

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

774th Plenary Meeting

22 March 2023

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Jillian van Turnhout, Dónall Curtin, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Andrew Clancy, Teresa Buczkowska.

In attendance:

Maureen Kennelly, Director, Martin O’Sullivan, *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Ciara Branagan, *Finance and Council Executive*.

Note: Meeting took place in person and via Zoom video conference.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Conflicts of Interest

Minutes 15 February Plenary Meeting

Plenary Action Tracker

Operational Matters for Decision

Director’s Report and Matters for Information

Internal Controls

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Strategic Funding Outcomes

Approach to Budgeting

FOI Processes

Aosdána Update

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Awards and Schemes

For Information:-

- Business and Finance Committee – Minutes 1 December
- Audit and Risk Committee – Minutes 1 December
- Risk Register
- Communications Report

23 – 03 – 022 Apologies

Melatu Uchenna Okorie , Linda Coogan Byrne and Mark O’Kelly.

23 – 03 – 023 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]

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 024 Minutes 15 February Plenary Meeting 2023

[REDACTED]

Members **agreed** that all comments from Members sent prior to the meeting are to be included in the minutes and that the revised version should be uploaded to Diligent.

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 15 February Plenary Meeting subject to the listed amendments above.

Following review of the February minutes the follow amendments were agreed –

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 03– 025 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Members **agreed** that the Venice Biennale action should be added back on to the tracker, while agreeing that this will still be dealt with by the Policy & Strategy committee, and that the tracked version of the report should be uploaded to the reading room.

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 026 Operational Matters for Decision

John Broderick Bequest 2023 - 2025

Members **agreed** the recommendation [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Arts Council's involvement in private investment activity

Members **agreed** the new approach to private investment recommendation and added that an approach as to how the proposed champions report to Council should be prepared and brought back to plenary for approval.

[REDACTED]

Authorising Arts Council Payments

Members **agreed** the updated list of authorised signatories and the list of bank payment signatories. Members also **agreed** that an authorisation limit schedule should be prepared and submitted to the Audit and Risk Committee for review.

Touring (Round 2) 2023 & Touring Budget 2024

Members **agreed** the additional €1m allocation for Touring (Round 2) 2023. Members also **agreed** the budget of €3.5m for Touring 2024.

Updated Business of Council- Reserved matters & Delegations (section 2.7 Code of Governance Framework)

Members **agreed** the recommendation subject to the addition that disposal of any type should also be a reserved matter of Council. Separately, Members **agreed** that the current authorisation and approvals matrix should be updated to reflect revised delegations and brought to Council for approval.

23 – 03 – 027 Director's Report and Matters for Information

Siamsa Tíre - Members **noted** the update.

Skillnet Network - Members **noted** the update.

Festival (Changemakers Conference) 2023 - Members **noted** the update.

HR Update - Members **noted** the update.

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

23 – 03 – 028 Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee Meeting 1 March 2023

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

- Minutes 1 December meeting agreed;
- *Procurement*- update on current procurement procedures & process in place to April B&F meeting;
- *Arts Fund*- look to align with National Philanthropic Policy- drop this action from the tracker;
- [REDACTED]
- *Draft Final 2022 Management Accounts*- recommend to Council for approval;
- *Energy Support Scheme round 2*- expanded approach agreed

- *Supplementary Grant*- agreed that a widening of the grant’s objectives should be sought from the Department;
- *Increased allocation of €1m to Touring round 2 2023*- recommend to Council for approval;
- *Touring allocation of €3.5m for 2024*- recommend to Council for approval;
- *Budget Development process approach for 2024*- Members asked for further clarity on roles & for the approach to be tied into the Committee’s 2023 workplan. Agreed that the updated paper could be uploaded to the Reading Room;
- *Trusts Investment update*- noted;
- *HR Report* – noted;
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- *Business Continuity Plan (BCP)*- Clarify for Members who holds physical copies of the plan and 2) revert to April with proposed plan to test the BCP;
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 8 March 2023

Dónall Curtin, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- Members approved the minutes of 1 December 2022;
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Members agreed the Committee Performance Review;
- Members agreed the Internal Audit Codes Compliance Review;
- Members agreed the Internal Audit review of Internal Financial Controls;
- Members noted the Draft 2022 Financial Statements and agreed for them to go forward for audit;

- Members noted that a review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control for 2022 had been completed and agreed that a related recommendation can go forward to Council;
- Members noted the Procurement Conformance Report;
- Members noted the C&AG Planning Memorandum and Letter of Engagement.

Members noted and **agreed** the report and recommendations of the ARC Committee.

23 – 03 – 029 Review of Internal Controls

Members, using the prepared Report and the separate assurances provided by the ARC Committee and from senior management, **agreed** that a satisfactory review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control for 2022 had been completed and that it is also appropriate for the Chairman to sign the 'Statement on Internal Control' on behalf of the Arts Council in the 2022 financial statements.

23 – 03 – 030

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 031

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 032 Strategic Funding Outcomes

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

23 – 03 – 033 Approach to Budgeting 2024 and 2025

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director remained in the meeting for this item. Members noted and **agreed** the proposed approach.

23 – 03 – 034

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 035 Aosdána Update

Karen Hennessy, Aosdána Registrar joined the meeting for this item.

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

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 036 Appeals Panel Recommendations

[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 **agreed** the recommendation of the Appeals Panel.

23 – 03 – 037 Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

23 – 03 – 038 Awards and Schemes

Liam O 'Flynn Award 2023- Members **noted** the award.

23 – 03 – 039 Matters for Information

Business and Finance Committee 1 December Minutes – Members **noted** the minutes.

Audit and Risk Committee 1 December Minutes – Members **noted** the minutes.

Risk Register – Members noted the report

Communications Report- Members **noted** the report and welcomed use of LinkedIn. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 03 – 040 Any Other Business

Council Diary 2023 September Arts Grant Funding 2024 Decision - Members **agreed** that an alternative date and timing should be provided to Members.

There were no other matters arising.

[REDACTED]

Chair: _____ Date _____