

COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 26th November 2015

Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr. Nelson McCausland MLA (Chairperson)
Mr. Gordon Dunne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr. Leslie Cree MLA
Mr. Dominic Bradley MLA
Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín MLA
Mr. Basil McCrea MLA
Mrs. Rosaleen McCorley MLA
Mr. Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr. William Humphrey MLA
Mr. David Hilditch MLA

In attendance: Mr. Peter Hall (Clerk)
Mr. Jonathan Lamont (Assistant Clerk)
Ms. Gillian Kirk-Lyness (Assistant Clerk)
Miss Sabra Wray (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mrs. Karen McKeivitt MLA

The Committee commenced in closed session at 10.09am

Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín joined the meeting at 10.11am

Mr. Basil McCrea joined the meeting at 10.13am

1. Committee Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities – consideration of report.

Agreed: The Committee noted Ms McCorley's concerns about the ability to ask certain questions during evidence sessions, and it was agreed she would provide a paragraph outlining this for the Committee to consider.

Agreed: The Committee noted Mr McCrea's concern that some groups outside Belfast had not responded and therefore agreed to issue a final call for submissions to the inquiry, with responses providing an annex to the inquiry report.

Mr William Humphrey left the meeting at 10.31am

Mr William Humphrey re-joined the meeting at 10.35am

Mr Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 10.46am

Agreed: The Committee noted the draft body of the report and agreed to return to the draft report in due course.

The meeting suspended at 11.44am

The Committee continued in public session at 11.47am

Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín joined the meeting at 11.50am

Mr Oliver McMullan joined the meeting at 11.51am

Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting at 11.55am

2. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

Mr Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 11.58am

3. Draft Minutes of meeting on 19th November 2015.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 19th November 2015 were agreed.

4. BBC Charter Renewal – consideration of consultation responses

Noted: The Committee noted the consultation responses received.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL response to DCMS regarding the consultation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to bring forward a Committee motion around the BBC Charter renewal in due course.

5. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to amendments to the Correspondence Tracker.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to DCAL regarding the response from the Minister on the following issues: the provider of the training for the Ardoyne group and how provision was procured; seeking correspondence between the Minister and the MAGUS regarding the development of an Ulster-Scots equivalent to Líofo and to seek briefing from the Ulster-Scots Agency regarding such an initiative; the number of applications received for the “Arts and Cultural Premises Grants”, and how many grants were made; clarification of how a grant was made to the Tí Chulainn group before a cross-community partner was identified; clarification of a £10k draw-down for administration of the Cultural Programme mentioned on 5th November 2015, and why the Programme was not administered in its second year by DCAL’s Arts Branch; and to invite the Permanent Secretary to brief the Committee on these issues and those around the successful November Monitoring bids.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to stand down the Committee Arts Cuts motion.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the DCAL correspondence regarding the press article in The Sentinel to the North West Bands Forum.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Sport NI response to Cairn Lodge ABC.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the National Lottery seeking clarity on its requirement for clubs to be affiliated to recognised sports bodies considering the particular sensitivities around identity in Northern Ireland. The Committee also agreed to seek legal advice around this issue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Sport NI regarding their Interim Executive Team and other issues.

Noted: The Committee noted the response from DCMS regarding the BBC Charter Renewal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to DCAL regarding the breakdown of the Cultural Programme fund.

Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.45pm

Mr William Humphrey left the meeting at 12.46pm

Mr William Humphrey re-joined meeting at 12.51pm

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence from UTV regarding the ITV takeover and agreed to hold a meeting and take a tour at their offices.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to DCAL seeking further information on November Monitoring issues, including: who will deliver the Oral History Archive; clarification on the breakdown of funds spent on the façade of The MAC; clarification on the £300k T:BUC allocation; and the origins of the T:BUC bid for £300k for a youth sports programme.

6. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the Minister's intention to make a statement on the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for football on 30th November 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted correspondence from DCAL regarding upcoming consultations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward DARD correspondence regarding TRPSI to Libraries NI.

Noted: The Committee noted Libraries NI correspondence regarding Quarterly Policy Screening Report for July to September 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the RaISe paper on Health and Safety at Sports Grounds in other jurisdictions.

Noted: The Committee noted the Minister's Statement on the Culture and Arts Strategy.

Noted: The Committee noted the Minister's intention to make a statement on Sign Language on 1st December 2015.

7. Chairperson's Business

Noted: The Committee noted the invitation from Northern Ireland Human Rights Forum.

8. Forward Work Programme

Noted: The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

9. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a written update from the Department on the responses on the Lough Erne and Lough Neagh Management Plans consultations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department for clarification on the current employment status of the former Stadia Programme Director.

Noted: The Committee noted that the Fisheries Bill has been cleared the Executive through the Urgent Procedure.

10. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 10.00am in Senate Chamber.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1.10pm.

Mr. Nelson McCausland
Chairperson, Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Thursday 3rd December 2015