**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND  
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE**  
Monday 10th October 2022

09:00 – 12:00 *Online via Teams*

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| **MEMBERS:** |  | |
| Blondel Cluff (Chair)  Kate Still  Paul Sweeney  Simone Lowthe-Thomas | | Chair of the Board  Scotland Committee Chair  Northern Ireland Committee Chair  Wales Committee Chair | |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  | |
| David Knott  Stuart Fisher  Hannah Paterson  Liz Watchorn  Ellen Dunlevy  Mel Eaglesfield  Jane Thompson  Neil Ritch  Mike Bates  Catherine Roberts  Lucy Taylor Fay Salichou  **APOLOGIES:** John Mothersole  Nick Gardner | | Chief Executive  Finance Director  Head of Funding  Senior Portfolio Manager  Senior Portfolio Manager  Deputy Director, Funding Strategy  Knowledge & Learning Officer  Scotland Director *(Item 7)*  Head of Finance *(Items 8, 9 and 10)*  Head of Governance  Governance Officer (Minutes) Governance Officer (Observing)  England Committee Chair  Head of Climate Action | |
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1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Fund’s newly appointed Governance Officer, Fay Salichou, who would observe the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 
   1. Apologies were received from Nick Gardner and John Mothersole.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 
   1. There were no further declarations of interest.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
   1. The minutes and decisions of the previous meeting, UKFC(22)M03, were approved as seen.
5. **ACTIONS ARISING**
   1. The Committee reviewed the action log, noting the following updates.

i. Action 110 – Liz Watchorn clarified that the action was completed and was reflected in the UK Portfolio Update (UKFC(22)P32).

ii. Action 111 – The Chair noted that the Learning Report would be provided at a future meeting.

1. **UK PORTFOLIO UPDATE**
   1. The Committee received the Portfolio Update, providing the following feedback:
   2. The Committee emphasised the need to build upon the legacy of the Platinum Jubilee work. Some of the projects from the Platinum Jubilee work had only recently commenced - such as Trees for Cities - and the Committee advised the importance of monitoring such projects.
   3. The Committee discussed at length the funding map and emphasised the need to address cold spots on the map. The Committee made several suggested metric changes to the map, including a map showing the differences between portfolios in each country. They also felt it would be helpful if the map could show a comparison between small and large projects.
   4. The Committee acknowledged that the threshold for Bringing People Together was previously raised to £1m. Due to the enormity of the sum, the Committee queried if big projects such as The Together Coalition should be funded in two phases. The UK team advised that this was project and grant dependent.
   5. The Committee noted the paper on The A Team Foundation and queried how the grant would be distributed among local groups. The UK Team explained that the grant would fund the organisation's Ambassador roles, who were instrumental in ensuring the grant was delivered to local groups. Liz Watchorn advised she would explore the impact of the Ambassador's work and would feed back to the Committee in due course.

**ACTION: Liz Watchorn**

* 1. The Chair accentuated the need to share learning amongst community groups, particularly around climate action. The Chair suggested encouraging partners to develop an education pack to be sent out to schools and similar learning institutions. The Chair also requested a tutorial on the Fund’s own Climate Learning Hub.

**ACTION: Liz Watchorn**

1. **COST OF LIVING RESPONSE**

*Neil Ritch joined the meeting.*

* 1. The Committee received a high-level overview of the UK Portfolio’s response to the cost-of-living crisis (COLC). To provide background, Mel Eaglesfield advised that the Committee agreed at the last meeting to distribute immediate funding through portfolios - which had been done in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Moreover, the UK team has allocated £5m in the current financial year in uplifts for existing grant holders to ensure they could continue their projects.
  2. The Committee thanked the UK team for their swift response to the impending crisis and discussed the need to have a strategic focus when considering the needs of communities at this time. The Committee was keen for a short film to be made, which would be used to communicate to existing and prospective grantees the Fund’s strategy and response to the COLC.
  3. The Committee advised that the current labour market was strong, and identified that this could be opportune to upskill communities. Members acknowledged the need to focus on in-work poverty and the local economy, perhaps by seeking out preventative measures to support individuals from falling through society’s gaps.  
       
     *Neil Ritch left the meeting, and Mike Bates joined the meeting.*

1. **BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER**

8.1 With the paper taken as read, the Committee were invited to provide their feedback, particularly around the recommendation to broaden the criteria of the programme.

8.2 The Committee discussed the clarity of the criteria, highlighting that the programme had a high unsuccessful application rate, and advised that the criteria should be reworked to be more straightforward for applicants. Members recommended that a KPI be in place to measure the success of these applications. Members also suggested that the criteria be weighted so that funding is evenly spread across the four nations.

1. **CLIMATE ACTION**
   1. In Nick Gardner’s absence, Liz Watchorn presented the paper and welcomed feedback from members. Considering how geographically widespread British biodiversity is, the Committee encouraged the Team to consider what kind of international dimension the Portfolio could have in the future, which fully incorporated the UK, its crown dependencies, and territories.
   2. Simone Lowthe-Thomas provided insight into the Climate Action Fund’s discussions, highlighting that the energy efficiency project is expected to have a significant uptake and encouraged as many funds as possible to be ringfenced for this. The Committee also encouraged prioritising the investment of long-term energy-efficient measures in communities.
   3. Members emphasised the need to be reactive to the ever-changing needs of communities. To ensure the Committee was working in right alignment, they agreed that there be a UK Funding Committee away day in tandem with the Climate Action Fund.

**ACTION: Liz Watchorn**

1. **FINANCE UPDATE**
   1. As the financial paper was drafted for the end of August in anticipation of the originally scheduled September meeting, Mike Bates provided a verbal update on recent financial changes. Of note, year-to-date, the awards totalled £10.5m, against the four-year forecast of £58m. Due to the impact of the COLC, £10m had been factored in for the other portfolios to distribute.
   2. Mike reported that the Finance team would be working with the UK team at an upcoming forecast round which would establish the likely end-of-year position on awards. There were concerns around meeting KPI 3; however, Stuart Fisher felt the Fund could manage it well, and would reflect on the Fund’s position with SMT and the CEO after the forecasting exercise.
2. **UK PORTFOLIO REVIEW UPDATE**
   1. The Committee noted the contents of the paper, reflecting that the recent exploratory session has proved useful for the Team. Hannah Paterson advised that the Team was working closely with the Strategy Renewal team and would ensure that the Committee’s steer would be aligned with this. The Chair advised that this piece of work should also converge with the work on policy directions.
3. **UKFC MEMBER ORIENTATION**
   1. The contents of the paper was taken as read, and no further comments were made.
4. **AOB**
   1. There was no further business.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 11:00.**

*The meeting was succeeded by a closed session of the UK Funding Committee.*

**MINUTES AGREED DATE**

**BLONDEL CLUFF**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**