

MINUTES
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND
MEETING OF THE SCOTLAND COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST 2023 AT 10.30AM
AT NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND OFFICE, GLASOW

Present:

Kate Still	Scotland Committee Chair
Jackie Brock	Scotland Committee Member
Lindsay Graham	Scotland Committee Member
Martin Johnstone	Scotland Committee Member
Janet Miles	Scotland Committee Member
Aaliya Seyal	Scotland Committee Member
Naila Wood	Scotland Committee Member

In attendance:

Roddy Byers	Head of Funding
Fiona Grant	Business Support Officer (Governance) (minutes)
Susan Johnstone	Funding Manager (item 6)
Lucy McDonald	Head of Knowledge & Learning
Neil Ritch	Scotland Director
Dougie Spence	Funding Manager (items 13-14)
Landa Sullivan	Head of Communications & Engagement

Guests:

Leah Black	Regenerative Futures Fund (item 6)
Talat Yaqoob	Regenerative Futures Fund (item 6)
Tesfu Gessesse	Regenerative Futures Fund (item 6)

1. OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the following:
- i. This is Lucy's first Committee meeting
 - ii. We will be joined by representatives from Regenerative Futures Fund for item 6

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 There were no apologies for absence.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SCOTLAND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2023 (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE MINUTES 23/04)

- 4.1 With the following amendment at the second sentence at 15.1:

- ... There was a concern that this may not be entirely consistent across teams. The minutes of the Scotland Committee meeting held on 21 June 2023 were approved.

5 MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 The Chair gave an update on the UK Board Meeting held on 28th June 2023 and the meeting of the UK Board on 25th July 2023 to discuss the Governance Review which the Committee noted.

6 PRESENTATION - REGENERATIVE FUTURES FUND

- 6.1 The Chair welcomed Leah, Talat and Tesfu to the meeting.
- 6.2 Leah, Talat and Tesfu gave a presentation on the Regenerative Futures Fund highlighting the following:
- The potential impact the Regenerative Futures Fund a pooled fund for Edinburgh could have
 - The context in Edinburgh and how the social sector can have a role in transformational social change
 - The timeline of the Fund design, fundraising, legal and governance work undertaken over the last year
 - How the Regenerative Futures Fund could work towards solutions for the interconnected societal challenges of poverty, climate and racial inequality
- 6.3 During discussion the main points raised were:
- It is great to see the passion and commitment that the team have
 - This is more than dealing with the symptoms of the challenges it is about long-term system change
 - The team should think about getting an academic learning partner to share the learning and measure the whole process
 - Informal sharing of the Fund design could be shared with teams working in other areas of the UK who would like to pilot the same approach
 - It is important to have progress markers and milestones clear from the start of the process to capture the early learning
- 6.4 The Chair thanked Leah, Talat and Tesfu for their inspiring and fantastic presentation.

7 VARIATIONS - OUR APPROACH AND RECENT PRACTICE (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/26)

- 7.1 Roddy introduced the paper highlighting the following:
- The Chair has requested a discussion on approach to and approval of variations with particular emphasis on the extent to which grant holders may be seeking variations rather than making fresh funding applications or whether lower grant requests or awards may create demand for variations
- 7.2 During discussion the main points raised were:
- The paper was helpful and detailed
 - It was useful to be able to look at the data of which variations had been approved and why
 - In Scotland we have more variation requests than other parts of the business as our average grant size is smaller

- iv. The paper provided a useful perspective and explanations of the variations process
- 7.3 The Committee agreed that they are content with the current variation process. It would be helpful to have a paper once a year that gives an overview of the variation requests.

ACTION, Roddy Byers

8 CHARGING FACTORS IN DECISION MAKING (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/27)

- 8.1 Roddy introduced the paper highlighting the following:
- i. Committee raised a concern under AOB at the June 2023 Scotland Committee meeting and asked Officers to take a look at consistency across and between teams as there was a concern that approaches to charging for services was being interpreted differently in different teams leading to inconsistency of decisions
 - ii. The data shows that there does seem to be consistency of approach in terms of consideration of potential cost barriers
 - iii. The unsuccessful decisions all appear to take a rounded view of a number of factors of which charging and costs is one but in some cases not the major determinant
 - iv. Whilst the success in teams vary the reasons do appear to have a consistency across teams
- 8.2 During discussion the main points raised were:
- i. This was a very helpful paper and appreciate the work that has gone into it
 - ii. In looking at the data the Committee agreed that there does seem to be relative consistency of approach in considering potential cost barriers
 - iii. Accepting the importance of context, the Committee noted that it did not expect place teams to have perfect consistency in every funding decision
 - iv. The key principles of this issue could be covered as part of the induction process for new Funding Officers utilising the criteria as set out in the papers to ensure continuing consistency.

9 COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/28)

- 9.1 Landa introduced the paper highlighting the following:
- i. Our recent press releases and social media has supported the launch of the new strategy
 - ii. The team produced and shared a number of short films featuring Scottish grant holders discussing their projects and the importance of our new themes
 - iii. There are a number of visits planned with Tier 1 MSPs including the Chair will be attending a visit with our Minister Shirley-Anne Somerville to Apparel Xchange
 - iv. Information will go on our website on 18th August about the changes to Awards for All as from mid-November applicants who are applying for community-led projects (that are not primarily arts or sports focused) will be to apply for up to £20,000 and get their project funded for up to two years
- 9.2 The Chair thanked Landa for the helpful Comms Report.

10 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/29)

10.1 The Committee noted the Director's update.

11 PLACE UPDATE (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/30)

11.1 The Committee noted the place projects update and commented that it helps to keep them informed of what is happening at a local level.

12 COST OF LIVING UPDATE - UPLIFTS (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/31)

12.1 The Committee noted the Cost of Living update.

13 KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST - FALLS OF SHIN VISITOR CENTRE (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/32)

13.1 Dougie introduced the paper highlighting the following:

- i. the progress of our ongoing discussions and the work undertaken with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust about the Falls of Shin Visitor Centre.
- ii. That an offer to purchase the Falls of Shin Visitor Centre has been secured which is acceptable to the Trust and the balance due to the Fund will be returned

13.2 During discussion the main points raised were:

- i. The money returned to the Fund will go into the Scotland budget
- ii. There are lessons to be learned from this that could be shared with other communities taking on assets

13.3 The Committee noted:

- i. That an Offer to Purchase has been secured and which is acceptable to the Trust
- ii. That on receipt of the sum representing the balance due to the Fund in terms of the remaining Asset Liability Period, the Fund will discharge the Standard Security granted by the Trust in favour of the Fund at the appropriate time and will release the Trust from all and any remaining obligations to the Fund arising from the original Offer dated 8 February 2016

13.4 The Committee thanked Dougie for all the work he had undertaken with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

14 MILLENNIUM COMMISSION - ASSETS LIABILITY PERIODS (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/33)

14.1 Dougie introduced the paper highlighting the following:

- i. The Fund's current position on Asset Liability Periods (ALP) applicable to pre-2018 capital awards

- ii. Since 2018, the ALP applied to new capital awards has been significantly less than those funded up to this date
- iii. The Fund proposes to apply the post-2018 ALP thresholds retrospectively to pre-2018 awards but consideration of this has been delayed by factors including COVID and changes within the Legal team
- iv. To note and approve release of the assets and groups listed in Annex A from any remaining obligations to The Fund arising from their funded project.

14.2 During discussion the main points raised were:

- i. The new ALP expiry date listed for Castlebay Community Hall in Annex A should be February 2011 and not February 2030.

14.3 The Committee approved the release of the assets and groups listed in Annex A from any remaining obligations to The Fund arising from their funded project.

15 OVERVIEW PAPER (SCOTLAND COMMITTEE P23/34)

15.1 Roddy introduced the paper highlighting the following:

- i. Demand remains high
- ii. The current budget position
- iii. The pipeline for Supporting Great Ideas
- iv. The Poverty Alliance would like their Supporting Great Ideas application to be considered before the first week in October which would allow them if successful to blend it into major Poverty Week activity in that month
- v. The assessing Officer has asked if Committee would consider decision by correspondence since there is no September meeting

15.2 The Committee agreed to consider the Supporting Great Ideas Application from the Poverty Alliance by correspondence in September.

16 AOB

16.1 The Chair thanked Officers and Members for their hard work and contributions.

17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

17.1 The next meeting will be held on 4 October 2023.

18 FINISH

18.1 There being no further business the meeting finished at 2.30pm.