



Council Minutes

Meeting 183

Date of meeting:	Friday 4 September 2020
Venue:	Meeting held remotely using Zoom videolink
Present: (on videolink)	Phil George (PG) Chair, Andrew Miller (AM), Gwennan Mair (GM), Devinda De Silva (DDS), Mike Griffiths (MG), Kate Eden (KE), Alison Mears Esswood (AMS), Tudur Hallam (TH), Sarah Younan (SY), Dafydd Rhys (DR), Marian Wyn Jones (MWJ) Andy Eagle (AE) and Victoria Provis (VP).
In attendance: (on videolink)	Nick Capaldi (NC), Diane Hebb (DH), Sian Tomos (ST), Rebecca Nelson (RN), Sion Brynach (SB), Andrew Richards (AR), Eluned Haf (EH) and Katy Brown (minuting).
Apologies:	Iwan Bala (IB) and Lhosa Daly (LD).
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>AM asked for his entry to be updated by adding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WeShall NotBeRemoved (founder)• Edinburgh Festival Fringe• Sonia Friedman Productions• Tête-a-Tête Opera• AD:Vantage• Unlimited, Shape Arts <p>He also asked for the following to be removed:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of British Theatre Technicians 	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2020 The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of the meeting.	
4.	Matters arising All outstanding matters were reported as having been completed.	
5.1	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Meeting – held on 20 July 2020 KE provided an overview of the Committee's discussions. <u>Electronic Grants Management System Presentation</u> Officers had given a presentation to the Committee on the process of specifying, procuring and developing a new Grants Management System. This is a key business-critical project and there will be a further update on progress at the Committee's September meeting.	
	<u>Arts Associates Advisory Report</u> The Committee received the internal auditor's advisory report. KE was happy to circulate the report if of interest to Council members.	
	<u>Arts Resilience Fund</u> The Committee had requested an internal audit review of our management of the Arts Resilience Fund to identify any potential lessons and areas for improvement.	
	Council noted the report.	
5.2	Welsh Language Monitoring Group Meeting – held on 22 July 2020 MWJ provided an overview of the meeting held in July. The main focus of the meeting was the Welsh Language mapping report, which had been completed before Covid-19. (This would be discussed in more detail later on the agenda.)	
	<u>Welsh Language Measure – Standard 90</u> SB had introduced the work undertaken. The Welsh Language Commissioner's Office has confirmed that the requirements of the Standard have now been met.	
	Council noted the report.	
6.1	Chair's Report	

The Chair spoke about some recent events and meetings.

Meeting with black artists

PG reported that the meeting had been frank and challenging, but very useful. SY's note of the meeting summarised the reflections of participants and suggestions for future action. These would inform the next phase of the Arts Council's work.

AM thanked SY and DDS for leading on the conversations with Black Creatives and would like at the right moment for the wider Council to be part of the discussion. AE expressed the wish to be part of future conversations.

SY informed Council that the next step will be to include creatives of colour and then open up the discussion wider, to also include Welsh Language and Disabled artists.

Zoom Choir

PG recently attended the Head for Arts Choir singing with the Stroke Association Choir. The session had been very enjoyable and provided the opportunity to speak to the Stroke Association about the Arts Council's Arts and Health Programme.

BBC interview

The BBC Radio Wales *The Arts Show* included an interview with PG
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000m0wv>

Senedd Cross Party Group Meeting on Music

PG attended the meeting chaired by Rhiannon Passmore AM. The report 'Land and Song' by Carl Carr on music provision was discussed. PG emphasised the importance of community music making and the activities of choirs and bands across Wales.

Future Generations and Wellbeing Commissioner scheme

PG has agreed to participate in a "reverse mentoring" scheme set up by Commissioner, under which younger managers become the mentors of individuals in positions of power and influence.

6.2 Annual Accounts for General Activities the year 2019/20

6.3 Annual Accounts for Lottery Distribution 2019/20

6.4 ISA 260 report

RN introduced the accounts and confirmed that the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee was recommending to Council that they should be signed.

KE added that there was very little for Audit and Risk Assurance Committee members to add. She reiterated her thanks to RN and

the team for the high quality and cleanliness of the accounts. The Chair and Chief Executive would sign the accounts which would be presented and laid before the Senedd and UK Parliament.

VP also commended the team on a clear and readable set of documents. She was especially interested in the achievements of the Creative Learning programme and asked if there was a reasonable geographical distribution of schools. DH was happy to confirm this to be the case and would be providing an update at the next Council meeting.

DH

MWJ asked if promotional videos were available in both English and Welsh. DH confirmed that this was the case.

Council:

1. **Approved** the General Activities and Lottery Distribution accounts
2. **Noted** the ISA260 report

7. Management Accounts – the month ending July 2020

RN presented the report which provided Council with a high-level overview of income and expenditure to the end of July 2020. She drew attention to matters that merited discussion and action.

PG confirmed that the underspend of Lottery funding in the Covid-19 Resilience Fund would remain in Lottery budgets for deployment later in the year.

Council **noted** the financial position as set out in the report.

8. Chief Executive Report

Welsh Government – launch of the Cultural Recovery Fund

NC reported that the Welsh Government would be launching its elements of the Cultural Recovery Fund on 16 September.

Council **noted** the report.

9. COVID 19 Update

NC reported the current work underway to manage the implications and consequences of the Covid-19 crisis. This included:

- the launch of the Cultural Recovery Fund
- assisting the Welsh Government on the preparation of its Guidance on Resuming Activity across the Performing Arts
- developing proposals for Lottery funding
- preparing the ground for the protocols and policies that will support re-occupation of Arts Council offices

He explained that work was proceeding at pace on the reopening of an initial Lottery funding programme next month (with further programmes following during the year). The fund currently in development would be focused on encouraging activity and collaboration between organisations and individuals as plans move forward across Wales for the resumption of public activity.

Members observed that such support was needed, especially for those organisations and individuals who found themselves unable to access the Cultural Recovery Fund. NC acknowledged that this was a real issue but stressed the importance of ensuring that any Lottery programme that we launched must not duplicate the proposals developed by the Welsh Government and Arts Council for the current Cultural Recovery Fund.

Council **noted** the report.

10. **Policy**

10.1 **Investment Review**

Earlier in the year Council had taken the decision, in the light of the onset of Covid-19, to defer our planned Investment Review.

Council discussed a range of options. Council concluded that an Investment Review would still be needed, but when it should happen – and what it should look at – would require careful consideration.

It was still not clear how the Covid-19 pandemic would evolve. Council noted, but there was a widespread desire to resume publicly accessible activity. However, if safety concerns and social distancing restrictions persist, many organisations will still be preoccupied with basic survival well into next year. Council therefore **agreed** that the timing of the Investment Review should be re-scheduled, with new funding arrangements for the Arts Portfolio Wales coming into effect from 1 April 2023.

In practical terms, this would mean that the process would begin towards the end of 2021, with assessment and decision-making taking place during 2022. The aim would be to announce decisions in Autumn of that year, in time for new funding agreements to be negotiated for 2023/24.

Council emphasised the importance of clearly communicating Council's reason for the decision to the sector. NC would lead that communication.

	<p>NC is now in receipt of a circa of 200 recommendations for tackling diversity issues and will produce a final drafted document for the sector. At heart of the work is the cultural contract.</p> <p>Members stressed the importance of emphasising the Arts Council's priorities and of building capacity, especially with organisations that are not currently represented in the Portfolio. Council was aware of the potential of the Creative Steps programme and that it might be necessary to enhance its budget.</p> <p>NC explained that it was likely that there would be some re-modelling of Lottery budgets to address these issues and to complement the new Cultural Recovery Fund. Any proposals to adjust previously agreed Lottery budgets would be presented to the next Council meeting.</p>	NC
10.2	<p>Brexit and its implications</p> <p>EH presented the report outlining for Council the international issues facing arts sector due to Covid-19 and Brexit.</p> <p>The Wales Arts International team is very busy at the moment responding to consultative papers and requests for evidence from UK and Welsh Parliament Committees. With the UK Government's proposed withdrawal from the Creative Europe programme it was important that we took an active role in pressing for a replacement programme that best met Wales' needs.</p> <p><u>Festival 2022</u></p> <p>EH explained to Council that Martin Green CBE (formerly Director of Hull City of Culture) has been asked by the UK Government to develop plans to curate, manage, and promote a UK-wide festival in 2022. The major nationwide festival will be backed by £120 million funding from the UK Government.</p> <p>DR asked whether Brexit should be included as a regular item on the Council agenda until at least 6 months into the new year. This was agreed.</p> <p>Council noted the report and thanked EH for her comprehensive report.</p>	KB
10.3	<p>Welsh Language Mapping Report</p> <p>The report presented to Council had been commissioned in November 2019. ST explained that this research aimed to provide a comprehensive picture of Welsh language arts activity in Wales, to identify a list of potential partners to work with, and to offer</p>	

recommendations for action. An initial draft response was included in the papers for discussion.

Council discussed the report and its recommendations and endorsed the proposals for action, pending further detailed work on their implementation.

TH felt it would be important for Council to make a clear statement on its future intentions, and staff to be appropriately trained to take forward the action plan.

He also suggested that there would be real benefit in raising a greater awareness of Welsh language culture amongst staff and APW organisations. There were a number of online resources that might assist this. Council was supportive of these suggestions.

Council members were interested to see the recommendation to establish a Change Maker role. It would be important for the specifics and duration of the role to be carefully defined.

There were a range of views about the appropriateness of setting a minimum target that specified that 25% of APW boards should be Welsh-speaking.

Council entirely supported the requirement for Boards to include appropriate Welsh-speaking as part of their organisations. However, Council was also concerned about the possibility of inadvertent consequences – especially for smaller Boards – of fixing such a high percentage. Council members were clear that we must advocate the need to address a range of Equalities priorities through organisational governance, and it is important that the right balance can be achieved. There were a range of views expressed as to how might be achieved.

MWJ and ST will consider these issues and draft a plan to present to Council at its October meeting.

ST

Council noted that Dr Mererid Hopwood had presented a very well-received presentation at the Hay Festival.

11. Governance

11.1 Council recruitment

PG was saddened to report that MG, MWJ and AM's terms on Council would come to an end April 2021.

The recruitment process, which is led by the Welsh Government,

	<p>would begin shortly with the aim is of recruiting six new members.</p> <p>Council members were asked to forward to PG any thoughts on potential candidates.</p> <p>PG will keep Council members informed of any progress.</p>	
11.2	<p>Council and its committees</p> <p>As part of its routine annual review, Council considered a number of proposed changes to the way that Council organises its business through its Council and Committee structure.</p> <p>Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the contents of the paper. 2. Approved the proposal to review the Code of Best Practice on an annual basis 3. Approved the following additions to the Arts Council Committees <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strategic Equality Committee (formerly the Equalities Monitoring Group) b. Health and Safety Committee 4. Approved the terms of reference for Management Board 5. Agreed Welsh Language Monitoring Group become a committee. <p>Council felt that the title and role of the Future Generations Monitoring Group might need to be revised in the light of these decisions. Members were also concerned to ensure that the Committee structure supported the efficient governance of Council's business without becoming overly bureaucratic. SLT was asked to consider these issues and to return to Council with its analysis.</p>	
12.	<p>Operational Plan Q1 report</p> <p>Council noted the report.</p>	NC
13.	<p>Date of next meeting: Friday 16 October 2020 – Zoom</p>	

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Summary of actions and decisions

Item	Action
6.2 An update on the Creative Learning programme will be provided at the next Council Meeting.	DH
10.1 Council's decision on the re-scheduling of the Investment Review to be communicated across the sector.	NC
10.1 Any proposals to adjust previously agreed Lottery budgets would be presented to the next Council meeting.	RN
10.2 Brexit to be included as a regular item on future Council agendas.	KB
10.3 An action plan to accompany the Welsh Language Mapping Report will be presented to the next Council meeting.	ST
11.2 An analysis of the practical management and operation of Council's Committee structure will be presented to a future Council meeting.	NC