joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Members **agreed** the recommendation to increase the 2021 touring budget to €808k (excl Strategic and Arts Centre touring decisions already made).

Members **agreed** the Touring recommendations. [REDACTED]

Members **agreed** a budget allocation of €2m for 2022 Touring.

Members **noted** their confidence with the assessment process and thanked the Executive. Separately, Members suggested the need to be focusing on Touring from a strategic viewpoint. [REDACTED]

### **21 – 04– 048 Commemorations Programme Approach**

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, remained in the meeting for this agenda item. Members **noted** and welcomed the proposed approach for 2023.

### **21 – 04– 049 Re-opening Guidelines**

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, remained in the meeting for this agenda item. Members welcomed the update and **noted** the leadership the Arts Council is showing and asked that it was important to keep the arts sector aware of the interventions being made. Members noted that action was urgently required to accelerate protocols in relation to opening up indoor events which had proved to be safe and well-run in the summer months of 2020 when restrictions were previously eased.

### **21 – 04– 050 Presentation on Open Call Scheme**

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, remained in the meeting for this agenda item and Karl Wallace, Head of Festivals joined the meeting.

Members **noted** and welcomed the presentation on the 2021 successful applicants, and plans for the next version of the scheme.

Members highlighted the role the scheme might have in 1) being able to target hard-to-reach communities groups in terms of participation/engagement with the arts ; and 2) promoting diversity.

### **21 – 04– 051** [REDACTED]

### **21 – 04– 052 Awards & Schemes**

*Theatre Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

*Architecture Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

*Film Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

*Literature (Irish) Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

*Arts Participation Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

Members asked for the attendance record of the meeting to be reviewed.

*Circus and Street Arts Bursary (202, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

*YPCE Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

*Dance Bursary Panel (2021, Round 1)*

Members **noted** the recommendations. [REDACTED]

**21 – 04– 053** [REDACTED]

**21 – 04– 054 For Information- Risk Register & Comms Report**

*Risk Register*

Members **noted** the Risk Register [REDACTED]

*Public Affairs & Communications Report*

Members **noted** the report. Members **agreed** that the Arts Council's LinkedIn account needed to be used to a greater extent (with different emphasis to postings on other platforms).

Members also **agreed** that a survey of readers of the Newsletter should be undertaken.

**21 – 04– 055 Any Other Business**

*Business to Arts Awards 21 April*

Members **noted** the awards.

*RAISE Symposium 15 June*

Members **noted** the proposed event.

*Finance & Governance Team*

Members **noted** the ongoing contribution of the team.

*Members Chairing Panels*

Thanks **noted** to Members for their time and attention in chairing Panels