

**CRONFA LOTERI FAWR
BIG LOTTERY FUND**

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH WALES COMMITTEE MEETING,
TUESDAY 15TH JUNE 2010
CARDIFF**

Present:

Huw Vaughan Thomas	Chair
Janet Reed	Wales Committee Member
Mike Theodoulou	Wales Committee Member
Gareth Newton	Wales Committee Member
Fran Targett	Wales Committee Member
Graham Benfield	Wales Committee Member
Barbara Wilding	Wales Committee Member

Staff:

Ceri Doyle	Director for Wales
John Rose	Deputy Director, (Programmes & Development)
Mike Walsh	Deputy Director, (Policy & External Affairs)
Derek Walker	Head of External Affairs
Lara Ramsay	Head of Programmes
Fflur Lawton	Policy & Public Affairs Manager (WMT Observer)
Judi Newton	Governance Manager (minutes)

1. Chair's Welcome
 - 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence
 - 2.1 There were no apologies
3. Approval of Minutes of the Thirteenth Wales Committee Meeting, 16th March 2010 (WBM 10/14)
 - 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record and were subsequently signed by the Chair.
4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda
 - 4.1 *Item 6.4* - Review of organisations working on international development based in Wales: Derek Walker reported that he was working in liaison with WCVA who had already carried out some research in this area, and a paper would be presented to the September Wales Committee meeting. **Action DW**
 - 4.2 *Item 6.4* – Identification of common themes & opportunities for learning – Wales Portfolio & International Programme: Mike Walsh reported that discussion with corporate colleagues had identified a common theme of stigma. It was agreed that a verbal update would be provided to the September meeting on how this learning would be incorporated into the Mental Health Campaign. **Action MW**

- 4.3 *Item 8.5* – Commitments against Futures Fund: Lara Ramsay reported that the increased grant to the Centre for Alternative Technology -“WISE” project had been approved by Chair’s action and met from the Futures Fund. It was also agreed that funds for the “Sustaining our Investments” solicitation would be drawn from the Futures Fund in the event that the application is successful.
- 4.4 *Item 10.5* – Sustaining our investments: John Rose reported that a solicitation request paper had been circulated by correspondence and subsequently approved by appropriate Wales Committee members. An outline proposal had now been received. .
- 4.5 *Item 11.2* – People & Places Programme Support Contract: John Rose reported that the specification was currently being developed and it was anticipated that the PQQ stage would begin in July.
5. Declarations of Interest
- 5.1 The following disqualifying declaration of interest had been received. Mike Theoudoulou left the room during discussions on this agenda item.
- Mike Theodoulou – item 13.8, Lifeskills
6. Feedback from Corporate Meetings (verbal)
- 6.1 UK Board (18th May 2010)
- 6.1.1 The Chair reported that the UK Board meeting had been preceded by a presentation by the Scotland Committee. Wales Committee noted that the extent of work carried out in-house by BIG staff in Scotland had been praised, although Wales’s bid to bring similar services in-house had not been approved.
- 6.1.2 The Board also received a presentation on BPR progress, including a demonstration of how the new system would work. The next stage would be to provide costings for introducing the system. Tenders were being invited and the Board would consider these at a special Resources Committee meeting in September. The Chair reported that proposals were being developed for a new governance structure to support UK Programmes. It was now likely that the Wales model of establishing Committees chaired by a Board Member, but made up of external experts would be implemented. Developed proposals would be presented to the Board for decision later in the year.
- 6.1.4 The Chair referred to a Price Waterhouse Cooper audit of governance value for money which was also considered at the UK Board meeting. The report contained useful data and provided positive feedback on the Wales model. A copy of the report would be circulated to all Wales Committee members for information. **Action JN**
- 6.1.5 Ceri Doyle updated the meeting on the progress of the Transition Project, which was looking at the structural implications following the changes to the structure of the Senior Management Team, to include the 2 new Directors for England and Strategic Planning, Policy & Learning. Intelligence gathering had been completed and a report on the findings would be produced shortly.
- 6.1.6 The meeting discussed the forthcoming celebration of Millennium projects. Derek Walker confirmed that a report has been commissioned to look at the impact of the

Millennium projects. The intention was that all projects would be featured but the Millennium Stadium was the likely focus in Wales.

6.2 Resources Committee (10th May 2010)

- 6.2.1 The meeting had discussed papers ahead of the Board meeting and therefore feedback mirrored that of the Board report.

6.3 Audit & Risk Committee

- 6.3.1 There being no meeting since the last Wales Committee meeting, it was agreed that an update should be circulated to Wales Committee by correspondence after the next Audit & Risk Committee meeting scheduled for 28th June 2010. **Action AD**

6.4 Replication & Innovation

- 6.4.1 Mike Walsh updated the meeting on the project based around reducing the rate of re-offending of young offenders at HMP Peterborough. The proposed interventions by the 3rd sector would be funded through investment in a Social Impact Bond, which would provide a return to investors if the agreed outcomes were achieved. BIG was supporting the piloting of this novel approach for attracting new sources of funding for dealing with social problems. The Wales Directorate was taking forward a parallel proposal under the 'Chaotic Families' strand of the UK Replication & Innovation programme, aiming at providing holistic support to families with one or more members in custody in HMP Parc. It was anticipated that the project would be developed in partnership with Bridgend CBC, with the award of a development grant to Parc as the first step.

6.5 Equalities

- 6.5.1 Ceri Doyle reported that an approach to equalities had been approved at the UK Board meeting, but that the model would prove very costly to implement. The meeting agreed that they would wish to discuss the implications for the Wales Directorate once the final approach had been costed. **Action CD**

6.6 Intelligent Funder/Sustainability

- 6.6.1 Gareth Newton reported on 2 recent meetings of the Working Group. An early meeting had discussed equalities and a pilot project on gathering equalities data which was being carried out in Northern Ireland and England. A subsequent meeting had discussed capacity building, with some tensions around the definition with BIG staff and grant holders having differing views. Discussions also covered outcomes, learning and project management. In Wales the People and Places Programme had been used to pilot the new approach measuring programme success, which would now be rolled out across the Fund.
- 6.6.2 Mike Theodoulou queried the status of the Private Sector working group. Ceri Doyle agreed to follow up with the Executive lead. **Action CD**

7.4 Potential Impact of Proposed Changes to Lottery Share (WBM 10/15)

- 7.4.1 The potential impact of the proposed government policy on the distribution of Lottery funds had been discussed at the previous evening's dinner. John Rose reminded the meeting that there were 3 changes proposed by the coalition government:

- A reduction in the share of lottery money distributed by BIG from 50% to 40% by 1st April 2012. This proposal was subject to formal consultation
- A requirement to fund 100% to the VCS (which would require further consultation if it is to be formalised)
- A reduction in administration costs to 5% of income.

7.4.2 The forecast figures in the paper were an early indication for Wales and would be subject to change. The UK Board would be considering the potential impact of changes in July, and this discussion would be used to inform Country Committees of the scale and timing of any necessary amendments to grant budgets. It was noted that the countries had already announced their new Portfolios, whilst the UK Programmes were still in development, which provided the UK Board with the option of using uncommitted UK programme funds to cushion the impact on the countries.

7.4.3 In discussion it was noted that:

- The requirement to reduce expenditure in later years (2013/14 and 2014/15) would require a reduction in commitments in earlier years.
- Reducing commitments in the short and medium term will be the most effective way of achieving any required cash savings and enabling the Directorate to a “steadier state” of grant funding
- A reduction or deferral of the UK Programmes budget would lessen the impact on country grant budgets.

7.4.4 The Committee confirmed its preference for achieving any required savings, through a mix of reduced grant budgets and potentially deferring the launch of new programmes. This “smoothing” would maximise BIG’s ability to provide a “Steady State” for customers. In addition the Committee highlighted:-

- The Futures Fund should not be sacrificed.
- Any change to 100% funding of the Third Sector would require a separate consultation by the coalition government.

7.4.5 The Chair summarised that the Wales Committee noted the need for potential reductions and agreed that the Wales Directorate would support implementation in a manner that minimised the impact on customers. Unfortunately he would be unable to attend the July UK Board meeting but would write to the UK Chair in advance to convey the views of the Wales Committee.

Action MW/HVT

7.4.4 A paper with formal proposals for Wales to address any reductions agreed by the UK Board in July would be presented to the September Wales Committee, **Action JR**

8. BIG Wales Funding Portfolio Update (WBM 10/16)

8.1 Mike Walsh highlighted the key points in the paper.

- AdvantAGE Programme – this had been successfully launched with extensive media coverage.
 - Young People – this programme was now in development and formal proposals would be presented to the September Committee. **Action MW**
 - Climate Change – the external context for this programme continued to change. It was noted that BIG's commitment to reducing the impact of climate change was evident in a number of programmes and projects across both the UK and in Wales..
 - Support for Third Sector infrastructure – a working group were liaising with CVCs to develop this programme.
 - Timetable for launches – It was proposed to slip the Citizen's Voice paper to at least June 2011 following the Welsh Assembly Government elections. Barbara Wilding stressed the importance of knowing the political framework and policy context within which the programme would be operating, and which might change as a result of the election. This item was further discussed and concluded under agenda item 9.
- 8.2 The Wales Committee congratulated staff on the successful AdvantAGE Programme launch and the recent success in Wales for the Village SOS Programme where 3 projects had been selected to go forward to the development stage.
- 8.3 The progress on the Young People Programme was noted.
- 8.4 A paper clarifying the proposals to support the Third Sector infrastructure was requested for the September meeting. **Action MW**
- 8.5 In discussion regarding the Climate Change Programme, Wales Committee felt that the objective of reducing Wales's carbon footprint was overly ambitious and the programme should consider broadening its approach towards community-based environmental initiatives where there were numerous options where BIG could make a difference. A paper to scope the options for the programme was requested for the September Committee. **Action JR**
9. Citizen's Voice Programme Update (WBM 10/17)
- 9.1 Barbara Wilding, as Citizen's Voice Programme lead, explained that the focus for the programme was difficult to define. A document illustrating the theories of change model was tabled for information.
- 9.2 In discussion the main points raised were:
- It was difficult to measure engagement
 - Communities needed to take action themselves as well as lobbying for change in policy.
 - Existing services needed to be taken into account.
 - The focus of the programme should be in mobilising the voice, rather than implementing projects.
 - It would be difficult to tackle geographical areas
 - There would always be those who simply do not want to be engaged.
 - Existing projects of excellence could be considered for funding to act as beacons.

- The programme needs to be flexible.
 - In creating a voice, BIG would need to ensure that there was someone to listen.
- 9.3 In summary the Chair concluded that the Wales Committee wanted the Citizen's Voice programme to be further developed, with the focus being on developing a community voice to inform the development of public services, and concluded that Option E – No targeting by geographical area or community or interest was the preferred option.
- 9.4 John Rose highlighted the resource implications of developing a programme with such broad outcomes, particularly in light of the coalition government's desire for BIG to limit its administration costs.
- 9.5 The Wales Committee agreed that the Programme launch should be delayed until at least June 2011 and requested a refined paper on development for the September Committee meeting. **Action DW**
10. Innovation Programme (WBM 10/18)
- 10.1 The paper presented requested approval to proceed with the Innovation Programme. A recent review of current policy had been carried out and there were no significant developments to radically alter the approach developed by the earlier working party. John Rose updated the meeting on the delivery mechanism and the proposed support for applicants.
- 10.2 Wales Committee agreed that the programme should proceed, focussing on initiatives new to the UK. In light of the coalition government's recent announcements the Committee considered whether eligibility to apply should be limited to the Third Sector. It was agreed that at this time it should be left open to all sectors, but that this position is kept under review.
11. Wales Comms & Marketing Update Report (WBM 10/10)
- 11.1 The paper presented reported on current activity, as agreed in the Communications & Marketing Strategy. Derek Walker advised that there had been positive feedback in the annual AMs survey, but that consideration would be given to better demonstrating how BIG supports communities in need. The impact of the freeze on marketing spend, as announced by the new coalition government, was yet to be assessed. Corporate guidance was due to be issued shortly. The Village SOS Programme was getting good media coverage, with BBC Wales covering local projects in addition to the UK network. Feedback from the public opinion survey had shown that there had been a drop in knowledge of BIG within Wales in relation to the rest of the country. It was noted that a very small sample audience had been used in the latest survey.
12. Wales Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2010/11 (WBM 10/20)
- 12.1 The paper presented followed up on the Wales Committee Strategic Planning Day in November by proposing three main overarching themes which would underpin all Wales stakeholder engagement, and also included an action plan which would allow the Wales Committee to support the Directorate's activity. It was suggested that the increased

focus provided by the themes would increase the impact and influence achieved by engagement with key stakeholders

12.2 The Wales Committee agreed that the framework was helpful. In discussing the theme of building stronger communities, it was agreed to remove reference to the Big Society.

12.3 It was agreed that Wales Committee members needed to be pro-active with AMs, although it was agreed that the previous series of AMs' dinners had run their course. It was further agreed that briefings with MPs and AMs should be offered at Westminster in the autumn, with regular constituency events engaging ministers, MPs, AMs and stakeholders as appropriate.

13. Programme Performance

13.1 Items were discussed by exception.

- VCS commitment was on target.
- People & Places Programme – demand remained high, with good quality applications being supported.
- Healthy Families Programme – Barbara Wilding had chaired the recent Child's Play meeting where applications had been improved to address sustainability. She had also presented evidence on child's play to the National Assembly for Wales' Children's & Young People's Scrutiny Committee.
- Mental Health Matters Programme – Barbara Wilding reported on a recent visit to a project at Cardiff University. The project would be formally evaluated, but feedback on the day was very positive and demonstrated where BIG was making a difference. Following decisions at the previous Wales Committee meeting, additional funding requests were expected the following week to support project evaluation and plans for a Mental Health campaign were progressing.
- Peoples Millions – A new decision making committee was currently being recruited, with the Committee meeting scheduled for 21st July 2010.
- Lifeskills – John Rose reported that less funding had been committed during rounds 3 and 4 than forecast. Some limited consultation was being carried out with bidders who had chosen not to tender to identify their reasons for not proceeding. The paper presented provided options for the use of uncommitted funds. The Wales Committee noted the progress on the Programme and approved the recommendations to :-
 - retain up to 10% of the budget to increase the value of contracts with successful service providers,
 - increase the budget available to support the existing round 6 procurement targeting Economically Inactive Families in the competitiveness area by up to 20% of the published budget, and
 - target older people to assist in their re-engagement in education, volunteering and employment in both the convergence and competitive areas through 2 further procurement rounds .

- Village SOS – Mike Theodoulou reported that there had been some difficult decisions to make, with consideration being given to media impact as well as strength of project.
- Community Asset Transfer – John Rose reported that the decision making Committee had been recruited, with induction taking place the next day. The Committee was scheduled to meet on 30th June to make decisions on the first round of applications with a budget of £3.5m

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1 Ceri Doyle suggested that the action list drafted by the Executive following Wales Committee meetings could be circulated to Wales Committee members for information. This was agreed. **Action JN**
- 14.2 The next meeting would be held on 13th/14th September 2010 in Cardiff.
- 14.3 There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.05.