

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch**  
**74<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**25<sup>th</sup> January 2008**  
**Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk**

**Present**

**Chairman;** Mr Mark Thompson  
Mr William Humphrey  
Mr William Leathem  
Dr William Roulston  
Ms Angela Graham  
Ms Jacqui Reed  
Dr Aileen Douglas

**In attendance**

Mr George Patton  
Mr Michael McCullough  
Mr Jim Millar

**Recording Secretary**

Lyndsey Hanna

**1. Welcome from the Chairman**

Mr Thompson welcomed everyone to the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board at the Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk. This meeting was also the first of the newly appointed Board.

**2. Toure de table**

The Board members individually introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their background and interest in Ulster-Scots.

**3. Structure and the work of the Ulster-Scots Agency**

**Organisational Structure**

Miss Hanna presented the Board with an overview of the Ulster-Scots Agency and an introduction to the Agency staff.

Mr McCullough informed the Board that the previous Board had gave approval for the Executive to carryout a staffing review of the Agency in 2008. The Agency will be seeking a receptionist and an administration assistant ASAP.

Mc McCullough also sought approval from the Board to advertise the vacant position “Director of Culture”.

**Proposed: Mrs Graham. Seconded: Mr Leathem.**

Mr McCullough informed the Board that at present the Agency were seeking alternative office premises. The current premises are unsuitable due to the rise in staffing, health & safety issues, office hours, parking and hotel bills to hold meetings. The Board agreed that the Executive should proceed with relocation to larger, more suitable premises.

### **The Agency to Date**

Mr Millar presented the Board with an overview of the Ulster-Scots Agency’s involvement in projects and activities from 1999 to 2007, outlined the growth of the work of the Agency

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### **Corporate Plan**

Mr Patton presented the Board with a brief overview of the Ulster-Scots Agency Corporate Plan for 2008/10. He advised the Board that planning for the 2009 Business Plan will take place from March 2008.

### **Business Plan**

Mr McCullough presented the Board with a brief overview of the Ulster-Scots Agency Business Plan 2008. He advised the Board that in 2007 the Agency had bided for 5.5 million funding for 2008 but had received 3.3 million.

### **Chairman’s Remarks**

Mr Thompson presented the Board with a paper on “Introduction of the Role of the Board”.

### **Questions and Answer Sessions**

The Board forwarded questions on the work of the Agency to the Executive for discussion.

**15. Dates for meetings in the coming Year**

The following dates were agreed by the Board for the next forthcoming meetings:

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008                      Belfast
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Mr Patton advised the Board that Tourism Ireland would like to give the new Board a presentation of their work at a future Board meeting.

**Action: Mr Patton to forward forthcoming dates to Tourism Ireland for a possible presentation.**

**5. Appointment of Audit Committee**

Nominations were received for the audit committee and the Board were in agreement that audit committee representatives would be Mr Humphrey, Ms Graham and Mr Leathem, Mr Humphrey being the Chair.

**6. Language Body Meeting**

The North/South Language Body Board members met for a presentation on the “Role of Board” and “Conflict of Interest” by Tom Bluett, Internal Auditor of Foras na Gaeilge and David Nicholl, CIPFA.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....