

Minutes of the Sport England Board meeting of 16 June 2020

The Board met remotely by videoconference.

Members Nick Bitel (Chair)
Natalie Ceeney
Azeem Akhtar
Rashmi Becker
Ian Cumming
Chris Grant
Sue James
Andy Long
David Mahoney
Tove Okunniwa
Karen Pickering

Officers Mike Diaper ED – Children, Young People and Tackling Inactivity
Ali Donnelly, ED – Digital Marketing and Communications
Jon Fox, Strategic Lead – Investment Design (item 7)
Carol Fraser, Strategic Lead – Customer Insight (item 7)
Tim Hollingsworth, Chief Executive Officer
Serena Jacobs, Director-Finance
Charles Johnston, ED – Property
Hannah Kerly, Assistant Board Secretary
Richard Mabbitt, Board Secretary
Simon Macqueen, Director – Strategy
Lisa O’Keefe, ED – Insight
Chris Perks, ED – Local Delivery
Nick Pontefract, Chief Operating Officer
Phil Smith, ED – Sport
Andrew Stinson – Head of Strategy Management (item 7)
Russell Turner – Strategic Lead, Local Delivery

Guests Anna Deignan, Head of Sport – DCMS

1. Chair’s Welcome and introductory comments

- 1.1 Nick Bitel welcomed members and officers to the meeting, held remotely under ongoing COVID-19 social distancing measures.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 All Board members were in attendance.

3. Declarations of Interests

3.1 The Chair noted that a number of members had previously registered interests in organisations included within the overall decision to be taken in respect of 'rolled forward' partner funding (at item 7, paper MB20-34 refers). The Chair was content that these interests did not preclude members from decision-making on the overall funding package and the general propositions in the papers but reminded members that they should withdraw from discussion of any decisions on specific investments relating to these organisations.

3.2 No new declarations of interests were made.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

4.1 The Board **AGREED** the minutes of the Board meeting of 6 May 2020 (paper MB20-30).

5. Matters arising

5.1 The Board reviewed the actions log (paper MB20-31).

- a) On Minute 4.2 (Board meeting of 6 May 2020), regarding 'Join the Movement', the Board noted that content and assets had now been made available for use by other Home Country Sports Councils.
- b) On Minute 6.12 (Board meeting of 6 May 2020), regarding the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Charles Johnston provided a brief oral update on the challenges posed by COVID-19 and lockdown in terms of facilities construction, ongoing social distancing requirements, and events congestion.

5.2 The Board was otherwise content that matters arising from previous meetings were either complete, satisfactorily in hand, or to be addressed under later agenda items.

6. CEO Report

- 6.1 Tim Hollingsworth and lead executive directors spoke to paper MB20-32.

Udney Park Planning Appeal

- 6.2 Board members noted (at Section 1) Sport England's intervention in the recent planning appeal against the proposed loss of playing fields at the former Imperial College site at Udney Park in Teddington (Richmond-upon-Thames). Sport England's evidence had influenced the Planning Inspector's decision to dismiss the appeal, which would have wider benefits in protecting existing playing fields, and for Sport England's wider planning work.
- 6.3 The Board noted the local and strategic significance of the decision and the contribution provided by Sport England officers. It thanked those who had been involved and felt that this case exemplified the importance of Sport England's role as a statutory consultee in protecting the infrastructure that underpinned delivery by partners and stakeholders.

Safeguarding

- 6.4 The Board reviewed (at Section 2) the interim summary of Sport England activity related to safeguarding of children and young people prior to the full report due at the Board meeting of 8 December 2020. The Board was content with progress as reported.

Active Environments

- 6.5 The Board reviewed (at Section 3) the business case for procuring a multi-provider framework agreement for 4 years, on a 2-year initial term with an option for 2-year extension, to support and implement the delivery of Sport England's Active Environments work from September 2020.
- 6.6 The Board discussed:
- a) the increased importance of the programme given the societal and behavioural change brought about by COVID-19 and lockdown measures;
 - b) the need for this support to be complementary to and aligned with existing good practice in Local Delivery Pilots;

- c) the benefits in terms of co-ordination and consistency that were likely to be delivered by the proposed consultancy support in areas where there was a lack of capacity and capability and where innovation was inhibited.

6.7 The Board:

- a) **APPROVED** the procurement of the Active Environments framework agreement in the terms set out in the paper;
- b) **DELEGATED** the approval to award the contract for this framework, as well as the assessment of the extension of the framework for a further 2 years from 2022/23 to Investment Committee;
- c) asked additionally for a progress report at 12 months, or earlier as good practice examples emerged.

Employee Engagement survey

6.8 Tim Hollingsworth briefed the Board on results from the 2020 Sport England employee engagement survey (Section 4 and Appendices 1 and 2 refer). This included data on how well the Sport England Values were being embedded. The survey had taken place during the first weeks of lockdown, with Sport England employees adjusting to considerable external stresses and a shift to remote working only. The two cross-organisation wellbeing surveys carried out during this period provided further insight.

6.9 The Board was pleased with the high level of responses (72%) and the increase in the overall Engagement Index (to 78% from an already high 2018 baseline of 74%), which compared favourably with peer organisations. The Board noted and endorsed the four areas identified by the Executive Team as requiring improvement action as follows.

- a) **Clarity and shared understanding of the Sport England Strategy and strategy development process into and beyond the next strategy period.** The Board acknowledged that at the time of the survey, the strategy had been at a stage of collaborative development. While its development remained a collaborative process, the publication of the 'Shaping our Future' framework version had now provided substantial clarity and improved mutual understanding.
- b) **Culture, notably consistent interpretation and application of the Sport England Values.** The Board noted that while the values were widely understood and supported, embedding them into team and individual roles and behaviors required supportive processes and structures. It was

pleased that further integration of the values into staff recruitment, development and training, was now resuming after having been paused due to the move to remote working.

- c) **Organisational structure**, including addressing any regression to a siloed approach and any unfair distribution of workload arising from the shift in working patterns.
- d) Ensuring the effectiveness and consistency of **leadership and line management**.

6.10 Board members additionally highlighted the need to monitor issues arising from shifting team and interpersonal dynamics brought about by increased homeworking, and the varying nature and quality of individuals' working environments. They noted the wider context of the Government Estate Strategy, and its implications for the current Sport England office estate. They emphasised the importance of:

- a) working arrangements that were fair both for individuals managing complex work life balances, and to their colleagues and teams;
- b) taking full advantages of the opportunities that flexible working presented for a more egalitarian and participative approach, and for better working between teams and across sites, while managing the risk of some staff feeling isolated and on the periphery;
- c) interrogating more deeply variation across teams and across sites.

6.11 Overall, the Board felt the results were extremely positive, reflected well on the executive leadership and the efforts of managers and staff, and augured well for the challenging transition to a post COVID-19 way of working.

Sport England Response to #BlackLivesMatter

6.12 Board members reflected on the global events of the past weeks and the deep-rooted social challenges and injustice surfaced by the ongoing #BlackLivesMatter campaign.

6.13 Sport England's initial responses, internal and external, were summarised at [Section 5](#). The Board felt that these had been well-judged and impactful. They felt the case had clearly been made that while inclusivity and diversity was core to Sport England's mission and values, further, intensified, and better-targeted work was needed to remedy the structural and societal failings that presented as race inequalities in sport and physical activity. Sport England's own exemplification of greater inclusion and diversity -

particularly in terms of BAME representation – would be critical to its credibility in doing so.

6.14 The Board agreed that the persistence of inequalities in sport and physical activity due to race was one that cut across all its work areas, but which merited a dedicated programme of actions. It therefore supported the broad four-fold approach outlined by officers as:

- a) **Internal improvements** to ensure Sport England was modelling and exemplifying its Values of 'inclusive' and 'collaborative' in addressing these inequalities. This would include: reviewing recruitment and development practice; further roll out of relevant training and support (including the Business in the Community 'Let's talk about race' programme and including training for the Board); continued Executive Team collaboration with the Sport England BAME employees' network; and a push more effectively to embed supportive behaviours in everyday workplace relationships. Board Members highlighted the importance of supporting the effective involvement of the BAME employees' network, in both internal and external facing work.
- b) Acknowledgement in the **Sport England Strategy and strategy development process** of the pervading sense of injustice felt by many BAME people. This meant further emphasis on the barriers to participation in and leadership of sport and physical activity, and active and intelligent targeting of under-represented groups. Board members discussed the insight and relationships that had been developed through the Sport for All programme, and the importance of being able to show that Sport England had built on its findings and could sustain the new relationships it had nurtured. Board members also highlighted the differential impacts of a return to work and play, and the implications for furloughed BAME employees in the sector and as consumers or participants.
- c) **An enhanced role for the Code for Sports Governance** to reinforce the social, business and governance case for diversity in sporting organisations and their stakeholder bases; to underline the legal and regulatory requirements around equality; and to raise the bar for compliance and best practice in respect of these matters. The Board discussed:
 - the potential role of targets for BAME representation in partner organisations and governing bodies, and the need for any such

targets to be used intelligently, learning lessons from similar initiatives to develop gender diversity. Board members agreed that attempts to meet headcount targets in isolation from efforts to improve retention and development of senior management, and from change to embedded behaviours at operational level were unlikely to be successful in the short term and would be unsustainable in the longer term. Nonetheless the Board felt that targets, used appropriately, could be a valid part of a wider approach.

- the need to hold to account organisations that were failing to act or slow to initiate actions. It was acknowledged also that while some Tier 1 bodies were making genuine efforts to improve, the levers they had to promote change on grass-roots organisations were not always effective. It was noted that some organisation were keen to take positive action, but concerned about getting it wrong. There was therefore a need to offer help as well as sanction, and to recognise that systems and ways of working would likely need modification as well as individual behaviours.

d) Support for **scrutiny of racism in sport**, which could include engagement in a potential commission, review or inquiry. The Board:

- noted Chris Grant's letter of 7 June to Nick Bitel as Sport England Chair and Katherine Grainger as UK Sport Chair, suggesting that a Commission on Sport and Racism be considered;
- endorsed the need for scrutiny of racialised inequalities in sport and participation in physical activity and their root causes;
- was pleased to note that the Chairs were engaging with the other Home Country Sports Councils, and with DCMS officials and that discussions were under way to determine the most effective approach and impactful outcomes.

6.15 Overall, the Board felt that this was a moment of opportunity for Sport England to initiate action and escalate existing work to make a real difference for its BAME stakeholders. It was important that these actions were visible, inspirational and supportive to the wider sport and physical infrastructure ecosystem and to the communities it served. It felt that Sport England and Governing bodies needed to assert that increased BAME representation was not an alternative to a meritocracy. As well as basic fairness, there was a compelling business case for diversity and inclusion: for individuals; for organisations; and for the nation's wider social, economic and physical health.

6.16 The Chair thanked discussants and asked officers to proceed at pace with the activities outlined in the paper having in mind the Board's feedback, and reporting back at the Board meeting of 16 July 2020. The Board was also reminded that whilst it was important that Board Members could (and should if they wanted to do so) speak out publicly on this very important topic, there was a need when speaking to the media to make it clear they were speaking in a personal capacity and not on behalf of Sport England. **(Action: Tim Hollingsworth).**

7. Sport England View of the Future: Building on our response to the Coronavirus Crisis

Progress Report

7.1 The Board reviewed paper EXEC20-33 which summarised work carried out since the last Board meeting in response to COVID-19 and set out how Sport England was structuring its ongoing response in parallel to the development of our new strategy.

7.2 The Board supported the reframed priority structure set out in the paper to refocus the evolving work of Sport England as it ramped up medium-term support to mitigate the ongoing negative impacts of lockdown and facilitate a return to the new sport and physical landscape quickly and safely. The new priority structure:

- a) brought together the internal-facing priorities 1 and 2 ('Business Continuity' and 'Workforce Planning') into a single theme: **Our people;**
- b) broadened priority 5 ('Looking to the future') into a new core priority **Strategic Insight & Looking to the Future** which drew together insight, data, analysis and learning from a variety of sources;
- c) positioned **strategy development** as a new, overarching priority; and
- d) continued the two, core external-facing priorities of **Supporting the sector**, and **Keeping the nation active.**

7.3 The Board noted and supported Sport England's ongoing and proactive media work; its targeted work helping partners communicate with key audiences; and its work with government departments (including with the Department for Transport on active travel) in support of the three core priorities.

7.4 The Board reviewed key progress reports and future plans under each of the areas in the priority structure. The Board was content with progress against:

- a) the **Our people** priority, but flagged its feedback from the earlier discussion of the employee engagement survey and response to #Blacklivesmatter;
- b) the **Supporting the sector** priority, with agreement of rolled-forward funding to be discussed in detail later in the meeting (paragraphs 7.5-7.8 refer). Board members additionally highlighted:
 - the potential for alignment with the interest of the commercial sector and of professional sports;
 - the importance of considering routes additional other than Active Partnerships in reaching new audiences, especially disabled people;
- c) the **Keeping the nation active** priority, noting the work being carried out to support the return to play agenda, and on “Join the Movement”;
- d) new **strategy development**, subject to discussion later in this meeting (paragraphs 7.9-7.13 refer), and with further discussion marked forward for the Board meeting of 16 July.

Rolled forward funding

- 7.5 The Board reviewed the recommendations set out in paper MB20-34, for “rolled forward” funding commitments to key sector partners to provide forward certainty of grant funding into the financial year 2021/22 further to:
- a) the Board’s agreement at its meeting of 24 March 2020 to provide security and reassurance to funded partners into Sport England’s next strategy period;
 - b) The Board’s approval at its meeting of 6 May 2020 of a business case for an overall budget envelope of £114m, along with principles for levels of awards (reflecting 2020/21 commitments), an approach for reviewing and making recommendations, and an initial list of partners meeting the criteria to be invited to request funding;
 - c) the review process having duly been taken forward by teams across Sport England.
- 7.6 The Board was satisfied with the rigour of the investment process, and with the alignment of support with Sport England’s strategy. It noted the clear expectation that partners who accepted rolled forward funding would support the strategy and direction of travel outlined in ‘Shaping Our Future’, with addressing inequality and reaching Sport England’s priority audiences a key requirement across the delivery of these partners’ grant-funded activity. No concerns were raised by Board members on the analysis of risks;

legal and governance implications; award conditions and communications set out in the paper.

7.7 Board members:

- a) highlighted governance and leadership as critical to recipients' effective delivery against Sport England's strategic objectives, and were pleased that these would be monitored as part of ongoing grant management;
- b) flagged that managing the relationship with organisations that were under particular stress could need additional Sport England resource;
- c) acknowledged that the rolled forward funding approach by its nature reached out to existing partners rather than actively supporting new relationships. The Board was keen that this did not translate to a return to an established order that was deficient in reaching Sport England's target audiences. However, the Board remained persuaded that without the structure provided by these key partners it would be impossible to build and sustain the new relationship and address gaps in provision and support in the longer term.

7.8 The Board asked that this feedback be given due consideration in the ongoing management of grant awards but was otherwise content to **APPROVE** the levels and terms of funding recommended for each partner as set out in the paper and its detailed Annexes.

Framework engagement and strategy roadmap

7.9 Officers briefed the Board on responses to date to *Shaping Our future*. The Board was pleased with the level and quality of feedback, both directly and in ongoing conversations with partners. Board noted:

- a) generally positive and constructive feedback across the piece with broad support for the emphasis on tackling inequality and a general recognition that the strategy was seeking to go beyond 'the usual suspects' to address people and places in greatest need. The Board was pleased that new voices were being heard among the respondents and that the collaborative and mutually supportive approach set out in the document was widely supported. Support for the concept of 'movement' to supplement 'sport' and 'physical activity' was also noted;
- b) Concerns from a minority of respondents, including calls for a still greater emphasis on inequality and questioning of Sport England's capacity to deliver against the strategy aims. The concept of a sport and

physical activity “ecosystem” had also garnered mixed reactions. It was noted that some of these more negative perceptions related to a lack of specificity and were linked to a misunderstanding of this document’s place in the wider strategy development process;

- c) Good traction with sponsor department officials and the Minister for Sport – including a reassurance that the initial thinking was in line with the Government’s Strategy for Sport.

7.10 The Board supported the current phasing plan for the Strategy, with Sport England now moving its focus from ‘Capturing the Big Ideas’ to ‘Emerging Strategy’ activities. The Board recognised that this would involve increasingly challenging prioritisation of the support to those Sport England worked with, and of how it organised its own activity. The Board supported the broad approach set out (learning from the current strategy; ongoing engagement with partners; intelligence about Sport England’s wider operating environment including evaluation of the ‘Supporting the sector’ and ‘Keeping the nation active’ programmes; and horizon scanning/scenario planning) and the outline timetable for doing so.

7.11 Natalie Ceeney, as Investment Committee Chair, reported that the Committee meeting of 2 June 2020 had included a constructive discussion with officers on the next steps for the strategy framework, and the scenario planning that informed it. Key points raised here had been: the continued need for bold leadership from Sport England; the importance to the strategy of the Active Travel agenda; and the need to position the strategy effectively within wider policy and political contexts. The Committee had been satisfied that the approach to insight and scenario planning for the medium-and long-term landscape of sport and physical activity was robust and proportionate.

7.12 Overall the Board was content with the approach outlined. Board Members additionally:

- a) suggested factoring trends in technology and social media into horizon scanning;
- b) flagged BEIS work on longer term economic forecasting;
- c) advised that there was a continuing need to reinforce the message to stakeholders that the strategy encompassed but was broader than a response to the impacts of the current COVID -19 crisis. It would allow for future unexpected developments, and this should be reflected in how the sport and physical activity ecosystem adapted to become agile and responsive to events;

d) noted the importance of ongoing emphasis on a collaborative approach and its exemplification through current initiatives including 'We are Undefeatable'.

7.13 The Chair thanked discussants and asked officers to take on board the Board's commentary in taking the Strategy forward. The meeting of 16 July 2020 would provide a further opportunity for Board members to contribute. **(Action: Simon Macqueen).**

Resources and budgets.

7.14 The Board discussed paper MB20-36, which set out updates to the 2020-21 budget, Lottery cash projections, links to the business plan and initial proposals to achieve a realistic budget while ensuring a level of reserves for any further COVID-19 response, or other major exigency and new strategy funding.

7.15 The Board acknowledged the confines of financial certainty within which Sport England was operating and felt that the planning assumptions set out in the paper were sound. It acknowledged the need to plan for future contingencies of the order of the current COVID-19 crisis. The immediate impacts of this had not yet fully played out and its long-term effects would be profound, long-lasting and unpredictable. The Board noted that as a result of its COVID-19 response, there was no longer any available operating flexibility. The Lottery awards budget for 2020-21 (excluding specifically COVID-19 -related programmes) had remained broadly similar to that set out in the interim budget presented in March 2020. Moreover, current business planning indicated a significant percentage of work sitting outside the current priorities, of which some - having paused temporarily - were now restarting or scaling back up.

7.16 The Board supported the principle of achieving a cash 'reserve' by increasing the available cash balance in March 2022 by £50m to £130m. This would create flexibility for Sport England to respond decisively to future exigencies including those brought about by COVID-19 and to create space for a flexible and responsive approach to implementing the new Sport England strategy including in relation to racial inequalities in sport. On balance, the Board felt that the proposed reserve was posited at a sensible level.

7.17 Andy Long, as Chair of Audit Risk and Governance Committee, reported that similar information had been reviewed by the Committee at its meeting of

9 June (paper [AC20-57](#) refers). The Committee had been content with the proposals now under consideration by the Board.

- 7.18 The Board **APPROVED** the Exchequer budget and all other non-award expenditure areas as set out in the paper. The Board asked for the remaining elements of the Budget to be brought for its approval at its meeting of 16 July 2020. **Action: Nick Pontefract**

8. Annual Report and Accounts

- 8.1 The Board reviewed the suite of Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) documentation (Paper [MB20-37](#) and [Annexes](#) refer). Members noted the explanation of Directors' and Accounting Officer responsibilities, and the bases of preparation of the ARA documentation.
- 8.2 The Board reviewed the ARA as set out at [Appendix 1](#) (with minor proofing corrigenda listed at [Appendix 2](#)) with reference to:
- a) the key points highlighted in the cover papers:
 - Asset valuation;
 - Pension evaluation;
 - IFRS16.
 - b) The Analytical Review (at [Appendix 3](#))
 - c) The draft Letter of Representation (at [Appendix 4](#))
 - d) The NAO Audit Completion Report (at [Appendix 5](#))
 - e) the Annual Report and Accounts for both of Sport England's subsidiaries (English Sports Development Trust and Sports Council Trust Company) which had been signed off by those Companies' Boards, both having received unqualified audit opinions with emphasis of matter statements relating respectively to the future of the 'This Girl Can' programme and potentially to asset valuation ([Appendices 6-9](#) refer).
- 8.3 The Board noted the annual report of the Chair of the Audit Risk and Governance Committee ([Appendix 10](#)) and the annual report of the Senior Information Risk Owner ([Appendix 11](#)) with no questions being raised on either.
- 8.4 Andy Long, as Chair of Audit Risk and Governance Committee, reported that similar information had been reviewed by the Committee at its meeting of 9 June (paper [AC20-57](#) refers). The Committee had been content with the proposals now under consideration by the Board.

8.5 The Board therefore:

- a) **APPROVED** the 2019-20 ARA as presented, and asked officers to progress them towards laying before Parliament (**Action: Serena Jacobs**);
- b) **AGREED** that the CEO and the Chair sign-off any non-material amendments should they be required between the date of Board approval and the laying of the ARA before parliament (**Action: Chair and Tim Hollingsworth**)
- c) **NOTED** the value of the ARA in terms of transparency and reputation, and flagged the summary of achievements at [page 9](#).
- d) **ACKNOWLEDGED** the effort and skill that officers had invested in preparing the ARA and supporting documents and the challenging circumstances under which this work had been carried out. It expressed its thanks to the team responsible for coordinating its content and design.

9. Doncaster LDP

9.1 Russell Turner and the Chair (who, as acting Board Champion for Doncaster LDP, had met with the Pilot's leadership on 4 June) briefed the Board on the 'Get Doncaster Moving' Local Delivery Pilot and proposal for an award extension for its further development. (paper [MB20-38](#) refers). The Board noted:

- a) the distinct geographical, socio-economic and demographic characteristic of the pilot area and the challenges it faced around increasing and sustaining levels of participation in sport and physical activity.
- b) Doncaster Borough Council's whole systems approach to tackling the high levels of inactivity and the leadership, strategy and governance structure for Get Doncaster Moving.
- c) The strong support by stakeholders for the investment plan which, though developed before the impacts of COVID-19 had become apparent, was felt to be even more relevant in working towards post COVID-19 recovery,

9.2 The Board was pleased that the proposals (based around active communities, future parks, active travel and dance) were characterised by direct involvement of communities, and the intelligent development of 'test and learn' initiatives in these areas. The Board felt there was good potential to

strengthen the new relationships and ways of working fostered by the LDP. Additionally, the Board:

- a) felt it remained important to monitor the balance of capital and revenue funding in respect of the future parks strand, given the need to cater for new and increased activity patterns and users, including by the most needful local communities. It was important that park design, maintenance and ongoing management and maintenance reflected these needs;
- b) supported the emphasis on dance, noting that it was among the activities most affected by social distancing rules. Dance was significant both in terms of the diversity of its participants, and as a gateway to other forms of physical activity and sport;
- c) agreed that the emphasis on active travel and active communities was timely, and flagged the need to take on board changed public perceptions including around safety and accessibility;
- d) noted that although active travel, active communities dance and future parks were presented as distinct areas of focus, they would be taken forward in an integrated and needs-driven way.

9.3 The Board was content with the summation of business case and investment decision and the financial and legal analysis presented in the paper. No questions were raised in respect of the analyses of Learning and evaluation or Diversity and equality. The Board was content with the assessment of risks and opportunities.

9.4 The Sport England Board was therefore content to **APPROVE** an award extension in the terms set out in the paper.

10. Any other business

10.1 Andy Long presented updated Audit Risk and Governance Committee terms of reference for the Board's approval (paper [MB20-39](#)). The Board noted that all committee terms of reference were subject to periodic review, and in this case the proposed amendments:

- a) incorporated standard prefatory text agreed by the Board to cover Board and Committee operations during lockdown;
- b) clarified:
 - the Committee's role and purpose
 - Committee membership (and members' appointment and appraisal) and officer attendance of the Committee.

- how the Committee should make and record decisions;
- c) introduced a revised conduct and effectiveness section, including a specific reference to managing conflicts of interest, and a commitment to the Sport England Values.

The Board **APPROVED** these amendments and asked that the revisions be adopted by the Committee (**Action: Hannah Kerly**).

- 10.2 The Board reflected on potential government decisions on the 'return to play' and noted the particular logistical challenges in respect of swimming. The Board noted that Sport England was working with sponsor department officers and partners to ensure adequate guidance was ready for whatever mode of return was settled upon. The Board flagged the risk that sport and physical activity in schools (for school and wider users) would be marginalised under a partial and full 'return to the classroom' and noted that discussions had been initiated between Sport England and DfE officials to seek ways of mitigating this.
- 10.3 With no further items of business being raised the Chair thanked participants for their contributions. The meeting would be followed by a brief private session for Members and CEO only. The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 16 July 2020.

These minutes were agreed by the Board at its meeting of 16 July 2020