

MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE

7th November 2023

Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

PRESENT:

John Mothersole Chair
Ray Coyle Member
Maggie Jones Member
Halima Khan Member
Kamran Rashid Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Chamberlain England Director
Emma Corrigan England Director
Jon Eastwood Deputy Director, England
Mark Purvis Deputy Director, England
Hannah Rignell Deputy Director, England
Tamara Walker-Moore Deputy Director, England
Catherine Lindsey Senior Governance Officer (Minutes)

FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:

Mike Bates Senior Head of Finance (Item 3)
Stuart Fisher Director, Finance (Item 4)
Sam Tague Funding Manager (Item 6)
Tracey Bennett Funding Officer (Item 6)
Damian Robinson Funding Officer (Item 6)
Colin Peel Funding Officer (Item 7)
Lorraine Joyce Funding Manager (Item 7)
Steve Lowden Funding Officer (Item 7)
Chris Mitchell Funding Officer (Item 7)
Kirsty Main Funding Officer (Item 7)
Ciaran Murphy Funding Officer (Item 7)
Bethany Roberts Funding Officer (Item 7)
Heidi Haxeltine Funding Officer (Item 7)
Fiona Brice Funding Officer (Item 7)
Natalie Deller Funding Officer (Item 7)
Rachel Stephens Head of Funding, Multi-Regional Team (Items 6&7) (Observing)
Stephen Gould Funding Officer (Items 6&7) (Observing)
Juliette Kelvin Senior Grantmaking Manager (Item 7) (Observing)

1. COMMITTEE INFORMAL CATCH UP

- 1.1. The Committee held a closed session for members only.

ESLT and the Senior Governance Officer joined the meeting.

2. WELCOME

- 2.1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.
- 2.2. Apologies were received from Kevin Bone and Karin Woodley.
- 2.3. Committee members declared the following interests:
- i. Ray Coyle was Chair of the Small Charity Panel for NCVO (also linked with NAVCA). Ray also sat on the steering Committee for The Clore Social Leadership Programme's Oxfordshire programme. Noting that he was not an

employee of these organisations and did not stand to make any personal or financial gain from decisions relating to their proposals, the Chair noted the declarations but did not deem them disqualifying.

- ii. Kamran Rashid had previously undertaken paid work delivering the pilot programme of The Clore Social Leadership Programme's proposal. Given that this work might continue depending on the Committee's decision, the Chair agreed that this was a disqualifying financial interest, and that Kamran would not participate in the discussion relating to this proposal.

2.4. Minutes for the meetings of 12th September and 10th October were **APPROVED** as accurate records.

2.5. The action log was taken as read and it was **AGREED** that actions 227, 229, 230, 233, 235 and 236 could be closed.

2.6. In response to a query raised by the Chair regarding action 228, Phil Chamberlain clarified that the action referred to two different strands of work and should be separated into two actions to reflect this.

ACTION: Governance, Phil Chamberlain

2.7. There were no matters arising.

3. ENGLAND UPDATE

Mike Bates joined the meeting.

3.1. The Chair welcomed Tamara Walker-Moore, who had recently joined ESLT as Deputy Director for Operations.

Portfolio Review

3.2. Hannah Rignell presented a brief update, advising that recruitment of a temporary team for portfolio review work had been successful, and the steers provided by Committee during their previous meeting would be shared with the new team upon starting their roles.

3.3. Regarding the lead roles which had been allocated to Committee members since the last meeting, the Chair advised ESLT of some changes the Committee wished to make following their closed session. The Chair also asked for the purpose of the lead roles to be captured, specifically that they would help to land individual priorities, provide perspective on how these might be focused, and consider any early implementation opportunities.

3.4. While there was no Committee meeting scheduled in December, the Chair requested that a one-hour virtual session be held in order for ESLT to provide an update on the portfolio review work and any other relevant matters.

ACTION: Governance

Third Party Activity

Sections 3.5 - 3.8 are Commercially Sensitive - S43(2)

Latest Financial Position

- 3.9. Mike Bates summarised the portfolio's financial position, highlighting 2023/24 performance on Grant Awards, Operating Costs and Income. Mike also discussed the Grants position to the end of the year and beyond, noting that the revised position was a £42m decrease against the original budget, largely due to unallocated budget being moved into future years. England would be aiming to get closer to budget where possible, either through Awards for All (A4A) or other means.
- 3.10. The Chair thanked Mike for his presentation and finance colleagues for their work, noting that the portfolio was in a strong position to manage the next four to five months.
- 3.11. In addition to the England Update, the Chair noted that current world events would be impacting on communities which the Fund worked with, and asked that ESLT relay to staff that the Committee wanted them to continue their work of responding fearlessly to the needs and asks of those communities.

Mike Bates left the meeting.

4. STRATEGIC FINANCIAL UPDATE

Stuart Fisher joined the meeting.

Section 4 is Commercially Sensitive - S43(2)

Stuart Fisher left the meeting.

5. DORMANT ASSETS - COMMUNITY WEALTH FUND UPDATE

Section 5 is Commercially Sensitive - S43(2)

6. GRANT VARIATIONS & FUNDING DECISIONS

Section 6 is Commercially Sensitive - S43(2)

- 6.9. Grant Variations and Funding decisions are restricted and can be found in Annex A.
- 6.10. As per the interest declared under section 2.3 (ii), Kamran Rashid did not participate in the discussion regarding a proposal submitted for The Clore Social Leadership programme (EC(23)P93).

7. REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY

- 7.9. The Committee indicated they would like to have clarity around the Fund's position on supporting infrastructure, and emphasised the importance of the Fund's EDI commitments being carried forward and amplified by organisations in receipt of funding. Members also discussed how best to present the regional updates currently included in the England Update paper, given the increased

number of grant applications being considered at business meetings.

- 7.10. Committee and ESLT reflected positively on the conduct of the meeting, referring to a conversation at their previous meeting regarding ways of working and interacting with Funding colleagues.
- 7.11. Following feedback regarding a Committee member's previous experience of having an application decided by England Committee, the Chair acknowledged that clarification and codification around the portfolio's position on specific issues and how its values were put into practice would be useful, and would help to hold decision-makers to account regarding how proposals were dealt with.
- 7.12. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 15:27.