

**CRONFA LOTERI FAWR  
BIG LOTTERY FUND**

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY SECOND WALES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2DY

**In Attendance:**

Adrian Webb (Wales Chair)  
Rona Aldrich (Wales Committee Member)  
Sian Callaghan (Wales Committee Member)  
Rob Pickford (Wales Committee Member)  
Rita Singh (Wales Committee Member)

Ruth Bates (Head of Communications)  
Awel Jones (Corporate Team Leader, minutes)  
Lara Ramsay (Senior Head of Corporate Management)  
Rob Roffe (Senior Policy and Learning Manager)

Derek Bardowell (Senior Head of UK Portfolio)  
Alex Collins (Head of Information) (Item 10 only)  
Jemma Nurse (Funding Manager) (Item 8 only)  
David Rowlands (Policy & Learning Adviser) (Item 4 only)  
Janet Thickpenny (Policy & Learning Adviser) (Item 6 only)

**1.1 Chair's welcome and apologies for absence**

1.1.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted from John Rose and Andrew Owen. All had already been made aware of Gaynor Richards' resignation.

**1.2 Review of Minutes of the Wales Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (WBM 17/20) and Matters Arising**

1.2.1 Committee confirmed that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the previous meeting and they were signed off. There were no outstanding matters.

1.2.2 Ruth confirmed that members would be provided with sufficient notice of project launch events, and that there would be a minimum of 4 weeks' notice.

**1.3 Note of decisions made by written procedure**

1.3.1 No decisions were made by written procedure.

**1.4 Declarations of Interest**

1.4.1 Rob Pickford declared a non-disqualifying interest ahead of the discussion on the horizon-scanning paper in relation to the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme due to his involvement with the Wildlife Trust.

**2. WSMT Overview**

2.1 Rob Roffe highlighted the main points of the WSMT Overview paper, including discussion on the below:

- The Welsh Government's consultation on its proposal for a new Welsh Language Commission. Rob will liaise with Welsh language Officer, Sian Jones to develop the Fund's response before the deadline on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Ruth noted the consultation has no impact on the work the Fund is currently doing to comply with the Welsh language standards. Committee requested that our response shares good practice on striking a balance between compliance and promotion in respect of the Welsh language. - **Action - RB**
- The need to monitor lessons learned from Communities First to identify learning relevant to the Fund in terms of its impact on communities and demand for funding. Committee requested officers to report back again on our response and to highlight learning from the Equalities and Local Government Committee's Communities First report - **Action - RR.**
- The Electoral Reform and Local Government Bill and our role as a catalyst in respect of community assets.
- Synergy between our direction of working and WCVA's Strategic Framework and 5 year plan.
- Publication of the tender for the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities scheme was imminent and the Fund would explore the possibility of bidding for the contract to deliver.
- John recently briefly met with Leanne Wood and Kirsty Williams and follow up letters have gone to both for further meetings.
- Community asset transfer was a strong theme within stakeholder engagement. Further consideration is needed on what the implications of this is when the CAT2 programme ends.
- The Directorate's ongoing restructure was discussed. It was noted that we are focusing on a more regional approach. Committee requested an update at the October planning day. - **Action JR**

### **3. Wales Portfolio Development update**

3.1 Lara presented the Wales Portfolio Development paper and highlighted the launch of People & Places 3 (P&P3) at the end of July, in which our new way of working is embedded. We have had positive anecdotal feedback about the new conversational approach. Committee will be updated as the programme progresses, and the P&P Committee will receive training in September.

3.2 Committee requested an update on P&P Committee recruitment. Awel Jones noted that the response to date was limited but promotion of the posts has been low key to avoid confusion between Wales Committee and People & Places Committee recruitment. She indicated that there will be a push to promote the posts more widely at the end of September. Committee suggested focussing further on youth groups such as students unions and Duke of Edinburgh, as well as larger employers in North Wales who are actively involved in the community. **Action - RB/AJ to feedback to team.**

3.3 Committee noted their concerns regarding the lack of innovation of applications received through the Third Sector Skills programme and noted that a 'lessons learned' exercise would be beneficial.

### **4. Horizon Scanning**

4.1 Rob provided an overview of the paper, noting that the paper will also be shared with the P&P Committee to help inform its decision making. The below was highlighted:

- The announcement of another round of the Community Facilities Programme (CFP), which will focus on current Communities First areas.
- Additional Welsh Government funding that will be made available to local authorities, working in partnership with voluntary sector organisations, for projects addressing youth homelessness, particularly those with a mental health need.
- Gaps in mental health services for young people, particularly therapy through the medium of Welsh, support for those with chronic health issues and mental health support for refugees.
- The Future Generations Commissioner's report, which also mentioned early intervention for mental health, highlights the need for more integrated public services.
- A Citizen's Voice seminar has been arranged for the 27<sup>th</sup> September that will share the successes and failures of the Community Voice programme. The event has seen a lot of interest. Committee requested feedback from this. **Action - RR.** Committee requested invitations to the second planned seminar. **Action - RB**
- Due to the significant interest in Community Asset Transfer we have been working with WLGA and Welsh Government on our approach to sharing learning. Rob noted we need to manage expectations as we have no current plans for further funding.

4.2 Committee discussed the reference to the Newport asset mapping exercise appreciating that assumptions should not be made regarding need. They felt that there needs to be a balance between responding to what people think they need and expanding people's horizons.

## **5. Analysis of grant distribution across Wales**

*David Rowlands joined the meeting*

5.1 David Rowlands presented a paper highlighting our spread of funding over the past 6 years from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. He explained that the data came with the caveats that it is based on FMS data and 'project location' rather than 'beneficiary location' which results in some anomalies. David highlighted patterns from Awards for All and People and Places programmes and made some comparisons with population size and the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) figures in each Local Authority. In summary it was noted that:

- certain areas do disproportionately well from our funding when compared to others
- Some areas that do well out of 'open programmes' do not necessarily do well out of our targeted or strategic programmes.

The reasons for these findings are unclear, but it is hoped that we may identify the reasons for these differences as we move towards more local working.

5.2 Lara highlighted another data caveat relating to strategic programmes that have been geographically targeted such as Rural and Create Your Space. This helps demonstrate why some areas haven't gained as much funding from our strategic programmes.

5.3 Committee discussed the patterns highlighted in the paper and the following points were raised:

- We need to consider the disparity between spread of funding and areas with significant needs - **Action - DR**
- The impact of individual community leaders can make a big difference and continuity of that leadership in an area is important.
- Concern was expressed over the reliability of FMS data on which these statistics had been based. Dave noted that this is only a starting point and that our regional approach will enhance our knowledge.
- There was a brief discussion on ‘futureproofing’ communities in Wales post-Brexit and a need to look at distribution of European funding.

5.4 It was agreed that this should be considered further by the Committee in the future. The chair noted that the following questions should be considered:

1. Does this information mean anything at all?
2. What are the implications of the caveats discussed when considering that our response of funding doesn’t match highest needs?
3. When in ‘responsive mode’ do we need more of a focus on good infrastructure and good leadership?
4. Do we need to prioritise ‘responsive funding’ when considering the Funds budget?
5. What does the data mean for the way we work at the Fund?

## **6. Review of Rural programme**

*Janet Thickpenny joined the meeting*

6.1 Janet Thickpenny presented a paper considering the review of the first round of funding for the Rural programme to date and presented five options for delivering the remaining funds. Jan noted that the majority of applications were received from applicants who had already benefited from our funding; that the broad definition of ‘rural poverty’ meant the majority of applications could have also been eligible for People and Places; officers developing local knowledge in North Wales, Newport, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr have identified rural communities that were not previously aware of the Fund, with many not currently eligible for the Rural programme.

6.2 Janet invited Committee to consider the options from the paper, particularly option 5: to align the programme with regional work throughout Wales and ring-fence the remaining funds for distribution through the P&P3 application and decision-making process.

6.3 Discussion ensued as to how to proceed. While it was agreed that there is a continuing need for the Rural Programme, it needs to be more strategic and innovative and have more of a focus on community development. Committee felt that, although there are similarities between rural and urban areas, the context of rural poverty is different. Committee felt that there was a disconnect between our understanding of ‘People in the lead’ and that some organisations may not have the capacity and confidence to take a ‘people in the lead’ approach. The chair suggested that the Fund’s officers and staff discuss the issues that we’ve experienced and how we can communicate better to applicants, before coming back to the Committee at the planning day in October. **Action - JT/DR.**

6.4 Rob Suggested that we need to consider our approach to collaborative funding more generally and how ‘people in the lead’ fits into that approach. He suggested that the

planning day in October should consider this which met with agreement. The chair also requested that we consider how we can communicate ‘people in the lead’ more effectively to applicants as part of that discussion, drawing upon the lessons from the Rural Programme.

6.5 It was further agreed to defer the next round of the Rural programme for up to 6 months to allow for these discussions about collaborative funding to take place.

*Janet Thickpenny and David Rowlands left the meeting*

*Derek Bardowell Joined the meeting*

## **7. Wales Media & Communications update**

7.1 Ruth Bates presented the Communications report and highlighted the following:

- The People & Places embargo date has been reduced and the embargo date for the Awards for All programme has been removed to allow projects to celebrate their grants straight away.
- Along with Cerys Matthews, Ruth surprised the Magi Ann project, a series of Welsh language children’s books that is brought to life through free apps, with the news that they’ve been voted the UK’s best education project in the National Lottery Awards 2017.
- The new National Lottery Awards for All and launch of People & Places 3 have seen an increase in the amount of calls we receive and conversations we are having with applicants.
- We are planning an event in the Senedd on the 17<sup>th</sup> January to engage with Welsh politicians and a further event in February.

7.2 Committee requested for early indication and reminders of the Senedd event dates. -  
**Action - RB**

7.3 Committee noted that there has been good media coverage in the last quarter.

## **8. Bright New Futures ‘Deep Dive’**

*Jemma Nurse joined the meeting*

8.1 Jemma Nurse gave a presentation which provided an overview of the Bright New Futures programme. The programme aim, outcomes and impact were noted. Jemma focused in particular on the ‘Steps into the future’ initiative which was delivered jointly by 9 projects and 15 organisations.

8.2 Committee requested that the link to the ‘Steps into the future’ is sent to them -  
**Action - JN/AJ**

8.3 Committee noted that this was a good example of how projects can come together to influence policy makers. It is also a good example of our role as a catalyst and providing support when needed.

8.4 Committee also noted the importance of involving key senior civil servants as well as ministers to influence and make an impact.

8.5 Committee thanked Jemma for her presentation.

*Jemma Nurse left the meeting*

## **9. Wales Committee Forward Work programme**

9.1 Committee noted the forward work plan and noted that they had already discussed topics for the planning day on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

*Rona Aldrich left the meeting*

## **10. UK Knowledge & Learning and UK portfolio update**

*Alex Collins Joined the meeting*

10.1 Alex Collins provided an update on the 'Data Warehouse' which is designed to make the data the Fund holds more consistent, and to provide more of a complete view of what we fund. A demonstration was provided on how the data warehouse can be used.

10.2 Committee noted the caveats to the FMS data on which this information was based as previously discussed in relation to the spread of funding.

10.3 There was positive feedback from Committee. The advantages and disadvantages of having this data was discussed and it was noted that there is a need for the information to be accurate if shared with politicians. It was noted that if this information is used to inform ministers we need to be prepared for challenging questions.

10.4 Derek Bardowell provided an update on the UK Portfolio. He provided the background to the portfolio, notably its current priorities including Bringing People Together, Growing Great Ideas and Exploring New Approaches. The portfolio's additional priorities were also noted which are International funding and legacy grants. Derek discussed with Committee how he hopes to complement the work of other directorates with the work of the portfolio.

10.5 Committee noted that it was good to have a clearer vision of the UK portfolio's commitments and strategy and welcomed Derek plans for working more closely with the staff and Committee in Wales.

10.6 Committee discussed with Derek the opportunity to work with the UK portfolio to replicate good projects. Derek noted that there are issues with scaling projects as the approach is not community-driven.

10.7 Committee thanked Alex and Derek for their updates.

## **11. Feedback from Corporate meetings**

11.1 Adrian noted that there was nothing to update from the UK Board meeting or the Audit & Risk Committee.

11.2 An update was already provided by Derek Bardowell on the UK Funding Committee.

## **12. Update from other Portfolios**

12.1 Lara noted that other portfolios are currently 'people focused' due to the ongoing work on the new Employment Framework. There is also further work happening on the data warehouse and branding.

## **13. AOB**

13.1 There was no further business to discuss.

## **14. Close**