**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**22nd September 2020 10:00 – 12:30**

**Online via Teams**

**MINUTES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PRESENT:** |  |
| Tony BurtonAaliya SeyalKevin BoneEileen MullanSian Callaghan | ChairScotland Committee MemberEngland Committee MemberNorthern Ireland Committee MemberWales Committee Member |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  |
| Dawn AustwickJohn Knights Cassie RobinsonNick GardnerJohn RoseNigel CromptonConor CrossEmma RobinsonChris ManionVicky GarfittDominic Newlyn | Chief Executive OfficerSenior Portfolio ManagerSenior Head of UK PortfolioHead of Climate Action FundWales DirectorPortfolio Manager (Item 6)Portfolio Officer (Item 6)Portfolio Manager (Item 7)Portfolio Manager (Item 7)Portfolio Manager (Item 9)Governance Officer (Minutes) |
|  |  |

1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
	1. Tony Burton welcomed the committee, reminding members and attendees of the etiquette for virtual meetings to ensure effective discussion and a timely finish.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
	1. Apologies were received from Elizabeth Passey and Hannah Paterson.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
	1. There were none.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – UKFC(20)M02**
	1. The Minutes were approved as seen.
5. **ACTIONS ARISING – P16**
	1. Nick Gardner provided an update on the one outstanding action regarding CAF Advisory Panel membership. The recommendation to ensure older generations were adequately represented on the panel had been noted. The Panel had undergone membership changes over the last few months, and the above point would be considered when membership was reviewed in due course.
6. **UK PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW – P17**

**UK Portfolio Overview**

* 1. The Committee received UKFC(20)P17 and Cassie Robinson provided a verbal overview. The team continued to work well remotely, and the recent away day had allowed for a significant amount of planning, particularly around how the different strands of the portfolio can be better connected.

**Climate Action Fund Update – P18**

* 1. The Committee noted the update on the Climate Action Fund.

**Emerging Futures Fund Update – P19**

* 1. The Committee noted the update on the Emerging Futures Fund

**Participatory Grant Making – P20**

* 1. The Committee discussed the extent to which participatory grant making could be rolled out across funding programmes. It was noted that the team were still defining the scope of this approach and were bringing further resource to support Hannah Paterson and address the questions of where, when and to what extent is this approach relevant.
	2. It was noted there was significant appetite across portfolios to test this approach, and will be explored across multiple funding streams once the legal implications and accounting officer responsibilities are clear and have been fully addressed.

**Leaders with Lived Experience (LLE) Update – P21**

* 1. The Committee noted the LLE update delivered by Conor Cross.
	2. This pilot-style programme, co-designed with lived experience leaders, retained the cam co-designed parameters but had been reframed to focus on the role of lived experience throughout the crisis. The demand for the pilot programme was high and there had been great appetite for expanding the approach to other funding streams.
	3. The Committee were asked to support the continuation of the current learning partner contract for the 2020 LLE programme. This would ensure the continuity of communications and allow the two programmes to easily share learning and build a network of LLE organisations. In addition, efficiency savings would be realised by not having to go through the process of procuring another partner.
	4. The Committee discussed the deliverables of the learning partner. It was noted that the final report delivered as part of the contract was a key tool for cataloguing the immediate impact of the programme, the further funding that LLE organisations have secured, and the impact of lived experience leadership on civil society.
	5. **The Committee approved the continuation of the contract with the current learning partner.**
	6. The Committee discussed the ability of the programme to reach potential leaders that were not part of a formal entity. The team had recognised this as a potential area of development; leaders in the community could be hosted by an organisation, but this was a limited outreach. In part due to the activity seen throughout the crisis, there was a fund-wide consciousness on how the fund interacts with communities and this would continue to be addressed across all portfolios.
	7. The success rate for applicants to the programme was around 3%. The Committee noted that unsuccessful applicants were, where capacity allowed, being supported in finding alternative funding either with the Fund or externally.
	8. The Committee discussed the £50,000 limit to grants. It was noted that the team had found this to be a suitable level for the pilot programme, as in many cases successful organisations were accessing funding for the first time. The Growing Great Ideas funding programme would be a logical next step for projects looking to expand and access further funding.

**Spotlight Report – P17 Annex A**

* 1. The Committee received the spotlight report and noted updates on The Big Lunch, our Bright Future, and the Digital Fund.
1. **UK PORTFOLIO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

**Growing Great Ideas – P22**

* 1. The Committee received an update on the proposed re-opening of the Growing Great Ideas fund.
	2. It was noted that a main feature of the revised fund would be a more explicit focus on supporting transformational change, exploring how to better support coalitions and networks rather than single organisational or sector approaches. The criteria for this new approach would need to be clearly formulated and communicated to potential applicants prior to applying.
	3. The Committee noted that the portfolio had significant experience in funding partnerships and the learnings would ensure a suitable approach when implementing governance and assessment of these programmes.
	4. The Committee discussed the longer-term funding structure of up to ten years. It was noted that this would encourage longer term projects and help attract the right kind of forward-thinking and transformative behaviour that the Fund wants to support. This did not mean that funding could not be delivered on shorter timeframes.
	5. The Committee discussed the governance and due diligence required for projects across a significant time period. It was agreed that a more flexible and fluid approach would need to be taken, learning from other longer-term projects in the Fund such as A Better Start in the England portfolio.
	6. In addition, the Committee noted the need for sufficient analysis and testing of any potential partnerships or networks to reduce the risk of any cohesion or operational issues inhibiting a successful outcome. This could be worked into the funding agreement if required.
	7. **The Committee agreed to the consideration of proposals in November 2020 if appropriate**
	8. **The Committee agreed to the set up of an informal advisory group to support the work on Growing Great Ideas.**

**Bringing People Together – P23**

* 1. The Committee discussed Bringing People Together in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, agreeing that the crisis had heightened the importance of connecting people and communities.
	2. The Paper proposed a strategy that grouped engagement activity under the Fund’s priority thematic areas, providing a framework for a mass participation event in 2021.
	3. The Committee discussed the idea for a mass participation event. It was noted that this would be less like the ‘national moments’ the Fund had delivered in the past, which required significant support from a broadcaster and a substantial funding programme to back up. Instead, this was designed more to combine a host of activities that delivered mass engagement and mass participation across all National Lottery distributors.
	4. The Committee discussed the potential challenges detailed in the paper. It was agreed that, providing the communications and language were accurate and of an appropriate tone, there was unlikely to be any issues talking about ‘bringing people together’ at a time of social distancing.

**Global Partnerships Programme – P24**

* 1. The Committee noted the contents of the update in UKFC(20)P24. The proposed shift for the international portfolio was towards an approach that better fit with the Fund’s existing funding streams and corporate plan objectives, and focused on building strong partnerships across the sector.
	2. The funding model would change significantly, with a small amount of funding delivered each year through two or three partners, with a stronger emphasis on learning from and sharing knowledge with these partners.
	3. The Committee discussed the Fund’s aims and objectives of activity in the international sector. Multiple aims were identified including the chance to gain knowledge, share learning and input, continue to improve the Fund’s standing internationally, and enrich existing funding streams, particularly those that address global issues. It was agreed that the paper did not completely and succinctly capture the broad aims and outcomes and this should be included in further iterations of the proposed programme approach.
	4. **The Committee approved the proposed focus, approach and timescales for the Global Partnerships Programme.**

**East Africa Disability Fund (EADF)**

* 1. The Committee noted the update on the EADF. Funding had resumed in Tanzania after delays due in part to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
	2. No further safeguarding claims had been received and the team was working hard to recommend the resumption of funding across the rest of the portfolio.
1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
	1. There was no other business.

**The meeting ended at 12:30.**

**MINUTES AGREED DATE**

**TONY BURTON**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**