**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**2nd June 2020 10am**

**Online via Teams**

**MINUTES**

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| **PRESENT:** |  |
| Tony Burton  Aaliya Seyal  Kevin Bone  Eileen Mullan  Sian Callaghan  Elizabeth Passey | Chair  Scotland Committee Member  England Committee Member  Northern Ireland Committee Member  Wales Committee Member  Board Member |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  |
| Dawn Austwick  John Knights  Cassie Robinson  Nick Gardner  John Rose  Emma Robinson  Dominic Newlyn | Chief Executive Officer  Senior Portfolio Manager  Senior Head of UK Portfolio  Head of Climate Action Fund  Wales Director  Portfolio Manager (Item 6)  Governance Officer (Minutes) |
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1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. Tony Burton welcomed the Committee and explained to members the logistics of the Committee’s first virtual meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 
   1. The were no apologies for absence.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 
   1. There were none.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – UKFC(20)M01**
   1. The Minutes were approved as seen.
5. **ACTIONS ARISING – P06**
   1. The Committee noted the two actions marked as complete regarding Financials and Cashflow. The remaining three actions were to be addressed in the following items, and would be marked as complete following the meeting.
6. **UK PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW – P07**

**UK Portfolio Overview – Including impact of and response to COVID 19**

* 1. The Committee received UKFC(20)P07 and Cassie Robinson provided a verbal overview.
  2. A number of staff in the Portfolio had been working with the England team in delivering grant-making, as well as sharing best practice with other portfolios on participatory grant-making and funding programmes led by Leaders with Lived Experience.
  3. There remained 3 live funding applications. The Committee noted that Transition Towns had applied to the Fund’s Covid 19 funding programme for the England focused parts of their operation, and would return in December to apply for funding for their UK-wide operations.
  4. John Knights gave an overview of the teams work on equality, diversity and inclusion across the Fund and the Committee discussed the disproportionate impact of the crisis on marginalised communities. John had led a number of open conversations with organisation on the impacts of the Covid 19 crisis, and these findings were collated in a report that now formed part of the guidance for funding staff.

**Financial Update**

* 1. The Committee noted the financial update from John Knights. Available funding for the year had been committed with minimal contingency funds available.
  2. The Committee noted the changes made to the distribution of Growing Great Ideas budget to cover COVID 19 responses.

**The People’s Projects (TPP) – P09**

* 1. The Committee received UKFC(20)P09 with a verbal update from Emma Robinson. The Committee was asked to approve the preferred option to defer TPP until 2021, and provide feedback on how a research brief may be structured in a post-Covid 19 society.
  2. The Committee agreed that including Covid 19 response projects would reflect the essence of TPP, and if framed correctly would help highlight the good stories to come out of crisis.
  3. **The Committee noted that ITV and STV were supportive of deferring and agreed to approve this approach.**A research brief would be developed and the overall approach would be reviewed in 2021 with the view that there would be a clearer picture of the medium and long term impacts of the Covid 19 crisis.

**The Big Lunch – P10**

* 1. The Committee received UKFC(20)P10. The Big Lunch was taking place virtually over the following weekend.
  2. The Committee was asked to provide feedback on a potential extension to The Big Lunch programme with plans to hold The Big Lunch event in 2021. The Committee discussed the Fund’s relationship with The Eden Project and noted that the events represented a key part of the current engagement strategy.
  3. The Committee requested further information on a potential increase in funding to be provided at the September meetings.

1. **UK PORTFOLIO PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT**

**Climate Action Fund Update – P11**

* 1. Nick Gardner introduced UKFC(20)P11, noting that the programme had been able to maintain operations and also grow the team from five to ten members during the crisis.
  2. Expressions of interest had been developed into a shortlist of 36 projects, of which 24 would be presented to the Decision Panel later in June following further assessment.
  3. **The Committee approved the shifting of budget from Growing Great Ideas to the Climate Action Fund, reflecting a higher proportion of applications requesting a full award of up to £2.5million.**
  4. **The Committee requested that the membership of the Advisory Board be developed to ensure older generations were adequately represented.**

**ACTION: Nick Gardner**

* 1. The Committee agreed on a need to measure the ‘green-ness’ of the recovery and asked the team to ensure this remained a key priority, particularly given the learnings that could be captured across the entirety of the Fund.

**Digital Fund Update – P12**

* 1. The Committee received UKFC(20)P12 and noted a verbal overview from Cassie Robinson, highlighting that the crisis had acted to underline the importance of digital infrastructure and expertise.
  2. Demand for digital skills and expertise had increased across the sector. The team were working with teams in other portfolios to share understanding of good digital practice and support this element of their grant-making.

**Emerging Futures Fund – Verbal**

* 1. Cassie Robinson provided a short update on the Emerging Futures Fund, launching on 11th June, and thanked the Committee for their support at the extraordinary meeting in May.
  2. The programme approach was to listen the sector and direct organisations towards this Fund in a more targeted approach. An update would be provided in September by which time all funding decisions would have been made.

1. **UK PORTFOLIO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**
   1. Cassie Robinson provided a slide deck on thoughts for the future development of the UK Portfolio. The Committee discussed the following areas of potential funding;

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

* + 1. The Committee discussed the complexity of understanding what is most important to communities in times of such uncertainty. It was noted that the Fund would need to carefully balance support for communities to manage the grief caused by the crisis, and support for communities to recognise and share the positives that have emerged.
    2. The Fund had limited understanding and awareness of public sentiment during this time. The Committee discussed using existing sources such as participatory grant-making,

GROWING GREAT IDEAS

* + 1. The Committee considered the thematic areas that Growing Great Ideas programme could focus on. There remained in year funding of up to £6m for the programme.
    2. The Committee agreed that as Covid 19 continued to bring a high level of uncertainty across the sector, the Fund did not have the information and understanding at that moment in time to determine an approach. It was noted that the NI programme of Growing Great Ideas had been paused.
    3. The Committee noted the importance of developing an approach and a set of themes to ensure applications remained manageable enough to deliver effective and meaningful grants. This would be revisited once the impacts of Covid 19 on the sector and communities became clearer.

1. **INTERNATIONAL PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW – P13**
   1. John Knights provided an overview of the Covid 19 response from funded organisations. The Committee noted there had been a key focus on combating misinformation around the virus and ensuring communities were equipped with the knowledge and understanding required to respond to the crisis.
   2. The Committee noted an update on safeguarding. The Fund was in a position to resume funding to organisations in Uganda, whilst Tanzania was moving closer to this position but progress had been checked by the requirements of the Covid 19 response efforts.
   3. The Committee discussed the importance of remaining part of the conversation on safeguarding at a time of crisis, as the likelihood of incidents increases. The Fund has a clear safeguarding policy and continues to be a vital source of information and best practice for both grant-holders and other funders.
   4. There remained three UK grants active, with the final grant ending in 2022. The Committee would receive a paper in September detailing the changing nature of these grants in light of the crisis, with one organisation already refocusing its efforts towards a Covid 19 response.
2. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. Cassie Robinson noted to the Committee the value the UK team had provided to other portfolios, sharing best practice to impact how teams deliver funding.

**The meeting ended at 13:00.**

**MINUTES AGREED DATE**

**TONY BURTON**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**