



Council Minutes

Meeting 182

Date of meeting: Thursday 6 August 2020

Venue: Meeting held remotely using Zoom videolink

Present:
(on videolink) Phil George (PG) Chair, Andrew Miller (AM), Lhosa Daly (LD), Gwennan Mair (GM), Devinda De Silva (DDS), Mike Griffiths (MG), Kate Eden (KE), Tudur Hallam (TH), Sarah Younan (SY), Dafydd Rhys (DR), Andy Eagle (AE) and Victoria Provis (VP).

In attendance:
(on videolink) Nick Capaldi (NC), Diane Hebb (DH), Sian Tomos (ST), Andrew Richards (AR) and Katy Brown (minuting).

Apologies: Alison Mears Esswood (AMS), Iwan Bala (IB), Marian Wyn Jones (MWJ) and Rebecca Nelson (RN).

Observing:
(on videolink) Gary Williams (GW) Welsh Government

Translator Lowri Gwyn (LG)

Status of paper: For public release.

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies The Chair welcomed members to the Arts Council of Wales meeting being held via Zoom.</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of Interest Members of Council asked for the Declarations of Interest to be recorded (attached as an appendix to these minutes).</p> <p>KE asked that Aberystwyth University Council be added to her declarations.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held 3 July 2020 The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	

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<p>4. Matters arising All outstanding matters were reported as having been completed.</p> <p><u>“Black Lives Matter” statement</u> PG reported that Council’s statement appeared to have been generally well received. PG thanked Council – and DDS, SY and AM in particular – for their input.</p>	
<p>5. Chair’s Report The Chair provided an overview of the recent events and meetings that he had attended.</p> <p><u>Disability Arts Cymru Awards</u> PG spoke and presented an award at a Zoom event organised as part of Disability Arts Cymru’s “Outdoors:Indoors” themed competition.</p> <p><u>Ministerial Meeting</u> PG met with the Deputy Minister. He also met with Jane Hutt AS to discuss Council’s work to address diversity issues and to and to share with her the key points of our Black Lives Matter statement and action plan.</p> <p><u>Appointment of Trustees – National Museum and Arts Gallery of Wales</u> PG was invited to join the Welsh Government’s interview panel for trustees of the National Museum as the independent member of the panel.</p> <p><u>Literature Wales Meeting</u> PG and Officers met with Literature Wales to discuss the Raymond Williams Centenary 2021 and key themes for the programme of events. The main plans centre around a manifesto by young people.</p> <p><u>Arts and Health Cross Party Group</u> PG contributed to a Vlog for the NHS Confederation. There has been a warm welcome for our involvement with Arts and Health through the development work that we have carried out with the NHS Confederation Wales and Public Health Wales.</p>	

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<p><u>Fio</u> PG attended two meetings with officers from Fio.</p> <p><u>AM Cymru</u> PG and NC met with Alun Llwyd who provided an update on the achievements so far of this impressive platform and a discussion about future possibilities.</p> <p><u>Future Generations and Wellbeing Commissioner</u> PG met with the Commissioner and advised Council that officers were currently extending their partnerships with other key public sector organisations in Wales. The most recent of these is Natural Resources Wales and we are currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding which will be shared with SLT and Council.</p> <p><u>What Next? Cardiff</u> Both PG and NC appeared at the WN? Cardiff Chapter meeting to discuss the Cultural Fund and PG commended NC on his detailed briefing at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Black Creatives</u> PG and NC attended a Black Creatives meeting which was facilitated by SY and DDS. The group are refining plans that they hope that Council will adopt as a way of progressing the Black Lives Matter discussions.</p>	
<p>6. COVID 19 Update NC provided an overview on the work being carried out during the COVID 19 crisis. The main news was the announcement of £53 million of funding which has been earmarked for a Cultural Recovery Fund for the Arts in Wales.</p> <p>Officers have also been supporting Welsh Government in their production of Guidance for the reopening and resumption of training, rehearsal, and production across the performing arts. Our advice is based on extensive consultation across the sector. The Guidance is now being reviewed in detail by Welsh Government and will be available in the near future.</p> <p><u>Lottery Programmes</u> National Lottery funding programmes for the remainder of the year remain suspended. However, work is underway to examine what</p>	

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<p>funding can be made available. This must take account of the current status of social distancing regulations and their implications for the arts.</p> <p><u>Returning to the Arts Council's Offices</u> Officers are carrying out work to enable staff to return to work in the office in a COVID-safe environment. Protocols and guidance have been put in place.</p> <p>PG thanked NC for the comprehensive update.</p> <p>DR asked if there was any information about when the Welsh Government Guidance on reopening will be published. GW was not able to provide a timeframe. However, he advised that the guidance is with Public Health Wales and he believed that it would not be much longer.</p> <p>AM was concerned with the potential risk of misinterpretation of the needs of people with disabilities. NC stated that there are numerous references to the specific needs of disabled people and the necessity that disabled people are not disadvantaged in any way.</p>	
<p>7. Funding Guidelines Council suspended all Lottery programmes for the first half of the financial year and re-purposed Lottery funding to respond to the Covid-19 emergency. It was recognised that further funding would be needed later in the year to save the sector from collapse.</p> <p>The Welsh Government announced a significant £53 million investment in a Cultural Recovery Fund for Wales, a scheme to bridge the gap for organisations and individuals between the end of furlough in October to March 2021, in the hope that by then activity will have started to resume.</p> <p>Welsh Government has asked the Arts Council to manage the arts funds.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will manage funding to organisations within the following areas:</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative - grass roots music venues, independent cinemas, publishing, film & TV • Culture - museums, libraries, archives • Events - event and festivals organisations • Heritage - heritage organisations <p>The Welsh Government will also manage all funding to individuals.</p> <p>Arts Council of Wales will manage funding to organisations operating in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, literature, visual and applied arts, combined arts, digital art.</p> <p>The fund is intended to respond to publicly funded, commercial, local authority and University organisations.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has also introduced the concept of a ‘Cultural Contract’ – using funding to drive transformational change, extending reach and supporting new ways of working.</p> <p>NC presented the Draft Guidelines to Council for final sign off.</p> <p>It was hoped to reopen the remaining Lottery funds in 2020/21 later in the year.</p> <p>Current social distancing measures would reduce available seating to such an extent that auditoriums might only have between 15% and 30% of seats available to sell, depending on the building. There is a clear capacity below which it will be uneconomic for venues and theatre buildings to programme work without additional subsidy. Further discussion will take place with the sector.</p> <p>The draft timetable is launching the fund on 14 August, with a closing date of 9 September. The final recommendations will be presented to Council on 16 October.</p> <p>AM was impressed with the guideline’s emphasis on equality, diversity and retaining jobs.</p> <p>Organisations will be asked to set out a series of long-term commitments. Officers intend to carry out two pieces of monitoring, one in March and the second further down the line.</p>	

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<p>VP commended Officers on the amount of work and clarity that had been provided. Council members asked NC whether he was confident that enough staff resource was in place for the delivery of the programme. Staff had been encouraged to take leave in August and the majority of work will take place from the beginning of September. Additional time-limited resource may be required and there has been the offer of additional support from government.</p> <p>KE felt the fund was a fantastic achievement and sought clarity on what the Cultural Contract entails. NC explained that it was intended to complement the Welsh Government’s “Economic Contract”. The contract is very much in its early stages.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of collecting and analysing data from the early rounds of Resilience funding and the Furlough data from HM Revenue and Customs.</p> <p>Council approved the Guidelines for publication.</p>	
<p>8. Date of next meeting: Friday 4 September 2020 – Zoom</p>	

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Summary of actions and decisions

There were none.