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The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

741st Plenary Meeting

17 June 2020

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair, Paddy Glackin, Mark O’Kelly, Loughlin Deegan, Helen Shaw, Martina Moloney, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Dónall Curtin, Sinead Moriarty, Teresa Buczkowska, Jillian van Turnhout, 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 of the Plenary Meeting held on 19 May

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 2 June

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 12 June

Director’s Report

Architecture Policy

Spatial Policy

Festivals Policy

Risk Register

Overview of Patterns and Themes emerging across the Artforms / Practice areas

Delegated Authority 2021

Awards & Schemes

Draft 2019 Financial Statements

Draft Letter of Representation

Draft Chairman’s Letter to the Minister

20– 06– 088 Apologies

None.

20 – 06– 089 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.

Additional €20 million support package for 2020- Members **noted** and welcomed the confirmation acknowledging the key roles played by both the Chair and Director in securing the additional funding package.

Expert Advisory Group Draft Report- Members welcomed the work done to-date and **noted** that the final report would be forwarded to the Department on Friday 19 June.



20 – 06– 090 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 19 May

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 19 May meeting.

20 – 06– 091 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 2 June

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 2 June meeting.

20 – 06– 092 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 12 June

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 12 June meeting.

20 – 06– 093 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

20 – 06– 094 Director's Report

Procurement of Project Lead Services for Creative Schools

Members **agreed** to the procurement of the services required.

Culture Night Update

Members **noted** the update.

Communications Report

Members welcomed progress particularly noting increased local media coverage. Members however, highlighted certain matters requiring attention to facilitate a better understanding of the information provided in the Communications Report including improved context on benchmark metrics to measure success of communications. Members also asked that the report was corrected to correctly reflect the Council's previous decision on a proposed digital platform. It was **agreed** that Communications Report would not be used to bring Strategic initiatives to Council's attention. Members also discussed progress in establishing a Communications Working Group.

EHRD Policy Update

Members **noted** the update and work underway. Members recommended a briefing for students so as to encourage later research on the policy.

Recruitment Update

Members **noted** the update.

Additional July Council Meeting July 15

Members **noted** the additional Council Meeting.

20 – 06– 095 Policy Updates

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Architecture Policy

Fionnuala Sweeney, Head of Architecture, joined the meeting for this item and updated Members on the draft architecture policy.

Following a detailed discussion Members identified the following matters:-

- the need to communicate better and give more visibility to architecture as an artform;
- work with architects to develop their artistic practice;
- right time to explore and consider architecture's role and priorities;
- examine current supports for architecture and identify gaps;

- contribute to greater public and critical awareness of architecture.

Members welcomed and **agreed** the policy.

Spatial Policy Update

Monica Corcoran, Strategic Development Manager, joined the meeting for this item.

Members were updated on the key elements of the policy namely, principles, practice and process including the timeline for delivery.

Following a detailed discussion, Members welcomed and **noted** the progress made and **agreed** that an additional Policy and Strategy Meeting should be scheduled in September to further review progress.

Festivals Policy Update

Karl Wallace, Head of Festivals, joined the meeting for this item and gave an update to Members on the key elements of the draft policy.

Following a detailed discussion the following matters were identified for further consideration:-

- Treatment of volunteers - look to progress code of practice or minimum acceptable standards;
- merits of specialist resource organisation for sector should be referenced;
- close alignment with the spatial policy was encouraged;
- reference to new festivals should be encouraged;
- promote new communities access to and engagement with festivals;
- facilitate the development of the sector's digital capacity, recognising its integral function to the complexion of festivals;
- the concepts of space and place need to be expanded;

Members welcomed and **noted** the progress made to-date.

20 – 06– 096 Delegated Authority 2021

Members **agreed** the schemes, awards and grants under Delegated Authority for 2021.

20 – 06– 097 Awards

Deis Recording and Publication Award 2020

Members **noted** the 2020 awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Markievicz Award 2020

Members **noted** the 2020 awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Young Ensemble Scheme 2020

Members **noted** the 2020 awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Members **agreed** that updated procedures and guidelines for panellists (including greater clarity on feedback comments to applicants) should be updated to incorporate the remote panel process recognising that different approaches for different art form / practice areas may be required.

20 – 06– 098 Reports

Audit and Risk Committee 17 June

Dónall Curtin, Committee Chair, updated members on the meeting and recommendations

made:

- Minutes 18 May Meeting were agreed;
- Draft 2019 Financial Statements were agreed subject to agreed changes being made to the Governance Statement and Council Members' Report;
- Draft Letter of Representation was agreed;
- Draft Chairman's letter to the Minister was agreed;
- Draft Annual Report text was noted.

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

20 – 06– 099 Draft 2019 Financial Statements

On the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee Members **agreed**:-

1. Draft 2019 Financial Statements;
2. That the Chair and ARC Committee Chairman be the nominated Council signatories;
3. Draft Letter of Representation;
4. Draft Chairman's Letter to the Minister.

Members expressed their thanks to the Finance team for their successful completion and management of the 2019 audit process.

20 – 06– 100

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 – 06– 101 Expert Advisory Group Report

Members were given an overview of the draft report which had been circulated to Members in advance. Members were informed that the intention was to now finalise the report and submit to the Department.

Following detailed discussion Members unanimously **approved** the Report referencing its completion and the additional funding received as an 'incredible response' and achievement which will be well received by all stakeholders.

Members expressed their thanks to all Arts Council staff involved attributing particular credit to Úna Carmody for her management and oversight.

Members **agreed** that an 'in principle' paper, around the budgetary approach and allocation of the additional funding, will be brought to the 24 June Plenary Meeting.

20 – 06– 102 Any Other Business

Board and Committee Evaluation Report

Members were informed that David Duffy will make a presentation on his findings to the September Plenary Meeting.

