**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE**
Tuesday 9th May 2023

13:30 – 15:00 *Teams*

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| **MEMBERS:** |  |
| Blondel Cluff (Chair)Kate StillPaul SweeneyJohn Mothersole | Chair of the BoardScotland Committee ChairNorthern Ireland Committee ChairEngland Committee Chair  |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  |
| David KnottStuart FisherHannah PatersonLiz WatchornMel EaglesfieldVerity PrimeCatherine RobertsLucy Taylor | Chief ExecutiveFinance DirectorHead of FundingSenior Portfolio ManagerDeputy Director, Funding StrategyFunding Strategy, Communications, and Impact DirectorHead of Governance (Minutes)Governance Officer (Minutes) |
| **APOLOGIES:** |  |
| Simone Lowthe-Thomas | Wales Committee Chair |

*The meeting was preceded with a closed session with the Committee.*

1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME**
	1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
	1. Apologies were received from Simone Lowthe-Thomas.
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(23)M01 - were approved as seen; however, the Committee requested that specific due dates be added to the action log.
	 **ACTION: Governance**
5. **UK PORTFOLIO 2023-24**
	1. To set up a context for the discussion, Mel Eaglesfield noted that at the last Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the next iteration of the UK Portfolio in line with the Fund-wide strategy. The Committee agreed that the Portfolio should focus on the priority areas of the Strategy Renewal, with a particular focus on scale, emerging issues, and projects that have a UK-wide benefit. From this steer, the UK team have set out a new approach as outlined in the paper.
	2. Furthermore, the Committee were requested to approve and discuss:
	3. approve the announcement of both the newly designed open programme of funding and increased levels of funding for Climate Action Fund (CAF) on 07 June in line with the Fund-wide strategy.
	4. agree that the UK Portfolio will commit £15m to the new programme and that will increase the commitment of CAF in 23/24 from £26m to £35m, as outlined in this paper.
	5. provide a steer on the governance approach for the new programme.
	6. The Committee thanked the UK Team for their work on the paper and implementing their feedback from the last meeting. Committee members discussed the budget for CAF and whether it should be increased. Members suggested that CAF’s work should be aligned with the Fund’s strategy, and ensure the focus on environmentally sustainable communities is embedded within the strong pipeline. As such, members advised that the CAF Chair should be included in discussions, along with input from the CAF Decision Panel.
	 **ACTION: Mel Eaglesfield**
	7. **Overall, the Committee agreed to increase the budget by £9m for the Climate Action Fund, subject to the proviso that the Committee should be informed if the CAF Decision Panel requests more money before June 7th.**
	8. The Committee then commenced a discussion on the newly designed open programme. Members suggested that the programme allow room for scalability, and stated the need to ensure the pipeline is fulfilled. They also suggested utilising the expertise of Country Committees, and to work collaboratively with them to ensure the smooth running of the pipeline.
	9. The Committee queried the length of grants, noting that the proposal states “the maximum grant length will be 10 years with most projects running for approximately 5-7 years in length.” Members suggested that this be reviewed and possibly reduced and advised that the matter of the length of grants be discussed at Board.
	10. In terms of governance, the Committee were in agreement that they should retain full oversight as it was a new initiative. The Committee also agreed that it was premature to increase delegation from £500,000 to £1m to the UK Funding Panel at this time.
	11. The Chair raised considerations about the language used in the criteria regarding the application process, stating that some applicants may lack confidence in describing themselves as "exemplary." The targeted approach may also be seen as restrictive, as applicants are asked to develop infrastructure even if they may struggle to cover costs which could potentially discourage some applicants from applying. The Chair advised that the communication of this new programme should be spread as far as possible to allow opportunities for all communities.
	12. **The Committee approved the design of the new open programme and agreed that an update on the communications approach would be shared at the next meeting on June 1st. The Committee did not support increasing the delegation threshold.**
	13. The Chair highlighted the need for the UK Team to remain flexible and not close the door on issues facing the UK such as the cost of living. The Chair also suggested that best practices should be shared across the UK and that private sector collaboration should be explored. Mel acknowledged the importance of private sector collaboration and stated that it will be considered in the future.
	14. The CEO expressed satisfaction with the Committee's decisions and highlighted the need for a collective effort in developing strategies across all portfolios. The CEO also mentioned the importance of presenting the sequencing of events across all portfolios at the next Board meeting, as part of the organisation's corporate plan.
6. **AOB**
	1. There weren’t any items of other business.

 **THE MEETING ENDED AT 15:00.**

**MINUTES AGREED DATE: 01/06/2023**

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**BLONDEL CLUFF**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**