

Minutes of the Sport England Board meeting of 18 April 2023

Remote attendance by Teams; 11:00–12:00

Attending

Chris Boardman (Chair)

Mel Bound (Board member)

Michelle Cracknell (Board member)

Jason Fergus (Board member)

Tove Okunniwa (Board member)

Jeanette Bain-Burnett (Director Policy and Integrity)

Lizzie Hanna (Chief Financial Officer)

Tim Hollingsworth (Chief Executive Officer)

Richard Mabbitt (Board Secretary)

Simon Macqueen (Director, Strategy)

Kevin Mills, Director (Place Development)

Warren Tucker (Capital investment Manager)

Phil Smith, Director (Partnerships)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Chris Boardman welcomed attendees. Apologies for absence along with written support for the proposals at item 2 had been received from Rashmi Becker, David Mahoney and Helene Raynsford. Chris Boardman would ensure that comments received from Rashmi Becker and Helene Raynsford were duly reflected in discussions.
- 1.2 With approvals of specific proposals at item 2 secured from absent members, the Board's decision-making quorum was deemed to have been met, provided that in the event of substantive dissent at this meeting the paper be recirculated for further review by absentees. Any additional decisions beyond those requested in the paper would need endorsement from absent members to meet the quorum.
- 1.3 No declarations of interest were made by members additional to those already registered.

2. Place Expansion: Capital Investment: 2023/24 Transition Year

- 2.1 Kevin Mills and Warren Tucker introduced paper MB23-31. The Board had determined at its meeting of 28 March (paper MB23-14 refers) that Sport England's longer term capital investment would be directed more closely to

areas identified through ongoing work to expand place-based delivery. However, transitional arrangements were required for those capital projects being brought forward by external partners in 2023-24 that were well-aligned with *Uniting the Movement*, and *Future of Public Leisure*. A capital sum of up to £20m had been provisionally included within the overall 2023-24 place-based delivery budget envelope agreed by the Board. It was proposed that funding requests were dealt with in four broad work packages: projects emerging from existing Local Delivery Pilots and priority areas; projects aligned to *Future of Public Leisure*; 'Levelling Up' Round 2 projects with a sport or physical activity element; and existing live capital projects requiring additional funds due to cost increases.

2.2 The Board discussed the proposals set out in the paper. Board members highlighted the importance of:

- a) 'Wrap-around' support for financially and technically stretched local authority officers who were unlikely to be routinely exposed to the complexities of capital investment and service contracts designed to deliver community outcomes. This needed to include support for meaningful engagement with marginalised communities to identify barriers and issues and inform design solutions.
- b) Impact-oriented measurement and evaluation. The number of projects moving to delivery should be seen as an enabling step to increased activity levels, decreased inactivity, a reduction in inequalities and positive experiences for children and young people, rather than an outcome in itself. An ability to demonstrate strategic return on investment (particularly quantifying health benefits and savings) was vital.
- c) *Moving Communities*, for monitoring, usage, financial and social value data to demonstrate community impacts and aggregated impacts nationally. Board members felt that this would become an increasingly significant and responsive evidence base for leveraging other funding and joining up with wider health and social agendas.
- d) Monitoring strategic risks around these investments and identifying an agreed risk appetites for capital investment after the transition year. At a project level, the capability of local authorities in respect of counter fraud should be given due attention.

2.3 The Board **APPROVED** funding of up to £20,000,000 to support a transition year of capital investment in 23/24. The Board also **APPROVED** the approach of utilising the four work package areas set out in the paper. The Board was content that individual project awards be considered under the appropriate delegated authority level, asking officers to report against

progress to Investment Committee in a proportionate way. **Action Kevin Mills** to progress with colleagues, in line with Board feedback.

3. Any Other business

- 3.1 Tim Hollingsworth provided a short update on immediate actions taken after the Board meeting of 28 March and flagged the upcoming circulation of Active Lives (Adult) Survey data on 20 April 2023.
- 3.2 The Board was next scheduled to meet on 28 June 2023.