

Tha Board O Ulster-Scotch
93rd Board Meeting
16th October 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Board Room

Present;	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mr William Humphrey
	Mr William Leathem
	Dr William Roulston
In attendance:	Mr George Patton
	Mr Michael McCullough
Recording Secretary;	Miss Siobhan McNally

1) Welcome / Comments from the Chairperson

Mrs Graham welcomed and thanked Board members for attending the 93rd Board Meeting in the Ulster-Scots Agency offices.

Mrs Graham paid tribute to Dr Aileen Douglas who has recently resigned from the Board.

2) Apologies

Apologies were tabled on behalf of Dr Adamson and Mrs Reed who were currently attending the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta. Mr Millar was unable to attend the meeting due to a medical appointment.

To award difficulties regarding quorum it was agreed to amend the Agenda and deal with issues requiring decisions in the first instance.

6) Grants and Appeals

2010 Tuition Programme

The Agency received a huge uptake for the 2010 tuition programme with requests for £1.45m in financial assistance. The Board were advised of a range of 6 options which could be used to filter the tuition budget to an agreed maximum budget of £800k. Following discussion the Board instructed 2 filters to be used to ensure the overall financial support did not exceed budget. Firstly, awards for only 1 night tuition for associated activities (e.g. Flute and drum tuition on 2 separate nights would only attract 1 night support – also accordion and drum, pipe and drum. However lambeg drum and

bagpipe tuition on 2 separate nights would both be eligible for support). Secondly, all “band” associated tuition would be eligible to an across the board % reduction to ensure the overall tuition programme budget is not exceeded.

Where the tuition was “non band” associated (e.g. dance, fiddle, lambeg, fife) i.e. tuition which would not normally be available without the support of the Agency the level of support to such groups will be maximised.

As with all applications, groups can revise their programmes of activity prior to and during the tuition delivery, however all changes must be notified in advance and approval granted. Revised awards will not exceed the initial award made within the tranche funding assessment.

Action point: Exec to profile for budgets of £600k, £700k and £800k for November Board meeting.

The Centre Stage Theatre Company

Project: ‘That Woman at Rathard’ by Sam Hanna Bell.

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £25,000

The Board had previously offered £15,000 sponsorship for the project but it is more appropriate to deal with it under ‘Partnership Working’. The Arts council has offered a grant of £37,960 and the balance will be met by the box office. The project meets the conditions of the partnership working scheme. The Board agreed the grant be awarded.

Proposed and Agreed: £10,000 of this would be paid over in 2009.

Artists in Creative Enterprise

Project: Wordland – Young Peoples Written and Verbal Arts Project

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £10,000

The Board felt that given the 2010 Budget constraints it would be appropriate to reject all new applicants for Partnership Working and seek a call for fresh applications to be with the Agency by March as part of a Tranche funding initiative.

Proposed and Agreed.

A paper was tabled and discussed on Festival Tranche Funding.

The Board approved the criteria as set out. Letters will be sent out to Community Groups by the end of October explaining the procedures for festival funding planning. This information will also be put on the Agency’s website.

Proposed and Agreed.

North Antrim Media and Events – funding for website

The Board collectively agreed that this application be rejected.

Proposed and Agreed.

It was further agreed that at this time of efficiency savings the Agency would not provide funding for websites in general.

Dr Roulston left the meeting at this point.

Altnaveigh House Appeal

The Board received and agreed a report from the Appeals Panel. Given the nature of some of the issues raised in the appeal it was suggested that the original assessment panel reconvene to clarify for what appears to be inaccurate information was conveyed to the applicants.

7) Budget and Business Plan Progress

A paper was tabled and discussed on 2009 Budget and Business Plan.
The Board approved the budgetary recommendations.

10) 2010 Business Plan

The Board discussed the Business Plan. The CEO advised that the plan has to be sent to the sponsor Departments. However the Board were of the opinion that they would wish to spend more time discussing the Budget implications which they would raise in a meeting in November with Minister McCausland.

3) Minutes of last Meeting

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous Board Meeting.
Proposed and Agreed: that the minute be accepted.

4) Matters Arising

First Derry Presbyterian Church

Mr Patton presented a Report which was accepted.

TV Programme

There was no update on the programme. It was agreed that the production company be given a deadline of 31st December 2009 to obtain a broadcast date.

CEO Targets

The Board await a response from DCAL in relation to 07/08 and the 09 targets.

Meeting with the Minister

Mrs Graham reported on the meeting with the Minister. A number of issues discussed would be recognised under agenda items.

The Department recognises the need for the Agency Accountant post to be filled and a job description needs to be written for the position.

8) Language Development Strategy

It was reported that during the meeting with the Minister clarification had been received that there was no movement on the establishment of the Academy. The Board agreed that the Language Strategy Document would therefore remain as a draft at this stage.

9) Plantation Project

At the meeting with Minister McCausland the Board presented their views on the Plantation project and the Minister appeared to be receptive. The Executive reminded the Board that there was a financial issue with the Plantation Marketing Strategy in that it could not now be completed this year and finance would not be available next year. The Board expressed the view that further clarification would be received from the Department later that day.

5) Report from Executive

Copies of this report were tabled and discussed. The Board suggested that the item on NARUSH be reused with the Minister at the next meeting.

Proposed and Agreed: The Board accepted the report.

11) A.O.B

Institute of Ulster-Scots studies

The Board collectively agreed that the presentation from the Institute due to take place at next months Board meeting should be cancelled or at least would take the form of a presentation of their work to date.

Dr Lawrence Holden

Mr Patton will meet with the Arts Council and Dr Holden to discuss the Partnership Funding next week.

Stone Mountain Games

Dr Ian Adamson and Mrs Jacqui Reed are currently attending the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta.

Launch of the Agency's Website

The Launch of the Agency's new website took place successfully in the Ulster-Scots Information Centre on the 15th October. Mrs Graham thanked Gillian Gilmore and Lyndsey Hanna for organising the event.

Staffing

A paper was tabled on staffing issues.

Mr Patton was pleased to inform the Board that Derek Reaney has returned to post after illness but with agreement will be taking things at an appropriate level for a period of time.

12) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on 18th November 2009 in the Agency offices, Belfast.

Signed.....

Date.....