

## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**11:30am Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Northern Ireland Screen, Alfred House, Belfast**

**Present:** Rick Hill (Chair), Brian McMahon (Vice Chair), Maurice Hayes, Tim McKane, James Penny, Michael Catto, Jennifer Johnston, Michael Kuhn, Fiona MacMillan, Aódán MacPóilin, Laurence McKeown, Ian Parsley

**In attendance:** Richard Williams (CEO), Linda Martin (Head of Finance), Andrew Reid (Head of Production), Roisin Kelleher (Acting Head of ILBF), Bernard McCloskey (Head of Education), Marie Shivers (minutes), Arthur Scott (DCAL - Observer)

**Apologies:** Adeline Dinsmore, Moyra Lock (Head of Marketing), Elsie Brown (Operations Manager)

There were no conflicts of interest raised by members of the Board.

*No Executive were in attendance during Chair's opening remarks*

### **1.0 Chair's Opening Remarks**

1.1 The Chair updated the Board on negotiations with DCAL relating to the CEO's terms and conditions and noted that the CEO had asked that the conclusion of these negotiations be postponed until after the issues surrounding the staff terms and conditions were resolved.

### **2.0 Minutes of the Board meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

2.1 The minutes of the Board meeting on 13 March were agreed and signed.

*CEO, Head of Finance and DCAL observer joined the meeting*

### **3.0 Staff Review and Terms and Conditions**

3.1 The Board noted the flawed nature of the Staff Review and instructed the CEO not to implement any aspect of it in its present form. The Board noted DCAL's willingness to work with Northern Ireland Screen to find a more appropriate benchmark for Northern Ireland Screen staff grading and the CEO undertook to work with the department to this end.

3.2 The Board took the view that Northern Ireland Screen employees should receive pension provision comparable to similar organisations within DCAL's responsibility and that it was not acceptable that Northern Ireland Screen staff had had bonuses removed and pay frozen while elsewhere across the NICS and its Arms Length Bodies other more flexible arrangements applied allowing for pay increases for many public employees.

3.3 Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee reported the Committee's review that implementation of the Staff Review would create a greater risk to the organisation than not implementing it.

#### **4.0 Management Accounts to end May 2012**

4.1 The Board approved the management accounts.

*Executive joined the meeting.*

#### **5.0 CEO's Report**

5.1 CEO outlined for the new Board Members the impact of the DCAL Savings Plan agreed in 2010/11 including the termination of funding to Northern Visions for 2012-13. He noted that an increase in funding from DCAL had delayed the full termination of funding to Northern Visions until 2013-14. He also emphasised that the cuts projected in the DCAL Savings Plan would have further serious implications beyond Northern Visions, particularly on Belfast Film Festival and Cinemagic.

5.2 The Board agreed to set up a sub-committee to consider the future of the Cultural Exhibition sector. The sub-committee would look at the future of the Cultural Exhibition sector in the light of the impending DCAL cuts and in the context of the BFI's New Horizons strategy. Laurence McKeown, Jennifer Johnston, Tim McKane and Michael Catto volunteered to form the committee.

5.3 The Paint Hall lease issue is still outstanding, but CEO hopes it will conclude within the next few days.

#### **6.0 Risk Register**

6.1 The Board reviewed the Risk Register, noting the introduction of the VAT issue, requesting that the staff review be upgraded from amber to red and accepting the CEO's suggestion that funding for the Cultural Exhibition sector be added to the register.

6.2 The Risk Register was approved.

#### **7.0 PI Report**

7.1 The 2012-13 targets within the Performance Indicator Report were noted.

#### **8.0 Operating Plan 2012-13**

8.1 The Board approved the Operating Plan 2012-13 subject to the note that work should begin on securing future funding for the Irish Language Broadcast Fund.

## **9.0 Committee Updates**

### Investment Committee

9.1 Nothing additional to add.

### ILBF

9.2 Nothing additional to add.

### Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund

9.3 Ian Parsley updated the Board on the work associated with the USBF.

### Education Policy Working Group

9.4 Bernard McCloskey reported that consultation on the review process for A Wider Literacy had begun with the review expected to be complete within 12 months. He noted the success of the FilmClub recruitment campaign with almost 200 schools recruited but also expressed concern that funding for the new FilmClubs had not yet been released by OFM/dFM. DCAL have requested an update and will inform the Board once an answer has been received.

### Finance and Audit Committee

9.5 Brian McMahon reported that the year-end audit had been signed off. Nothing additional to add.

### Skills Panel/training

9.6 CEO reported that Belfast Media Conference arrangements were progressing well. Aim High was also going well with the apprentices meeting with Stephen Farry recently. He also noted that the new Confucius Institute had a media focus and could provide opportunities to develop links with China.

## **10.0 Any Other Business**


10.1 Michael Catto reported that at the recent Pixar, Dreamworks and Double Negative awards, Gerard Dunleavy from the University of Ulster won the award for Best Animation. At the annual computer animation bootcamp in America, 3 out of 30 places allocated for 'Rest of the World' participants had gone to Northern Ireland residents.

**11.0 Date of Next Meeting**

11.1 The next Board meeting will be held at 11:00am on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

<i>Point</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>To be action by</i>
3.0	Staff Terms and Conditions	DCAL & CEO
5.2	Exhibition Sub-committee	CEO & Sub-committee members
6.1	Changes to Risk Register	Head of Finance

Signed:

  
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Date:

11/9/12  
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