**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND  
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE**  
FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2022

14:00 – 17:00 *Online via Teams*

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| **MEMBERS:** |  | |
| Blondel Cluff (Chair)  Kate Still  Paul Sweeney  John Mothersole  Simone Lowthe-Thomas | | Chair of the Board  Scotland Committee Chair  Northern Ireland Committee Chair  England Committee Chair  Wales Committee Chair | |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  | |
| Emma Ackerman  John Knights  Ruth Bates  David Knott  Stuart Fisher  Hannah Paterson  Nick Gardner  Harnish Hadani  Nigel Crompton  Vicky Garfitt  Abigail Campbell  Catherine Roberts  Dominic Newlyn | | Funding Strategy Director  Senior Portfolio Manager  Deputy Director, Funding Strategy  Chief Executive  Finance Director  Senior Portfolio Manager (Item 7)  Head of Climate Action (Item 7)  Senior Financial Advisor (Item 7 & 9A)  Portfolio Manager (Item 7)  Portfolio Manager (Item 10)  Portfolio Officer (Item 10)  Head of Governance  Senior Governance Officer (Minutes) | |
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1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. The Chair opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to new Committee Members Kate Still, John Mothersole and Simone Lowthe-Thomas who were all attending their first meeting. The Chair also welcomed the Fund’s newly appointed Finance Director, Stuart Fisher, who was observing the meeting as part of a handover from Harnish Hadani.
   2. The Chair thanked the team for their hard work on delivering the papers and the changes made following the feedback from the previous meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 
   1. There were no apologies for absence.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 
   1. The Poverty Truth Network application had been supported by Co-Director Martin Johnstone, who is also a member of the Scotland Committee. Kate Still would be removing herself from the discussion and decision on this application to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
   1. The Minutes of the previous meeting, UKFC(21)M03, were approved as seen.
5. **ACTIONS ARISING**
   1. As per Action 108, the Manx Lottery Fund finance paper had been added to the meeting papers for information.
   2. The Committee noted the two outstanding actions, both relating to finance items. Stuart Fisher would pick these up in due course.
6. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**
   1. Harnish presented the financial update with indicative grant budgets. The Committee noted there would be a detailed review of these budgets at the end of January, and so figures could change.
   2. The Committee noted that the Board had approved the release of an additional £150m of income for grant budgets, of which the UK Portfolio would receive 10% or £15m. This had been factored in to the budgets but none of this had been attributed to the current financial year.
   3. No changes were being proposed to the award allocations. The Bringing People Together programme could utilise some of the portfolio’s underspend, and the Jubilee programme had received an allocation diverted from the Exploring New Approaches funding stream. The Climate Action Fund expenditure timeframe now had more clarity and the team were able to plot out a draft budget for the remainder of the CAF programme.
   4. The Committee discussed the Jubilee funding programme and the Cities for Culture activity, and whether programmes like these, for which we have several years’ prior notice, could be incorporated into budgets with clear allocations, rather than diverting of funds away from other programmes that also run during the same accounting year. The team noted this and proposed that we should retain some flexibility for mid-year programmes. This would be considered when reviewing the grant budgets. In addition, the Jubilee programme had shown significant overlap with Bringing People Together funding. This overlap should be considered when looking at funding to ensure the most effective allocation of budget.
   5. It was noted that the grants budget allocation reflected the current structure of the portfolio; funding streams either deprioritised or ending with funding reallocated to broader streams, with the imminent portfolio review needed to rethink priorities and themes.
7. **UK PORTFOLIO UPDATE**
   1. The main focus of the Portfolio since the last meeting had been on grant making activity across the Platinum Jubilee Programme, the Together For Our Planet programme, and other open UK programmes. The Growing Great Ideas programme had closed and the final applications were being reviewed later by the Committee, and the Bringing People Together programme remained open, with some changes proposed to the Committee at Item 7.

*The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Funding Programme*

* 1. The Committee discussed the funding activity associated with the celebrations for the Queens’ Platinum Jubilee. The ‘70 for 70’ flagship funding programme had just closed, having received over 750 applications. The UK team had worked hard to drive outreach and encourage priority areas to apply, and had been successful in driving engagement in the limited time available, although geographically there remained areas where little activity had occurred.
  2. Rural areas had seen lower participation levels which may be surprising given the environmental focus of the programme, however the Committee noted this was likely due to shorter 4-week application window. These communities may be better suited to applications via A4A, and the Committee noted A4A applications would help address some of the remaining cold spots identified during the flagship programme.
  3. The Committee noted the significant number of applications received and discussed whether there was scope for further budget to be made available. It was noted that there may be budget however the theme of ‘70 for 70’ that reflected Her Majesty’s 70 year reign would need to be taken into account. It was agreed that it may be a more suitable strategy to redirect unsuccessful applications other funding streams.

*Together For Our Planet (TFOP)*

* 1. The Committee received an update on the TFOP programme, funded primarily by the Climate Action Fund and supported by some funding from the Scotland Portfolio. This had closed on 18th November 2021 after receiving over 1,260 applications.
  2. The amount available for the programme had been subsequently increased, with guidance and approval from the CAF Decision Panel, aiming to support 400-500 grants. Initial reviews indicated that the quality of applications were high and had seen an average amount of £8,700 requested by organisations.

*Climate Action Fund*

* 1. The Committee noted that the Round 2 for CAF had closed at the end of Q2 and 21 projects, focusing on the theme of waste and consumption, had been approved for funding, totalling around £6m. In addition, the team were working with some of the Round 1 grantholders to progress their proposals from development grant to full award.
  2. The Committee discussed how the CAF was addressing cold spots, both geographically and thematically. As well as a thematic focus, there had been a focus on increasing engagement in Northern Ireland at Round 2. The team continued to promote the CAF to audiences and had seen over 1000 attendees at informational webinars ahead of the Round 2 launch.
  3. The Committee encouraged the team to think about NI representation on the CAF Decision Panel.

*Funding Highlights*

* 1. The Committee noted successful applications from the UK Funding Panel for both active programmes, BPT and Growing Great Ideas. The Committee were reminded that the GGI programme had now closed and the final applications would be coming through the pipeline up to the end of March.

*Innovation, Policy and Practice*

* 1. The Committee noted an update on the activity of the team. The Fund-wide Scanning and Sensemaking network meetings had continued every 6 weeks, providing an opportunity to review and interpret patterns emerging over time. This had included a ‘year in review’ session in December.

*Learning and Impact*

* 1. The Committee noted the progress of the Fund’s Digital Grantmaking training, which had been delivered to over 280 staff as of the end of 2021. Work continued to enhance the support provided to organisations led by individuals with lived experience, and a report on the LLE Pilot Programme would be published in early 2022.
  2. There was significant Learning and Insight activity in the Climate Action Fund, with three partners currently undertaking discovery activity and contributing towards the development of a robust theory of change. In addition, the Climate Action Hub had been set up as a first key initiative of the programme, encouraging communication and learning between the Fund and grant-holders, that could be shared externally too.

*Finances*

* 1. The Committee reviewed the financial update, noting the unallocated budget for 2021-22 which currently was not attributed to any UK programme, and potentially could be rolled over to the 2022/23 financial year. The Committee noted the need for agility in the temporary reshaping the portfolio, ahead of the more strategic portfolio review that was currently underway.

1. **BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER PROGRAMME CHANGES**
   1. The Committee received the paper outlining the proposed changes to the Bringing People Together programme, including an increase of the maximum grant amount to £1m and a request to use the unallocated UK Portfolio budget for the programme.
   2. The Committee discussed the increase in maximum funding amount and the rationale behind it. It was noted that the £300k maximum had been put in place to manage expectations of applicants and ensure that the scope and quality of proposals received matched the aims of the programme. It was now the case that this cap was curtailing conversations around promising ideas and preventing strong applications coming through.
   3. The Committee discussed the impact that changing the limit would have on the balance of applications that would come through. Experience had shown that applications will often match the grant limit of a programme, and this would see the majority of applications coming through focus around the £1m limit. The team were reticent to this and agreed that the approach would need to be refined to ensure a good mix of applications were still received, with a focus on smaller grants with the higher limit reserved for the right type of proposal.
   4. The Committee discussed the potential impacts on finances and cashflow for the portfolio that these two changes would make. The Committee requested further clarity on the amount of unallocated budget expected to be channelled into the BPT programme, as well as some input from finance on the forecasting and cashflow implications of these changes, together with confirmation that unallocated sums could be rolled forward within the UK Fund.
   5. In principle, the Committee supported both of the recommendations however opted to defer the decision until further information on the above points could be provided.
2. **FUNDING DECISIONS**
   1. The funding decisions are confidential and can be found at Annex A.
3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. The Committee noted that this would be John Knights’ final Committee meeting having accepted a new role externally. The Committee and Executive thanked John for all his hard work and valued contribution to the Committee and the UK Portfolio during his time at the Fund.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 17:10.**

**MINUTES AGREED DATE**

**BLONDEL CLUFF**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**