

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

784th Plenary Meeting

13 and 14 December 2023

Day 1

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Teresa Buczkowska.

Day 2

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Teresa Buczkowska.

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

[REDACTED]

Conflicts of Interest Partnership Funding 2024
Conflicts of Interest Arts Centre Funding 2024
Conflicts of Interest Strategic Funding 2024
Minutes of Plenary Meeting held on 15 November 2023
Plenary Action Tracker
Operational Matters for Decision
Director’s Report and Matters for Information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EDI Update

[REDACTED]

Audit and Risk Committee – External Member

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Aosdaná Cnuas Recommendations

Awards and Schemes

For Information:-

- Audit and Risk Committee – Minutes 11 October
- Policy and Strategy Committee – Minutes 06 September
- Risk Register
- Communications Report

[REDACTED]

23 – 12 – 163 Apologies

Andrew Clancy, Linda Coogan Byrne.

23 – 12 – 164 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]

23 – 12 – 165 Strategic Funding 2024 Recommendations

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Sinead O’Reilly, Arts Director, joined the meeting for this item. Managers joined the meeting for each of their individual artforms as recommendations came before Council.

Members **agreed** the Strategic funded recommendations as recommended [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Members noted that recommendation papers are getting longer and asked whether a word count option should be considered for future versions.

23 – 12 – 166 Arts Centres Funding 2024 Recommendation

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Sinead O’Reilly, Arts Director, remained in the meeting for this item. Martin Murphy, Arts Centres Advisor, and Michael Barker Caven, Head of Arts Centres, also joined the meeting for this item.

Members **agreed** the Arts Centres funded recommendations for 2024. [REDACTED]

Members **agreed** that a specific presentation re purpose and role of Arts Centres should be added to a future Council Meeting agenda.

23 – 12 – 167 Local Authority Partnership Funding 2024 Recommendations (including Culture Night, Creative Places and Ealain na Gaeltacht)

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Sinead O’Reilly, Arts Director, remained in the meeting for this item.

Members **agreed** the Local Authority Partnership Funding recommendations for 2024. [REDACTED] Culture Night and Creative Places allocations for 2024 were also **agreed**.

23 – 12 – 168 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 12 – 169 Minutes of Plenary Meeting

Members **agreed** the Minutes of meeting held on 15 November 2023.

23 – 12 – 170 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members **agreed** that the Executive should look at the process for how Safe to Create is being implemented. [REDACTED]

Dublin Port - Members **agreed** that an additional site visit should be scheduled at the end of January. Members also **agreed** that Róise Goan together with Andrew Clancy are to become champions for this project with outgoing Member Mark O’Kelly to also remain involved.

23 – 12 – 171 Operational Matters for Decision

Cultural and Creative Industries Skillnet Network Memorandum of Understanding – Members **agreed** to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding subject to the final draft agreement, requiring Council approval.

[REDACTED]

Arts Adviser Services – Young People, Children and Education – Members **approved** the proposed procurements and subsequent contracting, with the preferred bidders.

Agreement to sign the File Management and Archiving Services contract - Members **approved** the recommendation to proceed to sign the contract with the preferred bidder.

23 – 12 – 172 Director’s Report and Matters for Information

Arts & Health National Work – update – Members **noted** the update. Separately Members requested that in relation to the planned economic impact of the arts study that arts & health plus education should be added to the scope of the review.

Pilot Arts in Early Learning & Care and School Age Childcare Scheme – Members **noted** and welcomed the update.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Advisers Update- Members **noted** the update. Members **agreed** the table should be updated to reflect actual annual contract amounts and **agreed** that it should then be uploaded to Reading Room. Members **agreed** that all adviser procurements need to be simultaneously included on newsletter and Arts Council social media channels going forward.

[REDACTED]

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

23 – 12 – 173 Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee Meeting 06 December 2023

Philomena Poole, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- Minutes 12 October and 9 November 2023 meeting agreed. Action tracker noted;

[REDACTED]

- MGAW 3yr Plan presentation was noted. Members agreed a further update should be brought to the next meeting;

[REDACTED]

- FOI register was noted;

[REDACTED]

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

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 15 December 2023

Philomena Poole, Committee Member, updated Members as follows:-

- Members approved the minutes of 11 October 2023;
- Members approved the action tracker;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Draft 2022 Management Letter was noted;

- [REDACTED]

Members **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee.

23 – 12 – 174 Audit and Risk Committee External Member

Members **agreed** the recommendation to appoint Caroline McGroary as an external member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

23 – 12 – 175 Budget 2024

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

Members **agreed** the recommended budget for 2024. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 – 12 – 177 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 12 – 178 EDI Implementation Plan

Deirdre Behan, Strategic Development Director and Hannah Gordis, Acting Head of EDI joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the Update. Members **agreed** that the Executive should consider the role of working group including renaming the working group name to incorporate Public Sector Duty. Members noted Teresa Buczkowska’s offer to meet with the EDI team to discuss how Public Sector Duty can be incorporated into the work of the Arts Council. Members **agreed** that the

Executive should develop its response to the Department of Social Protection Green Paper on disability reform.

23 – 12 – 179 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 – 12 – 180 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 – 12 – 181 Appeals Panel Recommendations

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was no infringement or unfair application of the published process. The appeal was not upheld.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was no infringement or unfair application of the published process. The appeal was not upheld.

[REDACTED] - Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was no infringement or unfair application of the published process. The appeal was not upheld.

Members **approved** the Appeals Panel recommendations.

23 – 12 – 182 Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Members **approved** the Aosdána Cnuas recommendations.

23 – 12 – 183 Awards and Schemes

Members **noted** the Awards and Schemes

23 – 12 – 184 Matters for Information

Committee Minutes – Members **noted** the minutes,

Risk Register – Members **noted** the report. Members welcomed the new format of the report and proposed approach. Members noted the National Risk Assessment process undertaken by the Department of An Taoiseach and asked the Executive to review as part of our oversight process.

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

23 – 12 – 185 Any other business

Plenary Grants- The Chair extended thanks to all staff involved in the preparation and presentation of papers and to all Members for their time reviewing papers, all leading to a successful approval process.

Launch of National Philanthropy Policy- Members **noted** the update and **agreed** that the policy should be made available to members via the reading room.

January Plenary Meeting- Members agreed to defer the January meeting pending appointment of a Chair/Deputy Chair.

Chairman's Final Council Meeting- Members marked the occasion with congratulatory messages of thanks and best wishes to the outgoing Chair.

There were no other matters arising.

████████████████████