

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

775th Plenary Meeting

26 April 2023

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Jillian van Turnhout, Dónall Curtin, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Andrew Clancy, Teresa Buczkowska, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Linda Coogan Byrne and Mark O’Kelly.

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
Conflicts of Interest
Minutes 22 March Plenary Meeting
Plenary Action Tracker
Operational Matters for Decision
Director’s Report and Matters for Information

[REDACTED]

Peer Panels
Dance Company Feasibility Study

[REDACTED]

Abbey Theatre
Awards and Schemes
For Information:-

- Policy and Strategy Committee – Minutes 1 February
- Risk Register
- Communications Report

23 – 04 – 041 Apologies

None.

23 – 04 – 042 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.

The Chair updated Members on recent meetings concerning the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Shared Ireland capital funding and the Chair of Poetry Trust.

23 – 04 – 043 Minutes 22 March Plenary Meeting 2023

Members **agreed** additional amendments to the March minutes and that the final amended version should be uploaded to the reading room.

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 22 March Plenary Meeting subject to the agreed amendments being made.

23 – 04– 044 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members **agreed** that a tracked version of the report including all actions removed should be uploaded to the reading room. Members also **agreed** that all actions showing a status 'in progress' should be updated before each meeting to reflect how far each item has progressed.

23 – 04 – 045 Operational Matters for Decision

Climate and Environmental Adviser

Members **approved** the recommendation and suggested that a review of how outside organisations are progressing related matters should be undertaken. Members referenced the importance of having the selected adviser's role and responsibilities clearly expressed. Members also recommended that an MOU with SEAI should be agreed.

Wexford Arts Centre

Members **approved** the touring funding of €30K and **agreed** that the funding is to come from 2023 touring budget.

23 – 04 – 046 Director's Report and Matters for Information

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

HR Update- Members **noted** the update. [REDACTED]

Youth Theatre Ireland- Members **noted** the update.

Youth Orchestra Provision in Ireland- Members **noted** the update.

Collections Update- Members **noted** the update. Members **agreed** that Collection Acquisitions Committee Members whose term have just ended should be co-opted for one further meeting of the Committee and that related recommendations should be brought back to the June Council meeting. Members agreed that future appointments to the Committee should be advertised externally. It was also **agreed** that the next round of acquisitions would be scheduled for September.

Mullingar Arts Centre- Members **noted** the update

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

23 – 04 – 047 Committee Reports

Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 12 April 2023

Jillian van Turnhout, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- Minutes 1 February meeting agreed;
- Members reviewed progress on the drafting of a new three-year plan 2023-2025;
- Members agreed their Work Programme for 2023;
- Members discussed the Creative Schools update and draft DCU evaluation of Creative Schools;
- Members considered and agreed the proposed recommendations in relation to visual arts production capacity. Members noted the related 2023 budget requirement and while agreeing to recommend to Council it was done subject to the required budget of €75k being confirmed by the Business and Finance Committee.
- Members discussed the FEI Feasibility Interim Report in relation to the *New Dance Company*;
- Members discussed two aspects of Theatre Policy, namely Playwright supports and Production of work on a regional basis;
- Members noted the Music Policy update including confirmation that there was a delay in finalising input from the Department of Arts, Culture etc;

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

Business and Finance Committee Meeting 25 April 2023

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

- Minutes 1 March meeting agreed;
- Artists' Workspace Register agreed update to June meeting;
- Committee Performance Report 2022 agreed;
- Draft Q1 2023 Mgmt Accounts agreed subject to notified revision & also agreed that updated version be uploaded to the Reading Room;
- Visual Arts Production capacity €75k budget was approved;
- HR update agreed that an update on Sureskills contracts should be uploaded to the Reading Room;
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- ICT BAU update noted. Also agreed 1) [REDACTED] 2) a current system map should be provided to June meeting 3) List of ICT service providers to be provided to June meeting 4) agreed that ICT BAU team should reach out to the national cyber security centre and ensure all current learnings & best practice are reviewed and implemented, as appropriate 5) agreed to upload indication of security cost upgrades to the reading room;
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- Arts Adviser update paper noted and agreed that additional information (clarification on exact role & duration of engagement) be provided in relation to listed adviser and report uploaded to Reading Room;

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

23 – 04 – 048 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 04 – 049 Peer Panels

Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director, Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the report and agreed that an action plan with recommendations and cost estimates should be brought to the June Plenary

23 – 04 – 050 Dance Company Feasibility Study

Liz Meaney, Arts Director remained in the meeting for this item. Lisa McLoughlin, Head of Dance also joined the meeting for this item.

Members welcomed and **approved** the report in principle, noting considerable satisfaction with the process and progress to-date. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 04 – 051 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 – 04 – 052 Abbey Theatre

Liz Meaney, Arts Director remained in the meeting for this item. David Parnell, Head of Theatre and Imelda Dervin, Head of Multi-Disciplinary Arts also joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the update.

23 – 04 – 053 Awards and Schemes

Dance Artist in Residence 2023- Members **noted** the award. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Deis Recording Award 2023- Members noted the award. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

23 – 04 – 054 Matters for Information

Policy and Strategy Committee 1 February Minutes – Members **noted** the minutes.

Risk Register – Members **noted** the report

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

23 – 04 – 055 Any Other Business

Oversight Agreement and Performance Delivery Agreement 2023- Members **agreed** that both agreements should come back for approval to May Plenary;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There were no other matters arising.

[REDACTED]

Chair: _____

Date _____