

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
88th Board Meeting
24th April 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Board Room, Belfast**

Present;	Mr Mark Thompson
	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mr William Humphrey
	Dr Ian Adamson
	Mr William Leathem
	Dr William Roulston
In attendance:	Mr George Patton
	Mr Michael McCullough
	Mr Jim Millar
	Mr Arthur Scott
Recording Secretary;	Miss Siobhan McNally

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Mr Thompson welcomed everyone to the 88th Board Meeting at the Agency Board Room, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled on behalf of Dr Aileen Douglas and Mrs Jacqui Reed.

3. Minutes

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some minor amendments needed.

Proposed and Agreed: that the minutes be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

TV Programme

Mr Millar informed the Board that the previous choice of voice-over has now been changed. The project is almost near completion. Currently there is no Broadcasting date confirmed.

Action: Mr Millar to ask for copies for Board Member.

Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra

This issue is ongoing and work in progress.

ASM Howarth Report

All staff were asked to leave the room at this point so that the Board and Mr Patton, CEO and Mr Scott could discuss this item.

Mr Scott and Mr Patton are to prepare and circulate a paper detailing proposals to take this forward to Board Members who would liaise with the Chair and provide approval re the suggestions.

5. Audit Update

A paper was tabled and discussed by the Board.

The Executive informed the Board that they had arranged a meeting with DCAL on Monday 27th April 2009 to discuss this matter. The Board are pleased that this matter is progressing.

Ulster-Scot Float

The Policy of this was outlined. Due to minimal interest in the Float the Board proposed that the Agency close this ongoing project by the end of the calendar year as it is a liability to the Agency.

Mr Humphrey left the room at this point.

Goldbalt McGuigan

A letter received from Alan Thompson was tabled to the Board.

Mr Humphrey returned to the Board.

Ulster-Scot Newspaper

A paper was tabled on the future of the Ulster-Scot Newspaper.

The Board proposed that the Newspaper print run be reduced to 6 per year and the mailing list be discontinued. Only Libraries are to receive multiple printed copies.
Action: Executive of get approval for single tender service from DCAL for the insertion of the paper in the Newsletter and a competitive tender be organised for printing.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the last meeting.

The Board accepted the report.

7. Report from Executive

Copies of this report were tabled and discussed
Proposed: The Board accepted the report.

The Board adjourned for lunch.

9. Revised Financial Assistance Scheme

Copies of the revised scheme were tabled and discussed. Amendments to the scoring framework 3.6 were noted.
Proposed and Agreed.

Tranche Funding

Copies of the proposals were tabled and discussed.
Action: This policy paper was approved by the Board.

The working with others scheme was discussed and the Board felt it would be appropriate to write in flexibility in relation to funding from other sources.

Arising from a proposal from Gareth Fulton Entertainments it was agreed that the Agency would be willing to work with Councils who were to pursue the avenue.

Mr Leatham left the meeting at this point. He returned when discussions were completed.

10. Grants

Festival Applications were tabled. After discussion and consideration the Board agreed to the awards as listed.

Proposed and Agreed.

Grant applications were tabled and discussed.

Ulster Scots Folk Orchestra Organisation

The Board confirmed that this application form was incomplete. The application was rejected.

Titanic Schools Project

This application was discussed. The Ulster-Scots content of the specific project was not obvious.

Action: After discussion this application was rejected with a unanimous decision.

First and Second Markethill Presbyterian Church

The Board noted that the current financial assistance scheme could not offer funding to a Church. However, the project concept was excellent and it was agreed that this should be followed up by the Development Officer for the area to see if a new approach could be considered.

Maiden City Festival – Appeal

The organisers of this festival ask that the Board review their original offer. After clarification had been sought from the organisers the appeal was partially upheld.

Proposed and agreed.

Schomberg Society – Appeal

The organisers of this festival ask that the Board review their offer. It was agreed that in light of the evidence provided the appeal could be partially upheld.

Proposed and Agreed

Mr Patton and Mr Millar left the room at this point. Mr Leathem retired from the meeting.

RSPBA

A sponsorship application was considered and an award made in line with the Boards earlier acceptance of the new Sponsorship scoring method.

Proposed and agreed.

Blue Eagle Productions

This application was discussed and it was noted that this could not be considered until the revised financial assistance scheme was approved.

Lawrence Holden

The current application from Dr Holden is ongoing but consideration is to be given to moving this forward.

Action: Mr Millar to meet Dr Holden.

Wilderness Road

A paper was tabled and discussed.

It was proposed that this is noted in the North American Strategy document.

Mr Patton and Mr Millar returned to the meeting at this point.

Correspondence was received from Mr James Kee regarding a possible opportunity for Ulster-Scots involvement in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Board were in agreement that after discussion Mr Kee should be commissioned to carry out further research into this as he was the person with the contacts at the Tattoo.

8. Budget

Papers on this issue were tabled and discussed.

East Donegal Ulster-Scots Association

A letter was received expressing disappointment with the level of funding and support which the Agency had provided over the past few years. The Board expressed the view that the Staff had acted properly and in actual fact the Association had received a high level of support.

11. Community Development

A paper was tabled on this item.

The Board members were asked to consider this and provide for feedback to Mr Patton by 1st May 2009.

12. Staffing

The Board were briefed on staffing issues.

13. AOB

Language Promotion Strategy

Further work is to be done on this and a report tabled at the next Board meeting.

Report on Peripatetic Music Tutors

It was agreed that a review is to be carried out, on the scheme. This review is to be an independent review.

Proposed and agreed.

PR Marketing

Executive informed the Board that they would be receiving a full update from Tibus this coming Wednesday on the page turning software.

Action: Feedback will be emailed to Board members.

2010 Business Plan

A strategy workshop will be held to facilitate this.

Action: Dates will be circulated to the Board for consideration.

Cruise Ships

Copies of this report were tabled and discussed with the Executive and the Board.

The Board were in agreement to proceed with proposal two which outlined entertainment at the Giants Causeway and Victoria Square, Belfast for passengers on the Cruise Ships and the general public.

FUSE FM

The Board noted that it was impossible to provide grants for capital equipment and this could have an effect on the future of FUSEFM.

Church Buildings

The Chairman reported on the funding which 1st Derry Presbyterian Church has received from Northern Ireland Tourist Board. It is anticipated that this is something the Agency might engage with and a meeting is to be arranged in the near future.

14. Date and venue of next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on Thursday 28th May 2009 at the Agency offices.

Signed:.....

Date:.....