**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE**
Wednesday 23rd November 2022

09:00 – 12:00 *Online via Teams*

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| **MEMBERS:** |  |
| Blondel Cluff (Chair)Kate StillPaul SweeneySimone Lowthe-ThomasJohn Mothersole | Chair of the BoardScotland Committee ChairNorthern Ireland Committee ChairWales Committee ChairEngland Committee Chair *(joined the meeting in Item 8)* |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  |
| David KnottMike BatesHannah PatersonLiz WatchornEllen DunlevyMel EaglesfieldDougie SpenceLucy Taylor**APOLOGIES:**Stuart FisherJohn MothersoleCatherine Roberts | Chief ExecutiveHead of FinanceHead of FundingSenior Portfolio ManagerSenior Portfolio ManagerDeputy Director, Funding StrategyFunding Manager *(Item 7)*Governance Officer (Minutes)Finance DirectorEngland Committee Chair *(joined the meeting in Item 8)*Head of Governance |
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1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
	1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
	1. Apologies were received from John Mothersole, as he would be absent for some of the meeting, and joined in Item 8. Mike Bates joined the meeting to deputise for Stuart Fisher.
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)M04, were approved as presented.
5. **ACTIONS ARISING**
	1. The Committee reviewed the action log, noting the following updates. The Committee also requested that specific deadlines be added to the action tracker.
6. Action 111 – The Committee noted that the action item was complete as the team had produced a Learning Report on the Places Called Home programme. The Chair asked if a Learning Report could be created on the Commonwealth Games.
 **ACTION: Ellen Dunlevy**
7. Action 112 – Liz Watchorn confirmed that the project would not impact the Ambassadors.
8. Action 113 – The action item was still in progress, as the Chair was still yet to receive an introduction to the Climate Hub. Moreover, the Committee discussed the Climate Action Fund, and they requested that a visit be arranged to a climate project next year.
 **ACTION: Liz Watchorn**
9. **FUNDING DECISIONS**
	1. **The funding decisions are confidential and can be found in Annex A.**
10. **FUNDED PROJECT UPDATE – THE HELIX PROJECT**

*Dougie Spence joined the meeting.*

* 1. Dougie Spence provided an update on The Helix Project, highlighting that the project was delivered by Falkirk Council (the grant holder) in a partnership between Falkirk Council, Scottish Canals and Falkirk Community Trust. Falkirk Council have sought permission from the Fund to release an area of ground within Plot 32 from the existing security (Annex A &B) to enable certain improvement works to be undertaken. The Committee were recommended the following:
	2. To note the transfer of the management of the Helix Project from Falkirk Community Trust to Falkirk Council.
	3. To agree to the release of the area highlighted pink from the Standard Security granted by Falkirk Council in favour of the Fund to allow improvement works to take place.
	4. **The Committee thanked Dougie for his presentation, and were in full support of his recommendations.**

*Dougie Spence left the meeting.*

1. **COST OF LIVING RESPONSE UPDATE***John Mothersole joined the meeting.*

8.1 Hannah Paterson introduced the update, noting that the Fund has been shaping its approach and response to the cost of living crisis (COLC). The Fund’s approach to the crisis has been shaped by several things, including TNLCF’s funding principles, learning from the Covid-19 pandemic, and listening to individuals and organisations within established networks. The team uses data to drive the approach forward and recommends that the approach and timeline be revisited to ensure that it continues to be impact led. Moreover, the team have noted a gap in the market around medium and long-term approaches to the COLC, which they think the UK Portfolio could address.

8.2 The team is working closely with the relevant teams across the Fund to understand how to go about testing and developing a transparent approach to solicitation to develop several large partnerships across several years based on evidence and insights.

8.3 The Committee emphasised the need to work at pace in this area, and highlighted the need for a proactive solicitation approach to stimulate co-creation.

8.4 The Committee advised that as much funding as possible goes to grantees, not third parties. Members also discussed the need to identify short-term and medium-term solutions to empower small organisations and build resilience.

8.5 The UK team noted that current research points towards a partnership delivery approach. Members advised the UK team to progress the conversations around partnerships and present an update at the next Committee meeting.
 **ACTION: Hannah Paterson**

1. **UK PORTFOLIO REVIEW UPDATE**

9.1 The Committee noted the contents of the paper, reflecting on the insight into areas, issues, and approaches that the UK Portfolio could be best placed in to support the organisation's delivery. 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.

9.2 The Committee discussed the need to revisit the overall structure of the UK Fund at some point in the future, particularly as there was an appetite to do this.

1. **UK PORTFOLIO REVIEW THEMATIC DISCUSSION**
	1. As part of the UK Portfolio Review, the team asked the Committee for help steering the conversations on the geographical remit of the Portfolio.
	2. The Committee advised having a face-to-face workshop on this very topic – perhaps at the March meeting - as there were many ideas that they could deep dive into. For instance, members suggested that the national convening events should be driven entirely by the UK Portfolio.
	3. Considering how geographically widespread British biodiversity is, the Committee encouraged the team to consider funding climate action projects in the crown dependencies and overseas UK territories. Particularly, as some of these small territories were home to certain species that the Fund could help to conserve.
	4. The members spoke about the Fund’s previous international funding, and emphasised not to fund international projects again. Mel Eaglesfield advised that the Fund is no longer issuing international grants.

1. **PLACES CALLED HOME UPDATE**
	1. The Committee received an update on Places Called Home. Liz Watchorn advised that since the paper was written there was a Strategy Renewal deep dive session on partnerships which garnered good insight. The learning coming out is significantly helping shape the Fund’s small grants, as well as better insight into corporate engagement and partnerships. The Committee advised the team to consider exploring private sector partnerships, and offered support to the team in this area.
2. **PLATINUM JUBILEE FUND UPDATE**
	1. Liz Watchorn presented the paper on the Platinum Jubilee Fund for information. Liz acknowledged that the Committee had queries over its legacy, but as the funding was still in train, it could not be ascertained what the legacy was thus far. The Committee advised the team to consider their aspirations for the upcoming King’s Coronation and to firm up plans in light of this.

**UK PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

* 1. The contents of the paper was taken as read, and no further comments were made.
1. **FINANCE UPDATE**
	1. Mike Bates reported that the reforecasting exercise was completed. Of note, the awards allocation 22/23 budget was reduced to £42m. This is a £15.1m (26%) reduction to original budget. The Fund is still aiming to deliver the original budget; however, the Bringing People Together pipeline is weaker than intended which has led to a reduction in awards.
	2. The Committee discussed the 'Digital Fund', a fund established before the pandemic to enable digital transformation across the sector. The Committee reflected that the fund was highly prescribed and asked to see some learning on the Digital Fund. While there was some learning on the Knowledge Bank, the UK Team advised they would bring a paper to the Committee on this topic.

 **ACTION: Liz Watchorn**

1. **AOB**
	1. The Chief Executive reported that the Pride & Place report was recently published and recommended the Committee to read it.

 **THE MEETING ENDED AT 12:00.**

**MINUTES AGREED DATE: March 21st 2023**



**BLONDEL CLUFF**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**