

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

## 744th Plenary Meeting

### 16 September 2020

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair, 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, Liz Meaney, Arts Director Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director, Ciara Branagan Finance and Council Executive.

**Note: Kevin Rafter, Maureen Kennelly and Martin O’Sullivan were in Merrion Square; other members participants via Zoom video conference.**

#### **Documents before the meeting**

Agenda  
Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 15 July  
Director’s Report  
Emergency Stabilisation Fund Recommendations  
Arts Grant Funding 2021 Recommendations  
[REDACTED]  
Survive, Adapt, Renew Update  
[REDACTED]  
Conflicts Policy  
Communications Working Group Draft TORs  
Panel List Renewal  
Cnuas Recommendations  
Awards and Schemes  
Minutes of Policy & Strategy Meeting 18 May 2020  
[REDACTED]

#### **20– 09– 124 Apologies**

Paddy Glackin.

#### **20 – 09– 125 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 Activity Report- Members **noted** the report.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Committee and Working Group Membership-* Members **agreed** the following changes:-

- Business and Finance Committee- Pádraig Ó Duinnín appointed;
- Policy and Strategy Committee- Teresa Buczkowska appointed and Pádraig Ó Duinnín retired;
- Abbey Working Group- Melatu Uchenna Okorie appointed and Helen Shaw retired;

Members also discussed the possibility of a female appointment to the Aosdána Working Group.

#### **20 – 09– 126 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 15 July**

The Minutes of the 15 July Plenary meeting were **agreed**.

#### **20 – 09– 127 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **20 – 09– 128 Director’s Report**

[REDACTED]

#### *Ealaín na Gaeltachta Bursary Scheme*

Members satisfied themselves that the policy basis for this investment was appropriate. Members **agreed** to provide support of €100k to Ealaín na Gaeltachta’s Bursary Scheme. Members also **agreed** that the Arts Council should take an active role in promoting its involvement in this bursary scheme.

#### *Partnership with Fáilte Ireland on the development of guidelines and initiatives for arts organisations, festival & event organisers to support their survival and recovery due to Covid 19*

Members welcomed and **noted** the partnership agreement. Members also **agreed** to provide €20k towards the procurement of a service provider in relation to advice, analysis and research towards the dissemination of these guidelines and protocols.

#### *Festival Investment Scheme 2021*

Members **agreed** a forward commitment of €2 million from the 2021 budget for the Festival Investment Scheme 2021.

[REDACTED]

#### *Open Call 2021 Phase 2 & 3*

Members **agreed** a forward commitment of €1.05m from the 2021 budget for the Open Call Scheme- of which an amount of up to €50k should be ring-fenced for scheme communications.

*Creative Schools Additional budget Support 2020*

Members **agreed** to award additional funding to all participating schools of €1,100.

*Remote working - Code of Governance Framework*

Members **agreed** the update to the standing order 2.8.11 for Council, Committee and Working Group Meetings.

*Governing Body of Institute of Technology, Sligo*

Members **agreed** to nominate Sarah Searson. Members also **agreed** that a review of the nominations policy for such appointments should be undertaken.

*Committee and Working Group Membership*

Members **noted** current membership across all Committees and Working Groups.



*Culture Night and Pay the Artist*

Members **noted** the update.

*Arts Council Collection Acquisitions Committee*

Members **noted** the acquisitions made in July 2020.

*Update on Spatial policy development work*

Members **noted** the update.

*EHRD Policy Update*

Members **noted** the update. Members **noted** the urgent need to appoint a Head of Diversity and Inclusion. Members also reiterated the need to embed EHRD principles across our media platforms.

*Excess hours*

Members **noted** the update.

*PR Contract*

Members **noted** the creation of the new Communications Working Group and the plan for this group to inform a new communications strategy and related implementation to include a review of all outsourced costs in communications and PR. In this context, Members **agreed** that the award of a PR contract at the present time would be premature and **agreed** to terminate the current tender process. Members also **agreed** that a statement to this effect should be posted on etenders to notify all tenderers.

*Planning for 2021*

Member **noted** the update and that 21 October Meeting is being set aside to discuss

scenarios & approaches for 2021.

[REDACTED]

#### **20 – 09– 129 Emergency Stabilisation Fund Recommendations**

Members were updated on background and approach. Members were informed that the assessment process applied a number of different factors, with aim to ensure both a robust and consistent assessment approach.

1. a review of the actual operational trading result for the 18-month period from January 2020 to June 2021, in order to assess the likely operational surplus or deficit outcome for calendar year 2020.
2. a review of the actual movements in cashflow for the 18-month period from Jan 2020 to June 2021 to ensure that there was a correlation between both.

Members **noted** that eighteen applications had been received and that recommendations to sixteen had been made. [REDACTED]

Members **agreed** the recommendations. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

#### **20 – 09– 130 Arts Grant Funding Recommendations 2021**

Members were provided with a brief overview of each of the artform / practice areas in the context of the AGF programme by the Managers. Members welcomed the individual artform / practice context updates.

Members **agreed** that future recommendation texts should also address 1) EHRD, 2) Paying the artist and 3) Governance.

[REDACTED]. Following review of the recommendations decisions on the following were deferred:-

[REDACTED]

Members reviewed the remainder of the recommendations and **agreed** the recommended amounts.

Members **agreed** that grants awarded under delegated authority should be included in future recommendation papers.

## 20 – 09– 131 Reports

### *Policy & Strategy Committee 16 September*

Loughlin Deegan, Committee Chair, updated members on the meeting and recommendations made:

- *Minutes of 18 May 2020-* were agreed;
- *Equality, Human Rights & Diversity (EHRD) policy implementation- Progress Report* given;
- *Creative Places Tuam Update Report* provided;
- *Discussion around new Music Policy & related timeline;*
- *New Funding programmes update;*
- Additional meeting date agreed for October.

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

## 20 – 09– 132 Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the Cnuas recommendations.

## 20 – 09– 133 Any Other Business

### *Deferred Remaining Agenda Matters*

Members **agreed** to defer the remaining agenda items to a future meeting.

### *Summary of decisions*

- *Committee and Working Group Membership-* Members **agreed** changes to Committee and Working Group membership;
- *Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 15 July-* The Minutes of the 15 July Plenary meeting were **agreed**;

- *Ealaín na Gaeltachta Bursary Scheme-* Members **agreed** to provide support of €100k to Ealaín na Gaeltachta's Bursary Scheme. Members also **agreed** that the Arts Council should take an active role in promoting its involvement in this bursary scheme;
- *Partnership with Fáilte Ireland on the development of guidelines and initiatives for arts organisations, festival & event organisers to support their survival and recovery due to Covid 19-* **agreed** to provide €20k towards the procurement of a service

provider in relation to advice, analysis and research towards the dissemination of these guidelines and protocols;

- *Festival Investment Scheme 2021*- Members **agreed** a forward commitment of €2 million from the 2021 budget for the Festival Investment Scheme 2021. [REDACTED]
- *Open Call 2021 Phase 2 & 3*- Members **agreed** a forward commitment of €1.05m from the 2021 budget for the Open Call Scheme- of which an amount of up to €50k should be ring-fenced for scheme communications;
- *Creative Schools Additional Budget Support 2020*- Members **agreed** to award additional funding to all participating schools of €1,100;
- *Remote working - Code of Governance Framework*- Members **agreed** the update to the standing order 2.8.11 for Council, Committee and Working Group Meetings;
- *Governing Body of Institute of Technology, Sligo*- Members **agreed** to nominate Sarah Searson. Members also **agreed** that a review of the nominations policy for such appointments should be undertaken; [REDACTED]
- *PR Contract*- Members **agreed** that the award of a PR contract at the present time would be premature and **agreed** to terminate the current tender process. Members also **agreed** that a statement to this effect should be posted on etenders to notify all tenderers; [REDACTED]
- *Emergency Stabilisation Fund Recommendations*- Members **agreed** the recommendations;
- *Arts Grant Funding Recommendations 2021*- Members **agreed** the recommendations; also **agreed** that grants awarded under delegated authority should be included in future recommendation papers;
- *Policy & Strategy Committee 16 September*- **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee;
- *Cnuas Recommendations*- Members **agreed** the Cnuas recommendations;
- *Deferred Remaining Agenda Matters*- Members **agreed** to defer the remaining agenda items to a future meeting