

Minutes of SMG Board of Trustees Meeting
Held in the Smith Centre on
Wednesday 7 December 2022

<u>Present:</u>	<u>In attendance:</u>
SMG Trustees Dame Mary Archer (Chair) James Bilefield Professor Stephen Belcher (Items 1-10) Professor Brian Cantor (<i>by MS Teams</i>) Judith Donovan (Items 1-10) Professor Russell Foster Sharon Flood Sir Peter Henty (Items 1-10) Professor Anya Hurlbert Iain McIntosh Professor Washington Ochieng Professor Ajit Lalvani Lopa Patel Professor David Phoenix Professor Greg Radick Sarah Sands Sarah Staniforth Steven Underwood	SMG Executive Sir Ian Blatchford, Director & Chief Executive Shri Mukundagiri, Chief Operating Officer Peter Dickinson, Director of Communications (<i>by MS Teams</i>) Deborah Myers, Director of Development Anna Dejean, Masterplan Director Dr Roger Highfield, Science Director Dr Julia Knights, Deputy Director, Science Museum (ScM) Sally MacDonald, Director, Science & Industry Museum (SIM) Judith McNicol, Director, National Railway Museum (NRM) Jo Quinton Tulloch, Director, National Science & Media Museum (NSMM) Sian Thompson, SMG Board Secretary Bob Cowell, Trustee, Science Museum Foundation (SMF) (<i>Observer</i>)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Tim Dugher and Baroness Nicky Morgan.

2. Declarations of interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

3. Draft Minutes of SMG Board Meeting on 29 June 2022

3.1 The minutes of the meeting were approved and would be signed by the Chair. **(Action: MA / ST)**

3.2 It was noted that the Board would prefer fuller detail in some areas in the meeting minutes going forward. **(Action: MA / ST)**

4. SMG Chair's Report

The paper circulated previously was noted. In addition:

- The Board had approved the nomination of Iain McIntosh as the Board's Senior Independent Director (SID) in its closed session immediately prior to the Board meeting.

4.1 Science Museum Fellowships: 2023 Nominations

The paper circulated previously was noted. **The Board approved the recommendations** outlined in the paper, noting that the Fellowship for His Majesty the King was owing to his contributions in the fields of engineering, sustainability, and climate issues.

4.2 SMG Subcommittee and Advisory Board Terms of Reference

The paper circulated previously was noted. **The Board approved the recommendations** outlined in the paper, noting that further minor amends were required for consistency across all groups (regarding conflicts of interest, quorums, and flexibility to hold additional meetings as required). **(Action: MA / ST)**

5. Director's Report

The paper circulated previously was noted. In addition:

- The SMG Director had recently returned from a very productive networking visit to India.
- Conversations were in advanced stages with a new philanthropic donor for the Frontiers Gallery.
- Another existing donor had also recently given additional funding to Locomotion.
- Meetings regarding the Birmingham project continued at both SMG Director and Chair level.
- A discussion was had regarding the opportunities to tie SMG's sustainability work into an upcoming report

launch by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

- The NRM Director gave a verbal update on capital developments at NRM, including the Flying Scotsman centenary celebrations and an upcoming Health and Safety staff event, as well as a general update on visitor numbers and visitor survey responses. It was also noted that Station Hall at NRM would close in January 2023 to allow for urgent roof repairs.

6. SMG Performance and Data Report

The paper circulated previously was noted. In addition:

- The paper presented a draft version of the 'Management Information Hub' currently in development.
- A discussion was had regarding levels of access to various data by colleagues and trustees, and potential issues should any data end up in the public domain.

7. Proposed Interim Closure of National Science and Media Museum

The paper circulated previously was noted. In addition:

- A discussion was had regarding various impacts on SMG colleagues, visitors, and the local community. It was noted that the closure of the Museum currently remained **confidential**.
- **The Board approved the recommendation** outlined in the paper.

8. SMG Finance Committee Report

The papers circulated previously were noted. In addition:

- A verbal update was given on the budgeting process for 2023/24 and into 2026. It was noted that this was the first time that SMG had received a 3-year settlement from central Government since 2016 allowing for multi-year planning. In tandem to work by the Executive team to close the budget gap for 2023-2026, work also continued at SMG COO, Director, and Chair level to make the case to Government for targeted funding that reflected the organisational contribution to Government's agenda..
- **The Board approved** the proposals outlined in the paper (travel and catering contracts, Sound & Vision budget uplift, and the Video Games exhibition).

9. SMG Audit and Risk Committee Report (ARC)

The paper circulated previously was noted. In addition:

- It was noted that the Board had previously approved the delegation of final approval of the SMG and SMG Enterprises Annual Report and Accounts (AR&A) to an extraordinary meeting of the ARC. This meeting had taken place on 7th December and the Extraordinary ARC approved the SMG and Enterprises Annual Report and Accounts.
- A discussion was had regarding a spike in Health & Safety incidents reported in the paper. It was agreed that a further discussion would take place at ARC and an update provided at the next Board meeting. **(Action: IM / SMu)**

10. SMG Masterplan & Estate Committee (MEC)

The paper circulated previously was noted. In addition:

- The Board approved the Open NCC project (Gateway 2).
- The Board delegated approval to MEC for the final gateways of the NRM's Station Hall roof replacement project and the Science Museum's Energy Revolution gallery.

11. SMG Collections and Research Committee Report

The paper circulated previously was noted. The Board approved the SMG Research Ethics and Integrity Framework.

12. SMG Railway Heritage Designation Advisory Board Report

The paper circulated previously was noted.

13. AOB

None.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8 March 2023, Science Museum

Signed:



(SMG Chair)

Date: 8 March 2023