



The Voice of Chief Officers of Cultural and Leisure Services in Scotland

**VOCAL EXECUTIVE MEETING CLYDESDALE BANK, EDINBURGH
26 MARCH 2010**

Present

Rod Stone, Aberdeenshire (Chair)
Margaret O'Connor, East Lothian (Secretary)
Merrill Smith, Dundee (Treasurer)
Mareen Campbell, Falkirk (for item 3 only)
Sue Selwyn, Falkirk (for item 3 only)
Margaret McInally, East Lothian (for item 3 only)
Pam Scott, Skills Active
Steve Grimmond, Fife
Ian Hooper, Culture & Sport Glasgow
Lorraine Grant, Aberdeenshire
Alison Turnbull, Museums Galleries Scotland
Karen Lax, Scottish Government (for item 5)

1 **Apologies**

Ken McInlay	Heather Stuart
John Griffiths	Alistair Shaw
Kat Patience	Joyce McKellar
Neil Bruce	Tom Shearer
John Zimny	Moiria Methven

2 **Matters Arising**

EKOS report has been distributed to all members. Copies will also be sent to key contacts in Creative Scotland, SportScotland, CoSLA. Rod will prepare covering letter.

Audit Scotland report – still awaiting this.

CLOA conference – MO'C is attending

Meeting with SportScotland – now arranged.

3 **Trust status**

RS welcomed Maureen Campbell, Sue Selwyn and Maggie McInally to the meeting as visitors. A decision has been made in Falkirk to explore the status of Trust for a wide range of services. It was noted that the issues facing Falkirk are shared by many authorities around Scotland. To date, only Glasgow has established a wide ranging culture & sport trust. However, many authorities are actively exploring this option. It was agreed that there was a danger of duplicating effort and research through this process. MGS is scoping what information exists with a view to developing an options appraisal model for local authorities to use in relation to museum services. It was noted that trust status is only one of the models that is available.

Action

RS

		<u>Action</u>
	<p>It was agreed that support to members should be available through VOCAL and a one day seminar should be organised to explore the issues. Falkirk offered to host the day. It was also agreed that an online document portal would offer a good way to share documents. Rod to explore this option as a function of the VOCAL website.</p>	RS
	<p>It was agreed that a small working group should be established to consider the programme for the day. The group should comprise Maggie McInally, Ian Hooper, Rod Stone, Maureen Campbell, Alison Turnbull and Steve Grimmond. Programme to be devised by the end of May. It was also noted that it would be good to involve SCVO and OSCR in the event. Notes taken by Lulu Johnston at the recent NALGAO day on trusts were recognised as very useful.</p>	MO'C
	<p>Mareen Campbell, Sue Selwyn & Margaret McInally left the meeting.</p>	
4	<p>Way forward for VOCAL It was noted that the next step was to identify a consultant. Brief for consultant to be prepared.</p>	RS
5	<p>Conference 2010 RS has written to Scottish Government (both culture & sport), Creative Scotland and SportScotland. All have expressed interest in a joint event with VOCAL. A meeting is now required to discuss this further – RS to request. All VOCAL office bearers to be involved.</p>	RS
	<p>It was not likely that a joint event would take place in 2010 and it was therefore agreed that there would not be a VOCAL conference this year. It may be possible to have a seminar in Sept/Oct 2010 followed by a joint conference 2011. It was agreed to set up a sub-group to consider the seminar agenda involving MS, IH, LG and MO'C.</p>	MS
	<p>It was noted that a number of conferences are already planned for 2010 by other agencies. These include the Sportactive workforce development conference in Stirling, Sept 2010, Event Scotland national events conference, Dec 2010. Karen Lax advised that a National Legacy conference is being considered with reference to 2014. Members felt that the existing All Scotland Group network would be the main audience for this and identified potential for the National Legacy agenda to be addressed through an All Scotland Group meeting and/or the Event Scotland conference.</p>	
6	<p>Evidence Scottish Government had recently asked for feedback on the usefulness of the Scottish Household Survey data. MO'C is chairing the Cipfa Cultural Statistics working group and the possibility of requesting additional data through the Cipfa survey was discussed there. The extent to which both the SHS and Cipfa data relates to the key issues facing local government was discussed. The possible relevance of this type of data in relation to the debate about establishing culture and leisure trusts was also considered. It was agreed that this type of data is useful for a range of purposes including quality improvement and the single outcome agreement. It was noted that gathering evidence could be discussed as part of the proposed Trusts seminar. It was also noted that a seminar is due to place 1 April re: the cultural survey and VOCAL should work with</p>	

other key stakeholders including Creative Scotland and SportScotland to improve the SHS.

7 **Quality Improvement Framework**

HMIe supported pilots are proceeding (Perth & Kinross, Culture & Sport Glasgow). RS has received 8-10 expressions of interest re: further piloting. The scope of the Glasgow pilot was discussed and it was agreed that this would benefit from review. HMIe were meeting with Glasgow to discuss further and it is understood that the focus of the pilot has now been revised. It is possible that HMIe may be able to provide some further support such as training for Associate Assessors. MGS pilots are drawing to a close. Members were keen to ensure that momentum was not lost with HGIOCS. The MGS experience has shown the importance of a project officer to advise and support the self-evaluation process. It was agreed that a similar role for HGIOCS would be extremely valuable and VOCAL could offer to contribute some modest amount of money to meet the costs of this role. The possibility of joint funding between VOCAL, Scottish Government, SportScotland and Creative Scotland to be explored through the meeting that RS will seek re: the joint conference proposal.

RS

MGS evaluation report will be available soon. RS to contact Sue Selwyn to follow up on emails sent. Next QIF steering group scheduled for May.

RS

8 **Cultural Issues**

Around .80 delegates attended the recent Cultural Summit in Glasgow. Issues arising from the EKOS report were not specifically addressed but Scottish Government is writing up issues highlighted in workshop discussions so these can be examined by Creative Scotland, COSLA/VOCAL and Scottish Government. It was agreed that issues of concern to VOCAL, such as those flagged up in the EKOS report, could be discussed directly with new staff in Creative Scotland once they are in post.

9 **Sports Issues**

Meeting with Jacqui Lynn & Stewart Harris now fixed re: Hubs. Active Nation and Young Scot Young Ambassadors scheme now launched. National swimming development initiative is under discussion between Scottish Government, Scottish Swimming and COSLA. RS attended meeting and has made a number of suggestions which are likely to be accommodated within the proposals being put to Ministers.

10 **Office Bearers' reports**

Treasurer's report was circulated showing a balance of £21,384.90 at 26/03/10. PMP contribution of £3,000 not yet received. MS to contact PMP.

MS

11 **AOCB**

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 14 May, 10.30am. Glenearn Community Campus, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BE