

BIG LOTTERY FUND

MEETING OF THE SCOTLAND COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY AT 9.45AM AT BIG OFFICES, ATLANTIC QUAY, GLASGOW

PRESENT:

Alison Magee	Chair, Scotland Committee
Liz Cameron	Vice Chair, Scotland Committee
Tim Allan	Scotland Committee Member
Helen Forsyth	Scotland Committee Member
David Green	Scotland Committee Member
Alistair Grimes	Scotland Committee Member
Kristofer McGhee	Scotland Committee Member
Maureen McGinn	Scotland Committee Member
Lucy McTernan	Scotland Committee Member
Shirley Young	Scotland Committee Member

IN ATTENDANCE (BIG LOTTERY FUND STAFF):

Jackie Killeen	Acting Director, Scotland
Rona Alexander	Head of Programmes
Louise Bauer	Programme Manager (items 12-13)
Alison Brown	Grants Officer (items 14-15)
Denise Burns	Policy Officer (items 14-15)
Roddy Byers	Head of Programmes
Rebekah Dundas	Programme Manager (items 9-11)
John Fellows	Head of Communications and Marketing
Julia Holmes	Programme Manager (items 9-11)
Alex Johnston	Policy Officer (items 14-15)
Allison Matthews	Programme Manager (items 14-15)
Mhairi Reid	Policy Officer (items 12-13)
Neil Ritch	Head of Planning and Support Services
Carolyn Sawers	Acting Head of Policy and Public Affairs
Jo Shaw	Committee Manager (minutes)

GUESTS:

Peter Wanless	Chief Executive, Big Lottery Fund (items 1 – 11)
John Swinney	Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth (items 1-2)
Christine Carlin	Deputy Director, Third Sector Division, Scottish Government (items 1-2)
Carol Kirk	Policy Advisor, Third Sector Division, Scottish Government (items 1-2)
Paul Boylan	Policy Manager, Third Sector Division, Scottish Government (items 1-2)

1. OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and offered a warm welcome to the Cabinet Secretary, John Swinney and his colleagues from the Scottish Government. All attendees introduced themselves in turn.

2. CABINET SECRETARY, JOHN SWINNEY

2.1 The Cabinet Secretary expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of further discussion with the Committee. He noted the pressures of the current financial climate and that all public sector funding needs to have maximum impact; also the change of Directorship at BIG Scotland and that he looks forward to working with the Acting Director and the Management Team.

2.2 There followed a discussion between the Cabinet Secretary, Committee members and BIG officers, the main points of which are recorded below, with the Cabinet Secretary's comment in italics.

- There is currently focused activity around BIG's budget and costs, the redistribution of 20% of Lottery funding and the UK Government's reduction of administrative costs to 5%.
- Funding which BIG has already committed to projects is secure; awards of new money are constrained by the programmes already announced and policy directions from Government.
- BIG has obtained a revised and more flexible approach from UK Government regarding administrative costs relating to research, outreach and other work supporting people to apply.
- The Committee's areas of priority are Awards for All, the JESSICA Trust, Life Changes Trust and Investing in Communities which has had to have its funding reduced but with the flexibility that if income increases funding can be reinstated; close working with the Scottish Government means that the Committee is hopeful it can maximise outcomes.
- The Committee appreciates the support that the Cabinet Secretary has lent at UK level which has helped Ministers understand the implications of the UK Government's proposals.
- The Committee has already made difficult decisions and demand is still greater than the funding available.

The Scottish Government appreciates BIG's effectiveness in sustaining long term commitments and careful judgment regarding a diminishing resource.

- Investing in Communities 2 (IiC2) has a new approach comprising a two stage grantmaking process with funded development support, which means that expectations are managed more effectively and proposals which reach stage 2 are very strong
- Grants officers are currently experiencing high demand for Investing in Ideas; BIG is determined to be able to reach areas and groups where capacity is not so high and development support can help them achieve significantly more; GCA is an important investment area in this respect.

There is a clear interrelationship between what BIG is funding and other organisations and a positive climate for ensuring that money goes as far as it can.

- The Scotland Funders' Forum is enormously helpful in bringing funders together and identifying potential barriers; the efforts of staff as well as close working with the Scottish Government has been very effective. Funders are trying to set up a similar body in Wales.
- Funders are aware and proactive regarding the current financial climate and trying to share evidence and intelligence.
- There is a role for the Scottish Government to ensure that there is synergy between the Work Programme, other departments dealing with the same issues and BIG's funding.

Are the mechanisms for synchronisation and complementarity in place or is there more that the Scottish Government could do?

- Some Scottish and UK Government programmes are under pressure to assess by output or throughput rather than focusing on the outcomes for the clients involved
- BIG's UK programmes offer the opportunity for staff in different parts of the country to start with key issues such as domestic violence or alcohol abuse and use funding accordingly; for example the Improving Futures programme (focussing on families in chaotic circumstances) will identify areas where a local authority is keen to be involved; it will invest money for a sustained period of time and try to demonstrate that there is another way to solve issues which does not only benefit families but demonstrates a new preventative, holistic way to tackle social issues;

The Scottish Government recognises that a clear, big intervention taking a holistic approach is more valuable than applying separate initiatives with different agencies; and the sustainability of separate initiatives over the next 5 years appears unlikely.

- The UK and Scottish Governments need to consider how interventions evolve and that what is delivered over a 4-5 year period should change according to intelligence and evaluation; current support mechanisms are process driven but the issues being dealt with are not
- BIG is encouraging a change in culture through its capacity building work; Our Place is an example of this and it can create opportunities for BIG to broker relationships between stakeholders
- the Scottish Government can acknowledge and promote this kind of engagement and support its replication
- BIG is glad that the UK Government has recognised the significance of its research and development work and the place this has in its administrative costs
- BIG currently only works closely with other Lottery distributors through Awards for All in Scotland; the Scottish Government could help bring Lottery funders together and encourage more collaborative working, for example in relation to the Commonwealth Games legacy and grassroots community activity.

It is important not to compartmentalise activities, for example a sports project can play a significant part in a regeneration strategy. The Scottish Government has brokered an initial meeting with all Lottery Distributors on 24 February and hopes this will encourage a more collegiate way of working.

- The Scotland Chair recently met with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) with whom BIG has collaborated on Community Wildlife, a UK programme; they had a very positive and interesting discussion regarding the possibilities of further joint working and this ties in with the agenda BIG is pursuing with the Scotland Funders' Forum.

The Scottish Government will be keen to identify and respond positively to other funders such as SNH and complementarity between their programmes; all funders will be experiencing the same financial challenges. The Cabinet Secretary had similar discussions with BIG's UK Board in July 2010 in relation to the UK Government's Big Society and how to draw together the work of public sector and community organisations.

- Transfer of forestry land to community groups has become an issue for BIG and some of its applicants.

The Scottish Government can apply a degree of discretion to the principle of demanding market value for sale of public assets.

- BIG England's and BIG UK's policy directions are being redefined because their UK Government sponsor has changed from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to the Office of Civil Society
- BIG's ambition is to have set of UK policy directions framed like BIG Scotland's which are enabling principles and hence it is important that there is a swift and sharp engagement with the draft directions which is currently progressing well; there is a legitimate opportunity for Scotland to engage in this process
- BIG is keen for UK-wide money to have a distinct UK-wide impact and the Replication and Innovation programme is the primary and most valuable vehicle for this given that there are social policy issues across the UK which BIG in all the countries would like to act on, applying its most transformative style of investment models
- BIG is one of the decreasing number of funding organisations with a UK-wide reach and its policy context should be informed by learning from Scotland and the other countries

There is a potential danger that guidance from Government becomes another obstacle; Scottish Government officials are keen to understand any emerging issues and hope to prevent bureaucratic difficulties.

- It is important to continually reinforce the diversity of the UK and the reality of devolution with its different health, legal and education systems ; the BIG Board has set up a good system for governance to reflect this
- BIG's UK programme budget is substantial; it is approximately the same as the BIG Scotland budget
- The Helix project in Falkirk is an example of a major project funded by a UK programme; this project begins work on the ground today
- There are opportunities for good examples of projects in Scotland to be replicated in other parts of the UK and vice versa
- BIG's International Programme is also important; the Glasgow launch event at the end of December 2010 was well attended and this should be promoted across Scotland.

2.3 The Cabinet Secretary thanked the Committee for a positive discussion.

The Committee adjourned at 10.35am and reconvened at 10.45am.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 3.1 Lucy McTernan declared an interest in the application from Angus Citizens' Advice Bureau due to her role at Citizens Advice Scotland. It was agreed that she would leave the room for discussion of this application.
- 3.2 David Green declared non-disqualifying interests in the applications from Angus Citizens' Advice Bureau, Angus Carers Association, Reality Adventure Works in Scotland Limited as they are in local authority areas within the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park of which he is Chair.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 The Committee noted that at 5.5 'Scottish National Heritage' should be 'Scottish Natural Heritage'; with this amendment the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 The Committee noted the tabled memo.
- 5.2 The Chief Executive updated the Committee regarding BPR highlighting that:
- i. the main challenge for BIG is to fulfil its obligations under the schedule of work associated with the contract; the process between now and implementation of the system is due to take 12 – 14 months and this will be first priority for certain BIG staff
 - ii. the timetable assumes closure for launch of new programmes for a 6 month period as BIG prepares to use the new Funding Management System (FMS)
 - iii. Committee will be kept appraised of the timetable
- 5.3 The Committee noted that:
- i. the England Director is the senior responsible officer, and the Chief Executive is ultimately accountable, for the BPR project
 - ii. Members had been uncomfortable regarding the setbacks affecting this project previously, but BIG's Gateway Review last year gave positive feedback on the robustness of the processes in place and this should bring confidence
 - iii. It is a good decision to opt for a new improved FMS.
- 5.4 The Chair reported on her meetings in Inverness with the Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Community Land Scotland:
- i. the meeting with the Leader, Convenor and Chief Executive of Highland Council involved a wide ranging discussion during which the Council was open and positive about its budgetary process
 - ii. the outcome of the meeting is that the Council will facilitate a seminar, to which all Lottery funders would be invited, potentially in June, at which the Chair is invited to speak about BIG's work
 - iii. this has come about as a result of the Chair's work speaking at the Village Halls Summit in Aviemore and the CoSLA Leaders meeting and following an invitation from the Council to speak to them
 - iv. this seminar may coincide with the launch of the Community Spaces programme.
- 5.5 During discussion the Committee noted the following:
- i. officers update each local authority monthly on applications received in their areas
 - ii. this positive meeting is encouraging BIG to consider further engagement with some local authority areas from which fewer applications are coming in; for example, Moray and Aberdeen
 - iii. Aberdeen has an Economic Forum which is involved in significant forward planning which BIG might consider exploring
 - iv. the Acting Director, Scotland has a meeting with the new Chief Executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise during the coming month
 - v. Our Place local authority areas feature significantly in BIG's work to tackle areas of high need and few applications
 - vi. BIG might consider engaging with other local authorities through meetings with one or two members in similar approach to that taken with Highland Council
 - vii. it is important to expand stakeholder engagement with the private sector in areas where there are fewer applications.
- 5.6 The Committee noted the tabled letter from Andrew Thin, Chairman of SNH and the potential for a joint approach between BIG and SNH to their grant programmes which would encourage joined up working and possibly save costs; although SNH is not a Lottery distributor there would be no issues with joint working.
- 5.7 The Committee noted that:
- i. Community Land Scotland comprises organisations who have benefited from the Scottish Land Fund and GCA

- ii. discussion covered GCA and its objectives for land development as part of acquisition; the evaluation of the Scottish Land Fund and its purpose to share best practice amongst community landowners across Scotland
 - iii. the press team is addressing the challenges of disseminating learning from the Scottish Land Fund and Growing Community Assets.
- 5.8 The Chair reported that the UK Board had agreed at their January meeting:
- i. to establish a UK Funding Committee including representation from the four Country Committees and UK Programme Board at officer level
 - ii. to review joint Board and Committee working groups, including developing the private sector working group
 - iii. the International Committee will continue its current operation
- 5.9 The Chief Executive advised that the establishment of the UK Funding Committee is within a wider context of the governance review which has been commissioned by the Interim UK Chair and Chief Executive. This will examine the purpose, time limit and mission of joint working groups. As a result Committee members may be asked various questions about working groups during the next few months and meetings may be postponed until this review is complete.
- 5.10 During discussion the Committee noted the following:
- i. the revival of the private sector working group is welcomed by the Board and the Scotland Committee and the Board agreed that the Director of Communications and Marketing should take forward some corporate priorities with this group
 - ii. the governance review will make recommendations at the beginning of April and it will depend on the new UK Chair as to what options are taken forward
 - iii. the Intelligent Funding and Sustainability group will only meet for business critical issues
- 5.11 Members agreed that it would be useful to review the working groups as a Committee as well as through one to one responses and this could be an item on the March agenda if time permits.
- ACTION: Committee Manager**
- 5.12 The Committee noted that
- i. there is a relatively short window of opportunity for communities to apply for Jubilee People's Millions; the timetable for this is subject to the Jubilee celebration timetable
 - ii. Research and Learning officers are reviewing how they work with non-executive working groups as part of the wider governance review
- 5.13 The Committee agreed that the paper on Board and Committee activity circulated in December is a useful format for reporting on this
- 5.14 The Committee noted that the Director of Strategy, Performance and Learning is currently considering visiting the Scotland Committee in April or May
- 5.15 The Chair advised that all Committee members have now been reappointed.

6. MEDIA COVERAGE REPORT

- 6.1 The Head of Communications and Marketing advised that staff were attending the Helix Project turf-cutting ceremony which coincided with the Committee meeting.
- 6.2 During discussion the Committee noted that
- i. the Herald Society Awards had generated relatively little media attention beyond the Herald itself; the event has provided worthwhile engagement with stakeholders, but officers will be reviewing BIG's sponsorship of this event ,which it has done for the past 3 years, and what resources should be applied to it.
 - ii. there is potential for collaboration with the National Lottery Promotions Unit on sponsorship of events such as the Herald Society Awards
 - iii. Scotland has the highest levels of awareness of BIG in the UK.

7. MSP SURVEY RESULTS

- 7.1 The Committee noted that
- i. the report reflects valuable work undertaken by the previous Public Affairs Manager, John Duncan and that external feedback has confirmed what a positive resource he was; the good results also reflect work by other teams, particularly the Awards for All team
 - ii. Gillian Miller will be joining BIG as Senior Policy and Development Advisor on 14 March; she has previously worked at the Scottish Government and Stonewall

8. LIFE CHANGES TRUST

- 8.1 Programme Manager, Julia Holmes gave an update on the progress of the Life Changes Trust highlighting the following:
- i. the Trust had been launched on 1 November as planned
 - ii. the briefing event had been postponed due to bad weather and rescheduled on 11 January; it was very well attended with 31 people from 21 different organisations, including organisations which are successful at establishing new ventures
 - iii. attendees took full advantage of networking time
 - iv. the deadline for organisations to submit proposals is 5pm on 1 April
 - v. the procurement of the due diligence contract (jointly with the JESSICA Trust team) and the preferred candidate contract should be in place by early May in place and these should enable joint working with an iterative process
 - vi. assessment materials are being prepared for the selection of the preferred candidate
 - vii. Members noted their appreciation of good progress and agreed that the final Life Changes Trust booklet should be circulated
- ACTION: Committee Manager**
- viii. the Committee noted that questions from attendees at the briefing event had related to outcomes rather than legal details
 - ix. the Chair thanked Kristofer McGhee, for introducing the event on behalf of the Committee, and Programme Manager Julia Holmes.

9. DORMANT BANK ACCOUNTS

- 9.1 Rebekah Dundas introduced the paper highlighting the following:
- i. the four themes at paragraph 2.2 which Scottish Ministers had developed; BIG has been engaging with the Scottish Government regarding these as it is expected they will form the basis for policy directions to BIG
 - ii. the key issue is the amount of money which will be available for distribution which looks likely to be significantly less than initially anticipated, and is currently expected to be between £6 – 10M.
- 9.2 During discussion the Committee noted the following:
- i. it is unlikely that the money will be available for distribution before the Scottish elections and there is potential for the themes to change should there be a change of Government
 - ii. the Scottish Government consultation on the distribution of funds took place 2 years ago
 - iii. community employment opportunities should be a key issue to be considered
 - iv. BIG has raised with Scottish Government officials the risk of the themes being too broad and the possibility of involving other stakeholders to consider how to bring the themes together
 - v. there is also a risk in presenting a smaller scheme, due to a smaller amount of money being available for distribution, without further consultation with stakeholders
 - vi. legislation requires BIG to produce a strategic plan on the basis of consultation; although further consultation creates delays and BIG has alerted the Government to this

and offered solutions for expediting the process before the election, the Government has consistently asked for consultation to be undertaken

vii. BIG has given suggestions and advice to Government officials regarding the potential for using the funds for a loan scheme or trust model, highlighting the activity in Wales around this

viii. there is a limit to what can be achieved until there is certainty about the amount of money available for distribution

ix. BIG will be able to reclaim money spent on the process so far

9.3 The Committee agreed that further discussion should be undertaken following the election and if there is a different Government following the election BIG should prioritise meeting with them on this issue.

9.4 The Committee expressed their appreciation for officers' work on this.

10. SCOTLAND COMMITTEE VISIT TO WESTERN ISLES

10.1 The Head of Planning and Support Services presented the latest draft schedule for the Committee's visit to the Western Isles noting that:

i. the programme has been structured to enable learning about the area and what BIG has funded including large scale land-based projects, but also other projects which deal with the everyday challenges of Western Isles life.

ii. the Committee will be split into two groups on the first day to maximise engagement with projects and there will be a stakeholder event in Stornoway; the local Council will host lunch on the second day.

10.2 During discussion the Committee noted the following

i. the Committee meeting would be held in the Western Isles Council Chambers which has video-conference facilities and these were being offered free of charge

ii. staff attending the visit would be the Acting Director, Head of Planning and Support Services, GCA Programme Manager and the Committee Manager; other members of the Management Team would join the Committee meeting on 8 March by video-conference.

iii. Members agreed it would be important to maximise impact of the visit and to address issues with perception of funding for land ownership and sustaining communities

iv. the Western Isles is relatively heavily dependent on public sector services

v. the BBC had recently shown a programme about Harris and this could be useful background. It was agreed that a web link to this would be circulated if possible.

ACTION: Committee Manager

vi. this is the Year of Scotland's Islands and members would like to discuss with stakeholders what BIG can support in terms of inter-island cultural and sporting activity

vii. Programme Manager, Chris Holloway and Head of Planning and Support Services would be undertaking an IIC2 Stage 2 application workshop and some outreach work with the local CVS during the visit; Lucy McTernan would be staying an extra night and therefore could possibly contribute to outreach work

viii. the potential visit to the New Music Trust would need to involve a manageably small group of members

ix. BIG has invested substantial sums of money, including large community buyouts, in the Western Isles; it has also funded two Supporting 21st Century Life projects there is an opportunity for BIG to underline its commitment to the development of community land and assets through its discussions with all the projects scheduled for visits which have received funding in this respect.

10.3 Members agreed that Liz Cameron would provide information on business contacts in the area to add to the stakeholder invitation list.

ACTION, Liz Cameron/Committee Manager

11. DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PETER WANLESS

11.1 The Chief Executive noted the following:

- i. relative to many public bodies BIG finds itself in a privileged position with a strong and steady income and £500 – £600M available to commit; it is important to ensure this is used to best effect
- ii. BIG's reputation is extremely strong; in addition to excellent survey results from the Scottish Parliament, the Westminster MP survey shows that 87% of MPs across parties regard BIG as effective which is a significant achievement given recent changes and shows BIG to be 25% ahead of other public bodies
- iii. staff survey results are very positive and Scotland is the most improved in its scores over the last 12 months; Development Manager, Lorna White in particular has been doing a lot of work with staff in this respect; the ongoing challenge is to achieve even stronger results
- iv. BIG has signed its BPR contract, a business change programme providing the opportunity to be better, faster and cheaper; BIG is in a comfortable and logical position to deal with current cuts
- v. BIG had expected its relationship with its new sponsor department in England, the Office of Civil Society (OCS), to mirror its relationship in Scotland with the Scottish Government which is not the case; DCMS will maintain an interest and there will be much more scrutiny of how BIG uses its money so the relationship will be more acute
- vi. the lead official at the Cabinet Office for BIG's sponsorship is Helen Stephenson, Deputy Director of OCS who used to work at BIG; Beatrice Andrews has been seconded from BIG to the Cabinet Office to support her. Nick Herd, MP is the sponsor Minister, reporting to Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office; he has been supportive of BIG and also focused on costs therefore it will be important to present the relationship between cost and impact effectively
- vii. the closing date for the recruitment of both the England Chair and UK Chair is 3 February; there will be applications from candidates for the individual positions and to combine both; shortlisting will take place on 9 February and interviews on 28 February and 1 March
- viii. five England Committee members have been reappointed for up to 6 months so that the new England Chair can consider further terms of appointment
- ix. it is important to fill the roles of Scotland and Wales Directors quickly; interviews for the Scotland Director post will take place on 23 March
- x. BIG England's latest opportunity of non-Lottery funding has been the £100M Transition Fund and there are other opportunities coming through; BIG is well placed to attract these and as there is appreciation for what BIG could potentially deliver it may also be appointed by OCS as a strategic partner as well
- xi. BIG is legally forbidden to incur Lottery expenditure on speculative bids to deliver non-Lottery funding
- xii. reducing the cost of Lottery funding business will have an impact on jobs but there are other business opportunities from other sources of funding although BIG should take care not to take work it is not skilled for or which presents legal obstacles
- xiii. there is an interesting debate to be had regarding BIG's further involvement with its new FMS as a shared service grantmaking platform for other distributors and funders.

11.2 The Committee thanked the Chief Executive for his useful update and noted the following during discussion:

- i. an advert for the Scotland Director post would be placed on BIG's website and key external organisations will also be alerted to the vacancy
- ii. Members would like to invite the Director of OCS to visit the Scotland Committee and it would also be beneficial to invite him or the Deputy Director to the Intelligent Funders'

- Forum; BIG's ability to engage with other funders is a strength and the Scotland Funders' Forum's engagement with Government has been mutually beneficial
- iii. Members would like to see more clarity in BIG's approach to additionality across all portfolios and shared intelligence on this across the organisation
 - iv. it is important to establish understanding that Replication and Innovation is a different kind of funding programme which is fundamentally changing the way BIG and its partners work
 - v. good cost reduction approaches have already been engaged with by staff but there is further work to do
 - vi. the Chair thanked everybody for a productive discussion and advised that members would be having lunch with all the Scotland staff.

The Committee adjourned for lunch at 13.10 and reconvened at 14.05.

12. OUR PLACE OVERVIEW PAPER

- 12.1 Head of Programmes, Rona Alexander presented the paper highlighting:
- i. the learning programme within Our Place, which aims to incorporate learning from previous programmes such as the Fair Share Trust, and the shared learning event with the different communities involved
 - ii. that the Committee does not usually see stage 1 applications
 - iii. the change to three different deadlines for stage 2 applications
 - iv. total value of applications is approximately £1M in excess of the budget which was expected.
- 12.2 During discussion the Committee noted the following:
- i. the paper refers to the presentational implications of cutting back on some proposals; but there is also a risk that increasing funding available could be seen as unfair in neighbouring communities
 - ii. Members raised concern about how objective feasibility studies will be
 - iii. established organisations will be better placed to demonstrate learning
 - iv. learning from Our Place should be shared with BIG Local Trust
 - v. questions regarding how to give constructive feedback to organisations who are not taken forward, how communities can develop further and work in a joined up way, how to ensure BIG is engaging with the real communities and addressing any lack of capacity have been at the forefront of the team's work
 - vi. BIG is keen to see at least two development trusts coming forward and contractors have worked hard to ensure capacity building is included
 - vii. there will be significant progressions between stage 1 and stage 2 applications
 - viii. adapting timescales allows for contractors to achieve work for stage 2 applications in areas where the community is not very well established
 - ix. there is an argument for fewer projects which are more connected; communities may learn this for themselves and will need to prioritise
- 12.3 The Committee:
- i. noted the update and context of stage 1 applications for Our Place
 - ii. noted the recommendations on timescales, budget and contract extensions
 - iii. agreed decisions on extending stage 2 deadlines in some areas; extending support contracts in areas with longer capital projects and approved a virement from liC2 to fund the extensions, with the condition that contractors achieve enhanced support; and, in principle, recommended stage 1 projects

13. OUR PLACE STAGE 1 APPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The decisions regarding applications are recorded in annex A to these minutes.

Policy Officer, Denise Burns, Programme Manager, Julia Holmes, Policy Officer, Alex Johnston, Programme Manager, Allison Mathews and Grants Officer, Alison Brown joined the meeting.

Programme Manager, Louise Bauer and Policy Officer, Mhairi Reid left the meeting.

14. liC2 OVERVIEW PAPER

- 14.1 Head of Programmes, Rona Alexander introduced the report which is a different format to that used under liC1 and had input from various teams; she also explained that members will now see a wider range of grades as in liC2 project graded 'satisfactory' will come to Committee whereas in liC1 these applications were rejected before reaching Committee as part of BIG's demand management approach
- 14.2 Members gave positive feedback on the report, commenting that the information on geographic spread is useful.

15. liC2 APPLICATIONS FOR DECISION

- 15.1 The Committee noted the questions and answers tabled.
- 15.2 The decisions regarding applications are recorded in Annex A to these minutes.

Programme Manager, Julia Holmes, Policy Officer, Alex Johnston, Programme Manager, Allison Mathews and Grants Officer, Alison Brown left the meeting.

16. REJECT REASONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 16.1 The Committee noted the reject reasons.

17. MINUTES OF DELEGATED REJECT MEETINGS 19 NOVEMBER

- 17.1 The Committed noted the minutes.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 18.1 The Chair noted the very positive contribution to the Board of the Interim Chair of Wales, Jan Reed. As she is keen to visit Scotland and has a particular interest in the Scotland Funders Forum (SFF) the Scotland Chair has proposed that she attends the SFF meeting on 10 May and the Scotland Committee meeting on 11 May.
- 18.2 The Chair advised that grant management of both the Helix Project and the Village SOS project in West Wemyss has been transferred to Scotland.
- 18.3 The Chair advised that Lucy McTernan would be the Scotland Committee's nominee for the UK Funding Committee and Alistair Grimes would be substitute. These members had been nominated because of their work on the Replication and Innovation programme.
- 18.4 The Chair reported on her positive visit to Ness Soaps in December and how this project demonstrated useful lessons regarding the importance of location and transport links for social enterprises; and also how organisations like this make the transition into a larger operation.
- 18.5 Maureen McGinn reported on her attendance of the Scotland Funders' Forum on 18 January; discussion included the impact of small grants on community organisations and the importance of Awards for All given the decreasing availability of discretionary funding; also capacity building which relates to BIG's single front door approach.
- 18.6 The Acting Director, Scotland thanked Alistair Grimes for his provision of cake to staff on the day of the cancelled Scotland Committee meeting.

18.7 The Committee agreed that the lunch with staff had been a very positive exercise and they would like to repeat this after the summer.

19. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

19.1 Tuesday 8 March at Western Isles Council Chambers, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

20. FINISH

20.1 There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30pm.