

**Tha Board O Ulster-Scotch
94th Board Meeting
18th November 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Board Room
Belfast**

Present;	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mrs Jacqui Reed
	Dr Ian Adamson
	Mr William Humphrey
	Mr William Leathem
In attendance:	Mr Michael McCullough
	Mr Jim Millar
	Mr Arthur Scott
Recording Secretary;	Miss Siobhan McNally

1. Welcome / Comments from the Chairperson

Mrs Graham welcomed and thanked Board members for attending the 94th Board Meeting in the Ulster-Scots Agency offices; Board members had previously that morning attended a meeting in the Agency Board room with staff from DCAL and DCRGA.

Mrs Graham paid tribute to Dr William Roulston who has recently resigned from the Board.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes of last Meeting

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous Board Meeting with some minor amendments.

Proposed and Agreed: that the minute be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Community Worker Scheme

A brief report was given on the Community Workers Scheme appeal that was investigated by the CEO and acting Chair. The report of the appeal upheld the earlier decision; this outcome had been made known to this group. The group has also received a copy of this, the Agency are now awaiting a response from them.

An information seminar and training session will take place for all the groups who had been successful through the Community Workers Scheme on Saturday 21st November 2009, in the Agency Board room.

CEO Targets

The Board await a response from DCAL in relation to 07/08 and 09 targets. Mr Scott will follow this up on behalf of the Board.

Plantation project

The Agency has already had discussions with UTV in relation to a possible TV screening about the Plantation. Since then the BBC has shown an interest in doing something with the Agency to mark the Plantation anniversary; the Agency will look into this. Mr Millar was asked to await developments from the BBC discussions before pursuing further the UTV option.

Stone Mountain Games report

A paper was tabled on behalf of Mrs Reed and Dr Adamson. They also gave a verbal report to the Board on their trip to Atlanta where they attended the Stone Mountain Games on behalf of the Agency.

Staffing/Tutor

Job posts for Tutors and an Administration Officer have been placed in Thursday and Fridays newspaper. Interviews will be held to fill these posts.

IUSS

The Board were joined by 4 members from the Institute of Ulster Scots Studies. They gave a presentation on their work to date.

The Board adjourned for lunch at this point. Mr Humphrey left the meeting for the day. After lunch the Board continued with item 7 on the Agenda.

7. Budget and Business Plan Progress 2009/ 2010 Budget Allocation

Budget and Business Plan Progress 2009

Papers were tabled and discussed by Board Members relating to current and anticipated spend for 2009 and 2010. Budget headings were agreed and populated with levels of funding for 2010. The Executive team were directed to commence work for 2010 with the agreed figures.

Mr McCullough informed the Board that a budget review will be carried out in September 2010 and a paper presented to the November 2010 Board Meeting for approval.

2010 Business Plan

The 2010 business plans for the Ulster-Scots Community Network, the Ulster-Scots Language Society and the Ullans Speakers Society were tabled and discussed. All 3 bodies have previously been funded by the Agency. The Board felt that in light of the levels of expenditure groups could present countermeasure business cases under directions from DCAL in order to comply with Corporate Governance. The Board agreed to allocate funding for 2010 at the levels awarded in 2009, less than 6%. These payments would be interim and contingent on a successful business case being prepared within 3 months.

A business plan for Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage and Education Centre was recently received at the Agency and was tabled.

Mrs Reed left the meeting at this point due to a conflict of interest. They have never received funding from the Agency. The Board agreed that this group should be considered as a suitable core funded group but that as 2010's funds were already committed, no funds could be made available in 2010.

Mr Millar was directed to inform all 3 groups of this decision and to inform the Ulster-Scots Community Network that any current recruitment process should be discontinued immediately.

Mrs Reed returned to the meeting at this point.

6. Grants and Appeals

Dr David Lyttle

Total requested from Ulster-Scots Agency **£5427**
The Board collectively agreed not to fund the project.

Dr Lawrence Holden

This project fell under the Partnership funding scheme. The Board agreed in principal to fund the project for years 2 and 3, but asked Mr Millar to convene a meeting with Mr A. Scott from DCAL and Mr D. Smyth from ACNI to work out a funding package to allow the project to continue. A further decision on this would be required subject to the outcome of this matter.

10. AOB

Oot an About

The magazines will be printed and delivered to the Agency on Wednesday 2nd December.

Staff Meeting

This month's staff meeting was held on 3rd November 2009, which Mr. Humphrey attended on behalf of the Board members. Board members will receive a copy of the minutes.

TV Programme

Mr. Millar has already informed Vinegar Hill Productions of the Board's previous decision. The TV programme is scheduled to be completed before December 31st and a screen date has been identified early in 2010. Confirmation of this will be received before January 2010 in order to release the final payment.

5. Executive Report

A copy of the Executive Report was tabled and discussed.

Non approved staff engaged in core-funded bodies.

Mr. Millar was directed to inform the group that some payments would be suspended until this matter and others were resolved.

Schools Quiz

The Board approved a document allowing the Agency to commit a payment of up to £3k for a schools quiz to help promote Ulster-Scots and the website.

Liam Logan

The Board approved publication of this text.

CAL Committee

Mr. Millar informed the Board of recent correspondence with the Agency.

Mrs Graham took the opportunity to thank the Executive Team for all their work while Mr Patton is absent from the Agency.

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on Friday 18th December 2009, in the Agency Board room, Belfast.

Signed:í í

Date:í í