

At a MEETING of the **LEISURE & CULTURE DUNDEE BOARD (Post AGM)** held at Dundee on 13th November, 2019.

Present:-

Sinclair AITKEN  
George LAIDLAW  
Ian MATHERS  
Michael MARRA

Nasreen MOHAMMED  
Maira METHVEN  
Greg COLGAN  
Stuart CROSS

Stewart MURDOCH  
Will DAWSON  
Anna DAY  
Louis LEE

In attendance:-

Paul HENEHAN, Service Manager, Support Services  
Judy DOBBIE, Head of Library and Information Services, Managing Director Designate  
Joanne SCOBIE, Nominated Board Member

Apologies for absence were intimated from Christina ROBERTS.

Sinclair AITKEN, Chairperson, in the Chair.

## **I WELCOME/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.

Standing Declarations of Interest: Stewart Murdoch and Greg Colgan as employees of Dundee City Council; Stuart Cross as a member of OSCR.

## **II APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The above minute was submitted and accepted as a correct record.

## **III MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The Board endorsed the nomination of Sinclair Aitken to continue in the position of Chair.

### **(b) APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS**

The L&CD Constitution states:

*"In addition to the office-bearers required under clause 76, the charity trustees may elect (from among themselves) further office-bearers if they consider that appropriate."*

It was proposed therefore to appoint a Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair. The Board endorsed the nomination of Will Dawson to continue in the position of Vice Chair, and to also endorse the nomination of Ian Mathers for the position of Second Vice Chair.

### **(c) PROGRAMME OF 2020 MEETINGS**

It was agreed that the Programme of 2020 Meetings would be circulated with the minutes. It was further noted that a review of sub-groups was to be undertaken but that HR, Finance and Health, Safety & Property groups would continue. The Lead Trustee Group and other sub-groups would be suspended until Trustees have the opportunity to consider best use of their time and expertise.

### **III PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS**

- (a) MINUTE OF LEISURE & CULTURE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER, 2019

The above minute was submitted and accepted as a correct record.

### **IV MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **V FINANCE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

- (a) UNAPPROVED MINUTE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 2019

It was agreed that due to the late submission of this minute, it would be re-submitted to the next Board meeting for full consideration.

- (b) BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS

It was reported that members of the Senior Management Team had attended the Dundee City Council Budget Strategy Group regarding the 2020/21 budget. A report detailing cost of services and the consequences had been prepared, in order to raise awareness of the current financial constraints involved in providing services. Members noted that the cost of services document was still in early draft format and it was anticipated that a clearer position would be available in the new year, once settlement figures from the Scottish Government were known.

The Board recognised that a pro-rata share of the budget reductions faced by Dundee City Council was necessary but that ongoing discussions with Dundee City Council and regular meetings of the Budget Strategy Group would enable preparations to be made for this. They also noted that other Council Departments would receive the pay award before any deductions/savings.

Concern was raised that the Board was losing some focus on its objective of service provision as a result of the focus on savings. It was noted that the BSG would be looking to produce a 3-5 year plan covering service provision. It was agreed that any comments on the cost of service document be forwarded to Stewart Murdoch or Judy Dobbie to ensure information held was as robust as possible.

Discussion then followed regarding how best to engage with service users on the impact of budget reductions. It was suggested that phasing service reductions over 2-3 years could help lessen the impact on user groups/customers and avoid negative press headlines.

### **VI A O C B**

- (a) A suggestion was made that agenda items be re-ordered to allow more dialogue about services/initiatives.
- (b) It was agreed that the Scottish Government "Learning Estate Strategy" be circulated to Trustees for information..

Sinclair AITKEN, Chair.