

Document 3.2

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

742nd Plenary Meeting

24 June 2020

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair, Paddy Glackin, 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*, Ciara Branagan *Finance and Council Executive*.

Note: Meeting took place via Zoom video conference.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Covid-19 Additional Funding Budgetary Approach

Funding Approach for Strategic, Arts Centres and Arts Grants Funding during 2020 to end 2021

20– 06– 103 Apologies

None.

20 – 06– 104 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.

20 – 06– 105 Additional Funding Budgetary Approach

Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director, and Liz Meaney, Arts Director, joined the meeting.

Members were updated on the ‘in principle’ budgetary approach to the proposed distribution of the additional €20m Government allocation to address current challenges arising from the Covid-19 crisis.

Members discussed the need for the funding to be spent wisely and in accordance with demonstrated demand. Members also identified the need for ‘nimble’ responses to be put in place to attract new applicants, support evolving artforms and practice areas, encourage creativity and inclusivity and provide new opportunities for artists to be experimental.

Following detailed discussion, Members **agreed**:-

- to reinstate a number of Awards and Schemes which had been previously cancelled / deferred;
- the indicative approach & allocated amount set out in the paper for ‘Direct Support to Artists’;
- the indicative approach & allocated amount set out in the paper for ‘Direct Supports to Organisations’;

Specifically in relation to the proposed 'stabilisation programme', Members **agreed** that up to €7k per organisation, could be provided towards consultancy support to assist organisations with their applications and provide the Arts Council with professional assurance around the application completion process.

Members also welcomed the proposed 'Wintering out Project' and 'Digital Programme' with confirmation that more detailed proposals on how the allocated funding is to be used will be brought to the July Plenary.

Members also referenced the need for a robust internal resource plan to be put in place noting the funding allocation towards additional resources.

20 – 06– 106 Funding Approach for Strategic, Arts Centres and Arts Grants Funding during 2020 to end 2021

Members were updated on a proposed approach and timeline for Strategic Funding, Arts Centres Funding and Arts Grant Funding for 2021.

Following a detailed discussion, Members **agreed**:-

- recommendations for AGF 2021 will be brought to the September plenary for approval;
- proposed schedule of key actions and indicative completion dates for Strategic and Arts Centre Funding 2021;
- an advance of up to 20% of the total grant funding committed in 2020 be allocated for all Strategic and Arts Centre funded organisations for Q1 2021 subject to, a total budgetary allocation of €7m and the Arts Council's future obligation being limited to the advance amount only.

20 – 06– 107 Any Other Business

Thank you

Members thanked staff for their work to-date and asked for the leadership role taken by the Arts Council since the beginning of the crisis to be maintained and continued.

There were no other matters.

Summary of decisions

- *Additional Funding Budgetary Approach*- Members **agreed**:-
 - to reinstate a number of Awards and Schemes which had been previously cancelled / deferred;
 - the indicative approach & allocated amount set out in the paper for 'Direct Support to Artists';
 - the indicative approach & allocated amount set out in the paper for 'Direct Supports to Organisations';
- *Stabilisation programme*- Members **agreed** that up to €7k per organisation, could be provided towards consultancy support to assist organisations with their applications and provide the Arts Council with professional assurance around the application completion process;
- *Funding Approach for Strategic, Arts Centres and Arts Grants Funding during 2020 to end 2021*- Members **agreed**:-
 - recommendations for AGF 2021 will be brought to the September plenary for approval;
 - proposed schedule of key actions and indicative completion dates for Strategic and Arts Centre Funding 2021;

- an advance of up to 20% of the total grant funding committed in 2020 be allocated for all Strategic and Arts Centre funded organisations for Q1 2021 subject to, a total budgetary allocation of €7m and the Arts Council's future obligation being limited to the advance amount only.

Chair: _____

Date _____