

Document 3.2

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

760th Plenary Meeting

20 October 2021

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Dónall Curtin, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Helen Shaw, Martina Moloney, 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
Chair Activity Report
Minutes 15 / 16 September Plenary Meeting
Plenary Action Tracker
Director’s Report
Universal Basic Income
Cnuas Recommendations
Awards and Schemes
For Information-Risk Register and Committee Minutes

21 – 10– 128 Apologies

Pádraig Ó Duinnín.

21 – 10 – 129 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.

Diary 2022- Members **noted** that the diary would be circulated in advance of November Plenary meeting.

Budget 2022- Members **noted** and welcomed the €130m Exchequer funding allocation for 2022.

Meeting with Minister- Members **noted** that a meeting took place with the Minister prior to the budget and that a further meeting is planned for 8 November.

Chair’s Activity Report- Members **noted** the report.

Artistic Activity- **noted** all the ongoing activity demonstrating how the arts sector is successfully responding, with some particularly high calibre productions in recent weeks.

Committee Governance Matters - Members **agreed** that Martina Moloney will remain as Chair of the Business and Finance Committee to 30 June 2022 and that Jillian van Turnhout is to become the new Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee effective from December 2021.

21 – 10– 130 Minutes 15 and 16 September Plenary Meeting 2021

Members agreed the Minutes.

21 – 10– 131 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members agreed 1) remove duplicate actions and 2) include an intended deadline date against all outstanding actions.

21 – 10– 132 Director's Report

Business and Finance – Terms of Reference

A temporary amendment to the terms of reference was **agreed**.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approach to incomplete Strategic Funding 2022 applications

Members **agreed** the recommended approach.

Research on circus infrastructures

Members **agreed** the recommendation allocating an indicative budget of €15k.

[REDACTED]

Procurement of additional Creative Associates

Members **agreed** the recommendation.

Per Cent for Art Scheme - two year development programme

Members **noted** the two year development programme and agreed that the necessary procurement could proceed. Members **agreed** that the related communications issues should also be identified and planned.

Arts Council at 70 Budget allocation

Members **agreed** a budget of €500,000 for all associated events and communication.

Staffing & recruitment

Members **noted** the report. Members **agreed** that staffing and recruitment should be a standing item and should be shown in tabular form with 'in's & out's' clearly identified.

Return to office

Members **noted** the update.

Clore Fellowship/Jerome Hynes Fellowship

Members welcomed the proposal but asked the Executive to explore the possibility of more short term courses.

Update on Arts Council investment in Irish Research Council's Enterprise Partnership Scheme
Members *noted* the update and the possible budgetary commitment if an Arts Council project is selected.

Property Update

Members **noted** the update.

EHRD Update

Members **noted** the update.

Creative Places Programme Update

Members *deferred* discussion on this matter to November meeting.

Charity Regulatory Authority Trustee Matters

Members *noted* the update.

Artists' Workplace Studio Update

Members **noted** and welcomed the level of activity and significant progress made. Members **agreed** that short strategy plan should be developed to support proposed activity.

Peer Panel Master List

Members **noted** that the Peer Panel master list had been expanded and that Master List of members would be brought to the November Council Meeting for information.

Director's Diary Report

Members *noted* the report.

21 – 10– 133 Workforce Review 2021

Shane McQuillan and Vanya Sargent from Crowe joined the meeting for this item and made a presentation.

Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** the plan in principle and also **agreed** that a related action plan should be brought back to November meeting.

Members acknowledged the role of Alison Sleeth, Head of HR, in the completion of the review.

21 – 10– 134 Budget 2022

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

Martina Moloney, Chair of the Business and Finance Committee, updated Members on the Budget 2022 discussion around approach and priorities that had already taken place at 18 October Committee meeting.

Members then received presentations on Strategic and Arts Centre funding priorities and an overview of the proposed high level budget allocations for 2022.

Members **noted** that the full budget will come back for agreement to the December Plenary Meeting. Members thanked the staff for their work to date on the budget.

21 – 10– 135 Basic Income Guarantee - Pilot Scheme for the Arts

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director, and Toby Dennett, Strategic Development Manager, joined the meeting for this item.

Members were briefed on the proposed pilot. Members **noted** and welcomed the update. Members **agreed** that it should go forward to the Policy and Strategy in November for further discussion.

21 – 10– 136 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 – 10– 137 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 – 10– 138 Committee Reports

Audit and Risk Committee 14 October

Dónall Curtin, Committee Chairman, updated Members on the key recommendations:-

- Minutes 18 May 2021 and 2 July 2021 were approved
- The Budgeting and Financial Reporting Review was approved;
- The Review of Grants Management Terms of Reference were agreed;
- The Business Continuity Review Terms of Reference were agreed;
- Progress on outstanding IA recommendations was noted;
- C&AG Management Letter was noted;
- The Risk Register was agreed;
- The Cyber Security Update presentation was noted.

Members **agreed** the recommendations of the 14 October Audit and Risk Committee.

Business and Finance Committee Meetings 14 and 18 October

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

- Minutes of 30 June 2021- were agreed;
- Members agreed the Quarter 3 2021 Draft Management accounts;
- Budget 2022 – Members agreed to meet on Monday 18 Oct to discuss this item;
- Draft Business Continuity Plan: Members reviewed the plan and agreed to recommend it to Council next week. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- ICT BAU Report; Members noted the report;
- Business Transformation Budget Update: Members reviewed the presentation. Members noted the Lessons Learned report;
- HR Report: Members noted the report;
- FOI Update: Members noted the report;
- Property Update: Members noted the report;
- Risk Register: Members noted the report.

- Members at its special 18 October meeting- noted budget 2022 approach and priorities [REDACTED]

Members **agreed** the recommendations of the 14 and 18 October Business and Finance Committee Meetings.

21 – 10– 139 Business Transformation Project Update

Deirdre Behan, Strategic Development Director and Phil Ryan Project Manager joined the meeting for this item.

Members noted that a full presentation had been made to the 18 October Business and Finance Meeting. Members **agreed** that the matter should be discussed in detail at the November Council Plenary Meeting.

21 – 10– 140 Agility Award & Capacity Building Support Scheme: Next Steps

Caoimhe Ní Riagáin, Operations Manager, joined the meeting for this item.

Members were updated on proposed next steps. Following discussion Members **agreed** 1) to run the Agility Award and Bursary Award round 1 2022 concurrently subject to, an applicant being only able to apply for an Agility Award or Bursary, but not both and 2) to one round of the Capacity Building Support Scheme for 2022.

21 – 10– 141 Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

21 – 10– 142 Awards

Bursaries (Round 2) 2021

Members **noted** the awards.

21 – 10– 143 Matters for Information

Business and Finance Committee Minutes 30 June 2021- Members **noted** the Minutes;
Audit & Risk Committee Minutes 18 May and 2 July 2021- Members **noted** the Minutes;
Risk Register- Members **noted** the Risk Register.

21 – 10 – 144 Any Other Business

There were no other matters arising.

Summary of Actions

- *Committee Governance Matters* - Members **agreed** that Martina Moloney will remain as Chair of the Business and Finance Committee to 30 June 2022 and that Jillian van Turnhout is to become the new Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee effective from December 2021.
- *Minutes 15 and 16 September Plenary Meeting 2021-* Members **agreed** the Minutes.

- *Action Tracker* - Members **agreed** 1) remove duplicate actions and 2) include an intended deadline date against all outstanding actions.
- *Business and Finance – Terms of Reference* - A temporary amendment to the terms of reference was **agreed**.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- *Research on circus infrastructures* - Members **agreed** the recommendation allocating an indicative budget of €15k.
- [REDACTED]
- *Procurement of additional Creative Associates* - Members **agreed** the recommendation.
- *Per Cent for Art Scheme - two year development programme* - Members **noted** the two year development programme and **agreed** that the necessary procurement could proceed. Members **agreed** that the related communications issues should also be identified and planned.
- *Arts Council at 70 Budget allocation* - Members **agreed** a budget of €500,000 for all associated events and communication.
- *Staffing & recruitment* - Members **noted** the report. Members **agreed** that staffing and recruitment should be a standing item and should be shown in tabular form with 'in's & out's' clearly identified.
- *Clare Fellowship/Jerome Hynes Fellowship* - Members **deferred** decision on the proposed recommendation. Members asked the Executive to be more ambitious and specific around the types of training programmes recommended.
- *Creative Places Programme Update* - Members **deferred** discussion on this matter.
- *Artists' Workplace Studio Update* - Members **noted** and welcomed the level of activity and significant progress made. Members **agreed** that an action plan should be developed to support proposed activity.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- *Budget 2022* - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Members thanked the staff for their work to-date on the budget
- *Basic Income Pilot for the Arts* - Members **agreed** that it should go forward to the Policy and Strategy in November for further discussion.
- [REDACTED]
- *Audit and Risk Committee 14 October* - Members **agreed** the recommendations of the 14 October Audit and Risk Committee.
- *Business and Finance Committee Meetings 14 and 18 October* - Members **agreed** the recommendations of the 14 and 18 October Business and Finance Committee Meetings.
- *Business Transformation Project Update* - Members agreed that the matter should be discussed in detail at the November Council Plenary Meeting.
- *Agility Award & Capacity Building Support Scheme: Next Steps* - Members **agreed** 1) to run the Agility Award and Bursary Award round 1 2022 concurrently subject to, an

applicant being only able to apply for an Agility Award or Bursary, but not both and 2) to one round of the Capacity Building Support Scheme for 2022.

- *Cnuas Recommendations* - Members **agreed** the recommendations.