



# Minutes

## National Council

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Date	Thursday 15 October 2015	
Time	13:00 – 16:00	
Location	Meeting Rooms 11-13, Bloomsbury Office, London	
Members Present:	Sir Peter Bazalgette	Chair of the Arts Council
	Dr Maria Balshaw CBE	National Council Member (Items 6-10)
	David Bryan	National Council Member
	Professor Jon Cook	National Council Member
	Joe Docherty	North Area Council Chair
	Sheila Healy	South West Area Council Chair
	Sir Nicholas Kenyon	National Council Member
	Nazo Moosa	National Council Member
	Peter Phillips	Midlands Area Council Chair
	Rosemary Squire OBE	National Council Member (Items 1-7)
	Veronica Wadley	London Area Council Chair
Apologies:	Matthew Bowcock CBE	National Council Member
	David Joseph	National Council Member
	Alistair Spalding CBE	National Council Member
Also Present:	Darren Henley	Chief Executive
	Althea Efunshile	Deputy Chief Executive
	Mark Ball	Executive Director, Arts and Culture
	Elizabeth Bushell	Director, Finance and Corporate Services
	Antonia Byatt	Director Literature, Cambridge and SE (Item 8)
	Richard Russell	Director, Policy and Research (Item 6)
	Mags Patten	National Director, Advocacy and Communications
	Laura Dyer	Executive Director, Nth, Mids, SE, SW and London
	Simon Mellor	Executive Director, Arts and Culture
	Ruth Alaile	Director, Governance and Planning
	Francis Runacres	Director of Investment (Items 6-7)
	Angela Archbold	Governance Officer ( <i>minutes</i> )

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed National Council, Executive Board and other Officers to the meeting.
- 1.2 National Council welcomed Mark Ball to his first National Council meeting. It was noted that Mark had joined Executive Board for six months as Executive Director, Arts and Culture (job-share with Simon Mellor).
- 1.3 Apologies were received and noted from Matthew Bowcock, David Joseph and Alistair Spalding.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 National Council Members reviewed their registers of interests.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 September 2015**

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous National Council meeting, held on 15 September 2015, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 4.1 National Council reviewed the status of actions agreed at the previous meeting.
- 4.2 Council members referred to minute 8, *National Council Succession Planning* and reiterated the need to continue to improve the diversity of National Council. It was felt that improving diversity should be one of the key objectives in the next recruitment round.

**5. CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

- 5.1 National Council NOTED the Chair and Chief Executive's report.

**6. PREPARING FOR THE SPENDING REVIEW**

*(Francis Runacres and Richard Russell joined the meeting)*

- 6.1 Althea Efunshile, Francis Runacres and Richard Russell provided council members with an update on the work being undertaken to plan and prepare for the outcome of the Spending Review. They explained that the

Chancellor was expected to announce Government Department settlements for 2016/17-2019/20 on 25 November 2015. However, it was still unclear at this point whether the Arts Council's settlement will also be known on that date.

6.2 They updated the meeting on recent discussions with Department for Culture, Media and Sport and HM Treasury. They also updated members on the work undertaken by the Executive Board since the last National Council meeting. This work had had the objective of formulating specific propositions for the shaping of the 2018/21 Investment Process.

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*[Information has been withheld here in line with the requirements of **section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information intended for future publication.** Under section 22 we are entitled to withhold information until the intended publication date as long as there is a clear intention to publish the details in the future and where it is reasonable in all the circumstances to maintain the original timetable for publication.]*

6.4 National Council NOTED the update on the progress of Arts Council’s preparation for its 2016-2020 settlement.

*(Richard Russell left the meeting)*

**7. THE DRUM**

7.1 Francis Runacres and Laura Dyer introduced this item which recommended that a capital grant application from The Newton Cultural Project Ltd (The Drum) for £2,586,847 should be rejected, but that funding of up to £4,500,000 should be set aside to support the Drum as a strategically important National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) in the Midlands.

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*[Information has been withheld here in line with the requirements of **section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – prejudice to commercial interests.** A public authority is entitled to withhold information under this provision where disclosure of that information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any persons or organisations, including the Arts Council itself.]*

7.3 Laura Dyer explained the importance of the Drum to the local area, the national arts ecology and our drive for equality and diversity. She highlighted the financial difficulties faced by the organisation and reported on recent discussions with the local council - Birmingham City

Council .....  
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*[Information has been withheld in the above section in line with the requirements of **section 36(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – disclosure would be likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and the free and frank exchange of views for the purpose of deliberation.** This information details free and frank opinion and advice offered in open discussions. It is necessary for a certain amount of “safe space” to exist in order for officials to debate issues freely. Disclosure of these details would be likely to inhibit the future ability of officials to express themselves openly, honestly and completely].*

7.4 .....  
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*[Information has been withheld here in line with the requirements of **section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – prejudice to commercial interests.** A public authority is entitled to withhold information under this provision where disclosure of that information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any persons or organisations, including the Arts Council itself.]*

- 7.5 National Council AGREED to:
- (a) Reject the capital application for funding for The Drum of £2,586,847 for the reasons outlined in the paper and;
  - (b) Approve in principle, an investment of up to £4,500,000 from the approved capital and financial interventions budget to secure the future of the Drum.

*(Francis Runacres left the meeting)*

## **8. GRANT FOR BOOKGIFTING PROGRAMME**

*(Antonia Byatt joined the meeting)*

- 8.1 Antonia Byatt introduced this item which asked National Council to approve a grant of £10.8 million for 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 (£5.4m in each year) to enable the continuation of the Bookgifting programme.
- 8.2 She explained how the scheme worked. It is a universal scheme and

reaches millions of children and young people throughout the UK. It makes a contribution to the Arts Council Goal 5 (*Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries*).

- 8.3 Althea Efunshile confirmed that funding for this project was now in the baseline. As such, a new funding agreement with the Book Trust for 2016/17 and 2017/18 would be conditional on the overall level of 2016/17 and 2017/18 funding allocated to the Arts Council after the forthcoming settlement. Book Trust would therefore be in the same position as NPOs and MPMs.
- 8.4 There were questions asked about how diverse the books on offer were and how the scheme was being evaluated. Antonia Byatt advised that work to improve the evaluation of the scheme was on-going. The diversity of the books on offer was an issue and Officers will be exploring this further with the Book Trust during the negotiation and monitoring of the funding agreement.
- 8.5 National Council considered the recommendation and AGREED to award a grant of £5.4 million for 2016/2017 and £5.4 million for 2017/2018 to enable the continuation of the Bookgifting programme and subject to the conditions outlined in the accompanying paper.

*(Antonia Byatt left the meeting)*

## **9. APPOINTMENTS TO AREA COUNCILS**

- 9.1 National Council were asked to approve one new appointment to the North Area Council and two new appointments to the Midlands Area Council.
- 9.2 Council Members were reminded that the proposed appointments were made in line with Arts Council's area council recruitment policy adopted and approved by National Council in May 2015.
- 9.3 All appointments had been endorsed by the Chairs of both Councils who also chaired the recruitment panels.
- 9.4 Brief biographical details of each appointee were provided for Council Members to refer to along with further information on the composition of the area councils in terms of diversity and range of skills.

9.5 National Council AGREED to approve all three appointments for four year terms:

- Councillor Chris Hogg (North) 15 October 2015 to 14 October 2019
- James Brindle (Midlands) 15 October 2015 to 14 October 2019
- Fiona Allen (Midlands) 1 February 2016 to 31 January 2020

## **10. PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

10.1 Peter Phillips provided National Council with a summary of the most recent Performance and Audit Committee meeting which took place on 28 September 2015 and also sought National Council's approval to make a slight amendment to the Committee's terms of reference following an internal audit recommendation.

10.2 Council Members referred to the Arts Council's Lottery Balance Policy as discussed at an earlier National Council meeting on 17 June 2015 and were reminded that the Lottery Balance would be reviewed alongside the post settlement review of the Programme Budget.

10.3 Council Members were told that Nick Humby, one of Performance and Audit Committee's independent members would be retiring from his role on the Committee with effect from 4 December 2015. Nick had worked with the Committee since 2012 and was leaving to take up a new appointment. It was agreed that the Chair should write to Nick Humby to relay his thanks on behalf of National Council for his commitment, hard work and diligence during his time as member of the Committee.

10.4 National Council APPROVED the changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference as outlined in the paper and NOTED the Performance and Audit Committee Report.

The meeting closed at 16.00

Peter  
Bazalgette