ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Minutes of the Midlands Area Council Meeting held on 8 May 2017 starting at 11.00 am at Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham NG1 4BU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Present:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Phillips</td>
<td>Fiona Allan</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Brigham</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Brindle</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Desmond</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skinder Hundal</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Layward</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Meyer</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lara Ratnaraja</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liz Roberts</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cllr Diana Meale</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cllr Cecilia Motley</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cllr Piara Singh Clair</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cllr Tony Skipper</td>
<td>Midlands Area Council Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apologies:</th>
<th>Also Present:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Ian Ward</td>
<td>Peter Knott</td>
<td>Area Director, Midlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darren Henley</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Ashley</td>
<td>Director, Libraries &amp; Nottingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Blackman</td>
<td>Director, Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tharsini Joganathan</td>
<td>Solicitor, Legal Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simon Fitch</td>
<td>Senior Relationship Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hugh James</td>
<td>Senior Relationship Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Bond</td>
<td>Senior Relationship Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toby Norman-Wright</td>
<td>Relationship Manager, Special Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Done</td>
<td>Senior Relationship Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Joinson</td>
<td>Senior Officer, Advocacy &amp; Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maureen Gaynor</td>
<td>PA to Area Director (minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Area Council members and Officers to the meeting.

1.2 The Chairman welcomed Cllr Piara Singh Clair and Mark Done to their first meeting.

1.3 Apologies were noted from Councillor Ian Ward.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND LOYALTY**

2.1 The Chairman reminded members of the importance of their declarations of interest and loyalty being up to date. Members received a copy of their individual registers.

2.2 If there is a substantive discussion on an organisation a member with an interest or loyalty will be asked to leave the room.

2.3 Area Council noted that Liz Roberts had been asked by the Chairman to be Acting Chair if there was a substantive discussion about an applicant in which the Chairman had a disqualifying interest and needed to leave the room.

2.4 The Chairman reminded all present of the importance of maintaining confidentiality and stressed that information or discussions must not be shared with anyone outside the Arts Council. It was also requested that papers were left behind at the end of the meeting to be securely disposed of.

3. **MINUTES FROM THE LAST AREA COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2017**

3.1 The minutes from the meeting held on 22nd February 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. **NPO INVESTMENT PROCESS**

4.1 The Chairman explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive and discuss the draft proposed Midlands Area NPO portfolio and narrative, and in taking a balanced view, this would assist at the decision meeting in June.
4.2 The Area Director presented the proposed portfolio. He outlined the schedule of meetings that will take place following this meeting and until the end of the process. He explained that the first half of the presentation gave a national picture. He went on to present the area picture, highlighting some key facts and figures.

4.3 ..................................................................................................................................................

4.4 ..................................................................................................................................................

[Information has been withheld here 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 purposes 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.]

4.5 A member noted that some joiners had received grants for the arts in the past, which shows development.

4.6 Area Council members favoured the proposed list of joiners.

4.7 In noting that there were ‘o’ leavers, the Area Director explained that we had already lost two organisations from the portfolio due to closure of these organisations, as well as funding one organisation less than previously.

4.8 The Area Director said the focus on uplifts to organisations has been around diversity.

4.9 There was an understanding of the pressures on the percentage of uplifts available.

4.10 Area Council members favoured the proposed list of SSOs.

4.11 The Area Director spoke to the area narrative report.

4.12 The application summary reports were available at the meeting.
4.13 The Area Director said that in real terms our proposed portfolio is improved in relation to Disability and considerable progress has been made in increasing investment in disabled/deaf organisations through the proposed decisions. Also, whilst the statistics give the impression that three disability led organisations are leaving the portfolio, we believe this is a direct result in changes to the way staffing figures are reported.

4.14 One member said that DASH’s board members would be happy to be mentors to other boards. This offer was welcomed.

4.15 Area Council wanted to discuss a specific organisation.

4.16 Toby Norman-Wright and Fiona Allan declared an interest in DanceXchange and left the room.

4.17 The organisation was discussed.

4.18 Toby Norman-Wright and Fiona Allan returned to the room.

4.19 Area Council asked for clarity regarding a specific organisation.

4.20 .......................................................... ..........................................................

4.21 .......................................................... ..........................................................

4.22 ..........................................................

[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.]

4.23 Members then considered and discussed organisations by artform and a general discussion followed, with contributions being made by members.
Combined Arts
4.24 The Area Director said that there is a list of sub-categories which sit under combined arts which will be brought to a future meeting.

Museums
4.25 There was a discussion on new joiners to the proposed portfolio under the category of museums.

4.26 Area Council wanted to discuss a particular organisation.

4.27 Piara Singh Clair declared an interest in Leicester Museums and left the room.

4.28 The organisation was discussed.

4.29 Piara Singh Clair returned to the room.

Music
4.30 Area Council wanted to discuss a particular organisation.

4.31 Peter Phillips declared an interest in Birmingham Opera Company and left the room.

4.32 Liz Roberts took the Chair.

4.33 A discussion on the organisation and its proposed uplift took place. Its engagement work and participatory art were considered very positively and the uplift was supported.

4.34 Peter Phillips returned to the room.

Theatre
4.35 Area Council wanted to discuss a particular organisation.

4.36 Sarah Brigham declared an interest in University of Derby Theatre and left the room.

4.37 The portfolio includes a proposed uplift to the organisation.

4.38 Members agreed with this decision, endorsing the product and range of what the organisation is doing, recognising that it had improved immensely over the last few years.

4.39 Sarah Brigham returned to the room.
Visual Arts

4.40

[Information has been withheld here 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 purposes 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.]

4.41 A member expressed concern that some of the organisations under visual arts used inaccessible spaces.

4.42 Simon Fitch responded that this is something they will need to address with the Creative Case for Diversity.

Communications

4.43 Sharon Joinson talked to the communications report in the narrative informing members that there were a number of positive communications opportunities.

4.44 Members also expressed the opinion that they believe we have a good story to tell and they want to actively help the Arts Council to tell it. They are also very keen to support our communications more widely in the sectors they are involved with.

4.45 Sharon said that we had a bespoke quote for each organisation and that we will come to the next meeting with more information.

4.46 Members were informed that papers for the meeting on 8th June would be circulated as far in advance as possible. As well as the summaries there will be an item on capital which would also include papers.

4.47 Darren Henley thanked members for their engagement.

4.48 There were no disagreements on the proposed portfolio.
4.49 The Chair, on behalf of members expressed support for what Peter Knott and the team had achieved and asked for their congratulations and thanks to staff be noted.

5. **STRATEGIC FUNDS REPORTING**

5.1 Members received the bi-annual report on strategic funds.

5.2 The reports aim is to provide information to Executive Board, National Council and Area Councils on the progress of the delivery of programmes funded through strategic funds.

5.3 Area Council members noted the information from the progress reports highlighted in the paper.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Peter Knott informed members that the June meeting would be Brian Ashley’s last meeting before he retires in the autumn.

6.2 The Chairman thanked Liz Roberts, Skinder Hundal, Sarah Brigham and Lisa Meyer who have accepted the extension of their terms of office to 31 March 2018.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.1 Area Council noted that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 8th June at The Arts Council, The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH. Time to be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 3.30 pm.