

**TRUSTEES REPORT**

**APRIL 2020**

Mike Coyne, Chair, welcomed Trustees to the meeting, and advised Members that the ESFA’s COBRA Committee had met several times since its inception to consider the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on football in the schools’ sector. It was noted that there were considerable uncertainties but that, as far as was practical, the ESFA should conduct business as usual, with clarity in its communications being vital

In considering the Association’s financial position, Trustees:

* Reviewed the partnership pipeline from the Commercial Director and were pleased to see that negotiations on emerging sponsorship deals were continuing, despite the Covid-19 outbreak;
* Considered the immediate financial implications of the cessation of football, including the impact of cancelled international fixtures and the carry forward of FA grant into the early part of 20/21.

In considering the Association’s regulatory, policy and statutory framework, Trustees:

* Received an update on communication with the Copyright Licensing Agency.

In considering the Association’s progress against its business plan, Trustees:

* Reviewed the feedback received from selected “critical friends” on the draft communication with Membership about the Player Passport, and clarified elements of the briefing in response to this feedback;
* Reviewed the progress of Association Restructure and reinforced the view that this must be completed wherever possible this season;
* Reviewed the status of the Development Fund projects, and agreed the process for reviewing the progress of each;
* Agreed to invite Membership to support the ESFA in submitting a healthy set of KPIs to The FA, by voluntarily updating their data and thus maximising the chance of positive funding negotiations.

In considering the Association’s staffing, Trustees:

* Agreed that recruitment to the new posts approved at the last meeting should be temporarily deferred.

In considering the Association’s sponsorship and partnership arrangements, Trustees:

* Received confirmation that one of its partners had ceased trading and that an alternative was being sought. The cash implication of this cessation was minimal.

In considering the Association’s governance arrangements, Trustees:

* Were reminded that COBRA meetings had taken place and minutes had been circulated. Matters referred to Trustees by COBRA included building security and building insurance, which were being followed up;
* Were reminded of document previously circulated regarding legal duties of Charity Trustees, which was discussed, with no issues raised;
* Considered the government’s job retention scheme and its current and future applicability to the ESFA;
* Determined that a second phase of elected Council member recruitment should take place, in light of the pandemic, in areas which still held vacancies;
* Approved the draft process for elections for Council members, to be adopted when the following round of recruitment (under extended eligibility) began;
* Noted that the advert for the Independent Council Member had been placed.

Finally, Trustees reviewed all decisions taken during the meeting from a safeguarding and equality and diversity perspective to double-check that appropriate consideration had been given in each case. The routine review of the Risk Register concluded, with changes as proposed approved.