

**Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament**

**Industrial Communities**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**

**5.15 pm**

**Room TG 20.21 Scottish Parliament**

**Approved Minutes of Meeting**

**Introductory Remarks:** Cllr William Menzies, Chair ICA Scotland, reported that the MSPs were delayed in the Chamber and that the Convener of the Cross-Party Group had therefore, in anticipation of this delay, requested that he Chair the Meeting until the MSPs arrived and also that the Meeting should commence with Item 4 - Big Lottery Fund.

Agreed

**Item 4      Big Lottery Fund**

**4.1**      Presentation from Ms Jackie Killeen, Scotland Director, Big Lottery Fund.

Cllr Menzies firstly welcomed both Jackie Killeen and Andrew Lindsay of the Big Lottery Fund (The Fund) to the Meeting and asked the Members to note that Jackie had another commitment that evening and would therefore have to leave shortly after delivering her presentation. He confirmed however that she would be pleased to participate in a short Question and Answer Session after the presentation and that Andrew Lindsay would remain and field any remaining questions as necessary.

In her presentation Jackie focused on describing the various ways in which The Fund supported communities primarily through Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations. A short summary of each of the Initiatives that support aspects of Community development was given. An outline was also given of the wide range of projects, both in terms of nature and scale, which had been supported to date.

She then described in some detail the objectives and progress in the delivery of the Our Place initiative. It is place-based and aims to empower local people and organisations to bring about massive and lasting positive differences to their neighbourhood. Initially it focused on 5 communities where some £12M had been invested in a wide range of projects, but the initiative now works with and supports a further 7 communities located in Fife, Falkirk, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee, North Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire.

She then reported that The Fund had commenced the process of developing its next set of Priorities and Projects and may reflect new Policy Directions.

It was indicated that the Budget in Scotland was around £70m-£80m per annum and that around 2,500 small grants were approved each year.

The MSPs had arrived at the Meeting during the presentation and Colin Beattie resumed the Role of Chair.

A wide ranging Question and Answer session followed. In summary these included:

Q. Can Application Forms be simplified to make them more user friendly to Community Groups?

A. This issue is recognised and the Small Grants Application Form has recently been simplified.

Q. The Asset Transfer process being undertaken by many Local Authorities has given rise to many concerns and issues e.g. how can the Lottery avoid its funds being merely used as a substitute for Local Authority funding?

A. The issue is recognised and due consideration is given to it during the processing of applications.

Q. To what extent does the Lottery Budget for Scotland reflect the income drawn from different areas? Does the distribution of funds reflect the income derived from former industrial communities?

A. Detailed information on where income is derived from is not made available by Camelot so it is difficult to give a definitive answer. In Scotland The Fund does however focus support to people and communities such as former industrial communities.

Q. Is the focus on supporting communities a short term priority or is it recognised that, to be effective, it requires a long term commitment? Many former industrial Communities have small populations and a limited reservoir of residents willing, or able, to take on the responsibilities associated with running projects. How can this be addressed?

A. The issues are recognised and, as an example, a Good Community Practice Guide is in preparation.

Q. Are there any plans to introduce a Competition Style Approach to the distribution of Funds such as that taken by the Peoples Millions Programme?

A. Jackie indicated that there are no plans at the moment to repeat Peoples Millions. However they are looking at alternative ways to involve the public in a

competition style approach programme and that online/social media seems the most likely alternative to traditional television.

Q. Are there often situations where Applicants essentially “give up” because of the seemingly complex nature of the Application process?

A. It is inevitable that this does happen but significant support is given to Applicants throughout the process to help ensure that good projects are successful.

The Convener then thanked Jackie for her presentation and for taking the time to answer the wide range of questions asked. This reflected the depth of interest that the Cross-Party Group had in the Lottery and he expressed the hope that Jackie would agree to attend another Group Meeting in the future.

Jackie then left the Meeting.

**4.2** Presentation from Dr Joan Dixon of the ICA National Secretariat on the ICA Discussion Paper “How can the Lottery be reformed to make it more Accountable and Equitable?” copies of which had been circulated to the Members with the Agenda for the Meeting.

The Convener welcomed Dr Dixon to the Meeting and thanked her for agreeing to address the Cross-Party Group.

In her opening remarks Joan indicated that the Discussion Paper had only recently received approval from the ICA and that the process of distribution of it to relevant parties and the making of arrangements for detailed discussions had just begun.

She also highlighted that the Recommendations in the Report were directed to the National Lottery in general and that the ICA recognised that some of them were more relevant than others in respect of the operation of individual Lottery Funds.

She then summarised the key issues identified in the Report and explained the rationale behind the development of the six Recommendations namely:

- 1 Shift the balance of funding towards the Boards – such as Big Lottery – that distribute awards more equitably across the country.
- 2 Make the Lottery Boards more representative of the types of people and areas they should be serving.
- 3 More funding should be allocated through regional boards to ensure that all parts of the country receive a fair share.
- 4 National programmes with allocations based on transparent and fair criteria have a role to play.
- 5 Bids from disadvantaged communities need facilitation and support.

6 Soliciting bids isn't a good idea when it favours the same old friends and organisations.

There then followed a wide ranging question and answer session during which many of the members recognised the concerns expressed and sought clarification on matters such as the availability of detailed information on where Lottery tickets were bought, how Euro Millions moneys were allocated in the UK and the timescale for the Review of the Contract to operate the National Lottery.

It was confirmed that to date Camelot, who currently operate the National Lottery, has consistently refused to release the type of information referred to above citing commercial confidentiality and that the current contract to operate the National Lottery was not due for Review until 2023.

On the invitation of the Convener, Andrew Lindsay then indicated to the Members, in summary, the competitive and open procedures adopted to appoint Members of the Scotland Committee of the Big Lottery Fund. He indicated that the Members are appointed using the General Public Appointment Process and are appointed by the Big Lottery Fund UK Board, subject to consent from the Scottish Minister in charge of the lottery portfolio (currently John Swinney MSP). He also indicated that the Committee's activities were scrutinised by the National Audit Office.

After discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) To remit to the Convener of the Cross-Party Group to write to Camelot (i) seeking detailed information on where Lottery tickets are purchased in Scotland and (ii) information on the allocation of Euro Millions money to the UK, and to invite Dr Dixon and the Secretary to liaise in the drafting of the letter, and
- (b) To note the position regarding the appointment of the Scotland Committee for the Big Lottery Fund and for the scrutiny of its activities.

The Convener then thanked Dr Dixon for her presentation and for answering the various questions that had been asked.

He then proposed that the Meeting returned to the original Agenda Order.

Agreed



After discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) To remit to the Secretary to establish whether the List of Member Organisations could be updated in the Annual Return Form, and if so to remit him to make any appropriate changes, and
- (b) To otherwise approve the Draft Annual Return Form and to remit to the Secretary to arrange for its submission.

**Item 2.2 Election of Officers** Election of Convener and Deputy Convener of the Cross-Party Group for Year 2015.

Colin Beattie invited Adam Ingram MSP to Chair the Meeting whilst the election of office-bearers was undertaken.

Adam Ingram MSP took the Chair and invited nominations for the posts of Convener and Deputy Convener of the Cross-Party Group.

Colin Beattie MSP confirmed that both he and Neil Bibby MSP were prepared to stand for re-election as Convener and Deputy Convener respectively.

There were no other nominations and Cllr Menzies proposed that both the Convener and Vice Convener be re-elected.

The proposal was unanimously approved. Colin Beattie MSP thanked the members for their continued support and then resumed the Chair for the remainder of the Meeting.

It was also confirmed that the role of Secretariat to the Cross-Party Group would continue to be performed by a representative of the Industrial Communities Alliance.

### **Group Meeting**

**Item 3 Previous Minutes** Submitted for Approval, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Industrial Communities held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

The Minutes were unanimously approved as a correct record.

**Item 5 Review and Discussion** Submitted for information and Discussion a Paper entitled "The Purpose and Operation of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Industrial Communities - Review and Discussion".

The Secretary talked to the Paper and summarised the key points highlighted in the Paper regarding the Purpose of the Cross-Party Group, its Membership, the Relationship between the Cross-Party Group and the Industrial Communities

Alliance, Attendance levels at Meetings, the Preliminary Identification of the Work Plan, 2015 and the Dates of Meetings to be held in 2015.

After a full discussion it was agreed that:-

(i) The Purpose of the Cross-Party Group remained relevant and that no changes were required,

(ii) The Membership remained appropriate and that the practice whereby representatives of other Agencies or Organisations were invited to attend specific meetings of the CPG, as relevant to them, should continue,

(iii) The Relationship between the Cross-Party Group and the Industrial Communities Alliance should continue to be developed not least as there were significant mutual benefits for the CPG and ICA Scotland to work in close Partnership,

(iv) In relation to the Attendance at meetings, both MSPs and Member Organisations should be encouraged to increase attendance so as to help ensure that the Agenda remained relevant and that discussions and Actions reflected the views of as many Members as possible,

(v) In relation to the future Work Plan (a) In view of the large number of topics that had been identified for Presentations or detailed Discussion at future Meetings, and in recognition of the limited number of CPG Meetings held each year, to remit to the Secretary to prepare a list of the suggestions made to date, to circulate the list to the Members present at the Meeting, to invite them to indicate their preferred priorities, and thereafter to prepare a Paper reflecting the findings for discussion at the next Meeting of the Cross-Party Group,

(b) That the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities be invited to address the next Meeting of the Cross-Party Group, and

(vi) The remaining meetings of the Cross-Party Group in 2015 should be held on

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. 2015, and  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

**Item 6 Industrial Communities Alliance Updates** Updates from the representative of the Industrial Communities Alliance on:-

**6.1 The Ten Point Plan** Further developments of the discussions on the ICA Report “Rebuilding the Economy of Scotland’s Industrial Communities”

**6.2 Tracks to Work** The development of discussions with relevant Agencies and Organisations on the ICA Report “Tracks to Work”

**6.3 The Geography of the Economic Recovery** Research recently commissioned by the ICA to identify any variances in the rate of the Economic Recovery within the UK

**6.4 Welfare to Work** The outcomes of the ICA One Day Conference “Rethinking Welfare to Work” held in Doncaster on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

As the Meeting had already been lengthy, and in view of the poor weather report for the rest of the night, the Convener proposed that the Item be kept brief.

The Secretary confirmed that the Item was primarily for the information of MSPs and that the others present at the Meeting had previously received updates on the various actions at earlier ICA Meetings.

After discussion it was agreed:-

(i) To remit to the Secretary to prepare a brief Summary Update on each of the Actions and to thereafter send it to the MSPs who had attended the CPG Meeting for their information.

**Item 7 Meetings with the Cabinet Secretary** Received an update from the Secretary of the Cross-Party Group regarding the arrangements for Future Meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities.

It was reported that the first Meeting had been set to take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 11 a.m. in the Scottish Parliament.

He indicated that the possible Agenda for the Meeting had been discussed at the ICA Scotland Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 and that it had been agreed to recommend to the CPG that it should include:-

Item 1 Introductions and a brief overview of the Membership, Objectives and Work Plans for both the Cross-Party Group and the ICA,

Item 2 A further discussion on the ICA Paper “Re-building the Economy of Scotland’s Industrial Communities – A Ten Point Plan for Government”, and

Item 3 Date of Next Meeting

It had also been suggested that copies of the Ten Point Action Plan, The Scottish Government’s Response to the Plan and the Review of that Response by the ICA should be attached to Agenda Item 2.

He finally reported that six places were available to members of the CPG/ICA to attend the Meeting and that at the ICA Scotland Meeting it had been suggested that they might be:-

Colin Beattie MSP - Convener, CPG  
Cllr William Menzies – Chair, ICA Scotland

Cllr Bob Young – Senior Vice Chair, ICA National Executive  
Prof Steve Fothergill – Director, National Secretariat, ICA  
David Hewet – Secretary, CPG and Director Scotland, ICA  
An Officer representing the CPG/ICA

After a full discussion it was agreed:-

- (i) To approve the proposed Agenda,
- (ii) To remit to the Secretary to have prepared a Background Note on the ICA Scotland to be sent as an attachment to Agenda Item 1, and
- (iii) That on this occasion Ian McCrory – Lead Professional (Economic Regeneration), Fife Council should attend the Meeting.

**Item 8 Date of Next Meeting** The Members were asked to confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Industrial Communities.

It was confirmed that the next Meeting would be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 in the Scottish Parliament.