

## **Minutes of the Sport England Board meeting of 17 March 2022 (held remotely by Teams video-conference)**

Members	Chris Boardman (Chair) Azeem Akhtar Ian Cumming Chris Grant Andy Long David Mahoney Tove Okunniwa Karen Pickering
Officers	Jon Fox – Strategic Lead, Investment Design Tim Hollingsworth – Chief Executive Officer Dan Johnson – Interim ED, Digital, Marketing and Communications Suzanne Houlihan – Assistant Board Secretary Simon Macqueen – Director, Strategy Rachel Musson – Interim Director of finance Nick Pontefract – Chief Operating Officer Phil Smith – ED, Sport Viveen Taylor – Director, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
Guests	Simon Mason – Head of Sport Strategy, DCMS.

### **1. Welcome**

- 1.1 Chris Boardman welcomed attendees to the special Board meeting to discuss Investment in Key Partners Track 3. The meeting was held remotely.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

- 2.1 Apologies had been received from Rashmi Becker and Natalie Ceeney. Both members had supplied written feedback for inclusion in the discussion.

### **3. Declarations of interest**

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were made additional to those already registered.

### **4. Investment in Key Partners Track 3**

- 4.1 Jon Fox presented Investment with Key Partners in the Sport and Physical Activity System: Track 3 Overview and Award Recommendations ([MB22-10 refers](#)).
- 4.2 The Board acknowledged that this tranche of investment represented

another significant step of the programme of investment of up to six hundred million pounds in a wide variety of partners over the next five years, who in part and collectively would play a vital part in delivering 'Uniting the Movement'.

- 4.3 The Board noted that there was an oversight in the recommended level of award for Disability Rights UK (DRUK) and the correct recommended full award was £1,773,068. The error had arisen as DRUK's current award ran to June 2022, unlike the majority of partners which run in line with financial years. This change reduced the 26 standard system partner total recommended awards to £96,245,182.
- 4.4 The Board reflected on the recommendation to Invite British Gymnastics to award funding for up to five years. Members raised concerns around the challenging context of this award, with the Whyte review to be published in the coming months.
- 4.5 The Board were reassured that these concerns had been considered during the application and panel process, and members were content that there was increased confidence in the leadership at British Gymnastics since a change in CEO. The award would signal an opportunity for long term engagement on the response to the findings of the Whyte review. The Board were also content that robust performance and contract management would underpin the award and would enable appropriate lean-in and action setting should British Gymnastics' delivery not be in line with contractual requirements and behavioural expectations.
- 4.6 Members raised questions regarding the funding of the Sports and Recreation Alliance (SRA) being based on an in-perpetuity contract made approximately fifty years ago. The Board acknowledged that there had been an historical review of Sport England's legal position which had resulted in continued funding in line with the original agreement. They were pleased that Tim Hollingsworth had recently written directly to Lisa Wainwright (CEO of the SRA) and encouraged continued dialogue with Sport England on its role as a System Partner. Simon Mason offered to provide support here and asked for a short note on context and background which would enable him to take this support forward. **ACTION: Nick Pontefract** to progress. The Board felt strongly about this issue and fully supported a review and progression of viable options regarding the in-perpetuity partnership funding agreement with the SRA. **ACTION: Tim Hollingsworth** to progress.
- 4.7 Noting that concerns would be reviewed and monitored, the Board APPROVED the award of a total of up to £96,245,182 to 26 System Partners.

The Board also NOTED the proposed continuation of the existing level of funding to the Sport and Recreation Alliance (£6,259,020 over five years) and AGREED that consideration of a short-term award of a maximum of £150,000 to Women's Sport Trust is delegated to the Director of Partnerships. **ACTION: Jon Fox** to progress.

**5. Any other business**

- 5.1 The opportunity to discuss the potential and positive impact of newer forms of sport within the sector was raised by members and it was agreed that this subject should be an item for strategic discussion at a future Board meeting. **ACTION: Phil Smith** to progress accordingly.
- 5.2 Chris Boardman shared that DCMS would be advertising for vacant Sport England Board positions and asked that members consider potential applicants who could bring a range of diversity, skills, experience and attributes to the Board which would further increase its effectiveness. **ACTION: All Members.**
- 5.3 Chris Boardman thanked members and attendees and closed the meeting.

**These minutes were agreed by the Sport England Board at its meeting of 28 March 2022**