



Scottish **Arts** Council

Confidential
S/C05m4

Council
Minute of the Meeting Held on 30 August 2005
Meeting Room, Manor Place, Edinburgh

Present:

Richard Holloway	Chairman
Steve Grimmond	
Jennifer Hawksworth	
Jane Jeffrey	
James McSharry	
Roy McEwan	
Louise Mitchell	
Ben Twist	
Jennifer Waterton	

Visitors:

David Brew	Scottish Executive (for item 4)
Fiona Dean	Public Art Resource and Research Scotland (The Resource) for item 7
Sebastian Tombs	Architecture Design Scotland (for item 7)
Malcolm Fraser	Architecture Design Scotland (for item 7)
Ian Brown	Ian Brown Associates (observer)

In Attendance:

Graham Berry	Chief Executive
Jim Tough	Director of Arts
Morag Arnot	Director of Planning and Communications
Pat Hymers	Executive Manager
Amanda Catto	Head of Visual Arts
Anita Clark	Head of Dance
Iain Munro	Head of Capital
David Taylor	Head of Drama
Ian Smith	Head of Music
Maggie Maxwell	Visual Arts Officer
Michelle Jordan	Senior Communications Officer
Andrew Leitch	Monitoring Officer Capital (for item 7)
Irene Watson	PA to Chief Executive (Minutes)

The Chairman welcomed everyone and advised that David Brew from the Scottish Executive, would be attending for item 5, discussion on the Lottery Budget.

1. Apologies for Absence and Declaration of Interest

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Joanna Baker, Arthur Cormack, Bob Downes, John Mulgrew and Robert Noakes,

4. Strategic Review: Quality Framework (S/C05m4p2)

4.1 The Chairman reminded Council that their role is to be strategic, and not get involved in detail. The emphasis would be on the optimum scenario, but there had to be strategies for standstill or even a reduction in budgets. Council had to understand and accept the reality of what was being proposed.

4.2 The Director of Planning and Communications explained that this paper followed on from the previous one presented at the last Council meeting. The diagram in Appendix one showed how we had historically worked with CFOs and she hoped this gave an understanding of the background. Although the strategic review was not only about CFOs, they did play a large part. What we were trying to do was to be able to see what was essential and important and what CFOs contributed to the different artforms.

4.3 Council noted that information on the scenarios would be discussed by Committees after which a proposal would go to Council at its December meeting – at which point they needed to take ownership of it.

4.4 Council noted appendix 2 which outlined the key assessment criteria which would then match CFOs in one of three categories; essential, important or partial. The work undertaken by lead officers, departmental managers and expert advisers would be checked by the Committees on 24 November. What Council would receive in December would be a distillation of the process which had been checked by Committees.

4.5 Until the exercise was completed it was not known how many organisations might fall into each category. It could be that there would be a different relationship developed with some organisations, for example, giving funding for the arts aspect of their work, with other funding coming from a different source, eg local authorities.

4.6 There was some discussion as to whether “partial” was the right word, with a suggestion that it should be “mixed”.

4.7 One Council member commented that some organisations had a social function in terms of health etc. and we had to be frank and honest and say we would support the arts element. We should be giving help to organisations starting up, but they shouldn't become dependent on us. Other bodies and partners had to take responsibility for the benefits they receive. Working with our partners, eg local authorities, was essential and it was noted that we would be keeping them informed.

- 4.8 Council noted that the judgement of the Committees was fundamental. Officers would be offering their opinion based on evidence gleaned from the organisations' application forms. Council needed to be confident that these judgements were being well made. It was the responsibility of senior officers of the Council to ensure that this would be the case.
- 4.9 The Chair of Audit Committee reminded Council that the Audit Committee could discuss some issues relating to the strategic review that might otherwise have been discussed at the former Business Committee.
- 4.10 Council stressed that they wanted to support staff and be completely behind the decisions, but they asked for clarification on what was being assessed. The Director of Planning and Communications explained that balanced portfolios of activity would be prepared for each department based on our three aims.
- 4.11 When asked about ensuring that a judgment could be made on whether the work undertaken by an organisation was good, the Director of Planning and Communications explained that there were evaluation reports built up over the last two or three years which would form part of the judgement.

At this point the Chairman asked for everyone to leave the room to allow Council to have a private meeting.

- 4.12 On returning the Chairman advised that Council was strongly backing the process. Jennifer Hawksworth, Jennifer Waterton and Steve Grimmond would arrange to meet with the Director of Arts and Director of Planning and Communications to assist in ensuring that the process is progressed and finalised.

Irene Watson
October 2005