FOI 202400426992

NOTE OF MEETING: Cabinet Secretary and Minister Quarterly Catch Up meeting with Creative Scotland – Virtual
30 April 2024 – 15:00-16:00

ATTENDEES:

Creative Scotland (CS):

- Iain Munro (IM) - Chief Executive
- Robert Wilson (RW) - Chair

Scottish Government (SG):

- Angus Robertson MSP (Cabinet Secretary) - Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
- Kaukab Stewart (Minister) - Minister for Culture, Europe, and International Development.
- Lisa Baird (LB) - Deputy Director - Cultural Access and Organisations
- <[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]- Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts
- <[redacted – s.38(1)(b)]- Policy Officer - Performing Arts

ACTIONS:

- CS to share case study of the cross-sectional cooperation work that CS do.
- Minister and CS to have a face to face meeting.

NOTE OF MEETING:

Summary of CS Work

RW highlighted important support that CS provided to the Culture Sector during the pandemic.

IM and RW gave the Minister a summary of ongoing work at CS. Topics included: Multi Year Funding (MYF) Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and international work.

Multi Year Funding

CS explain that MYF is the key to confidence long term planning for the sector. CS looked at various models of MYF and adopted the model that they felt was the best. CS intend to keep project funding going as not all organisations, and individuals, are suited to MYF.

CS set out that the pressures of the inflationary environment are more evident than ever. [redacted s.30(b)]

Responding to the Minister's question of how does CS support and monitor in financial need, IM explained that CS evaluate the need for funding and have developed a clearer strategic framework and have put in place a revised monitoring and evaluation framework.

Skill Share & Expertise

CS want to have relationships with parts of the creative economy which are not relying on public funding. . These relationships should not be based on funding, they should also mean the sharing of expertise. CS have been working hard to continue to build strategic partnerships with Scottish Enterprise, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, South of Scotland Enterprise, and Skills Development Scotland.

[redacted s.30(b)]

[redacted s.30(b)]

CS undertaking work at present on scoping the culture and leisure landscape building on work done pre pandemic. Work due to be completed by end of May.

LB asked about possible opportunities available to CS with their plans to use National Lottery reserves for unsuccessful MYF applicants. CS said they are setting up transition funding. Several MYF applicants are also RFOs which run the risk of losing regular funding if their applications are unsuccessful. Rather than let those organisations fall off a cliff come April 2025, CS want to give them time and space to consider what their options for the future may be. For some it might mean closure but for others it might mean a reformed business model or downsizing. CS will have £9m-10m in reserves to support transition funding.

Funding decisions & Media Coverage

[redacted s.30(b)]

[redacted s.30(b)]

[redacted s.30(b)]

[redacted s.30(b)]

[redacted s.30(b)]

RW confirms to keep SG up to date with anything pressing and potential issues, in light of recent media coverage.

Mainstreaming culture

Minister agreed that culture covers different several areas in particular healthcare, education, and social care, but cultural organisations do not get funding from those directorates. SG know the benefits culture can bring and we need to make this mainstream across all directorates.

Cab Sec suggested that minister could visit some of the organisations who are doing amazing health or educational projects to give non-culture ministers confidence that

it would be mutually beneficial for their portfolio if they financially contributed to these culture projects.

AOB

Dundee Contemporary Arts have been nominated as UK Museum of the Year 2024.

END