



MEETING TITLE	Public Minutes of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> English Heritage Trust Board Meeting
DATE	Tuesday 16 June 2020
LOCATION	Remote meeting, via Zoom
ATTENDEES	Sir Tim Laurence – Chairman James Twining – Deputy Chairman Victoria Barnsley – Trustee Charles Gurassa – Trustee Professor Ronald Hutton – Trustee Sir Laurie Magnus – Trustee Ian McCaig – Trustee Kunle Olulode – Trustee Professor David Olusoga – Trustee Sarah Staniforth – Trustee Sue Wilkinson – Trustee Kate Mavor – Chief Executive Anna Eavis – Curatorial Director Liz Page – Historic Properties Director Luke Purser – Development Director Mark Stuart-Smith – Chief Financial Officer Luke Whitcomb – Marketing Director Rob Woodside – Estates Director Kathryn Lanning – Governance Officer (minutes)
ALSO PRESENT	Lumi Holban - Head of Grants and Trusts (observing)

### **Item 1 – Apologies, Announcements and Declarations of Interest**

- 1.1 There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.

### **Item 2 – Minutes of previous EHT Board meetings**

- 2.1 The minutes of the last full Board meeting held on 11 March 2020 were agreed as a correct record. Minutes of interim Board meetings held on 1 April 2020 and 6 May 2020 were also agreed as a correct record.

### **Item 3 – Matters Arising and Action Tracker**

- 3.1 The Board noted updates of items on the Action Tracker.

#### **Item 4 – Chief Executive’s Strategic Overview**

- 4.1 Trustees noted the good full year results for 2019/20, despite the impact of poor weather and the impact of Covid-19 in March. They also noted the organisation’s excellent response to the Covid-19 crisis and welcomed the re-opening of six sites successfully over the weekend, with 41 more to follow on 4 July. This was a great boost to staff morale, and feedback from visitors had been very positive. A cautious approach had been taken to site capacity, but this would be kept under review and continue to reflect Government guidelines.
- 4.2 Bids had been submitted to Government requesting funding to cover income losses during the current year and to help EH get back on track towards financial sustainability. Initial thoughts about revisions to the Strategic Plan in light of Covid-19 would be shared with Trustees. At the moment SMT was considering:
- How things might look different post Covid-19
  - The scope for greater flexibility in working locations
  - What more could be done to address the diversity agenda
  - How to present EH as a successful, proven model that could support other, smaller visitor attractions
- 4.3 Trustees discussed recent events relating to the Black Lives Matter movement. Although further work was needed to say more about the sites and collections in EH care, Trustees noted the significant amount of research and interpretation EH had carried out to date. They also noted that EH did not plan to remove any blue plaques, but to improve their diversity through new plaques and provide contextual information for existing plaques in order to increase understanding of the figures they represent. The Board also noted that the diversity review commissioned earlier in the year had been completed prior to lockdown and SMT would consider its findings next month.

#### **The Board:**

- a) **warmly welcomed EH’s excellent performance in 2019/20 and congratulated the SMT for their efforts to achieve this;**
- b) **agreed that recent events relating to the BLM movement represented a major cultural and generational shift rather than a passing phase;**
- c) **noted the work that EH had already done in relation to black history, but agreed there was much more to be done and this should be reflected in the revised Strategic Plan;**
- d) **noted that further work in this area was likely to require additional funding; and**
- e) **noted the opportunities for storytelling presented by the national collection, in particular at Kenwood with its links to slavery.**

#### **Item 5 – Financial Performance**

#### **The Board:**

- a) **noted the Financial Performance Reports for March and April 2020; and**
- b) **the flash results for May 2020.**

## **Item 6 – Financial Projections 2020-21**

- 6.1 Trustees considered a report on revised financial projections for 2020-21 in light of the impact of Covid-19.

### **The Board:**

- a) **acknowledged the huge amount of work carried out by staff in developing the current financial projection for 2020/21 and staying on top of the ever-changing situation; and**
- b) **supported the bids for additional funding but asked to be consulted should funding be offered with conditions attached or in the form of a loan.**

## **Item 7 – Corporate Risk Register**

- 7.1 The Board noted that, as a result of Covid-19, some risks on the Corporate Risk Register were now being managed as events that had happened and that there were also new and emerging risks to be considered.

### **The Board:**

- a) **noted the full Corporate Risk Register;**
- b) **welcomed the addition of a coronavirus column; and**
- c) **suggested that the register be updated to reflect concerns for the wellbeing of staff and volunteers and the importance of ensuring a safe return to the workplace.**

## **Item 8 - Property Licence**

- 8.1 Trustees discussed the possibility of seeking a short extension to the existing Property Licence, under which EH manages the national collection, rather than continue negotiations for a Licence renewal at a time when EH, Historic England and DCMS were under such pressures as a result of Covid-19.

**The Board agreed that negotiations to renew the Property Licence should be paused and a 2-3 year extension to the existing Licence sought.**

## **Item 9 - Scheme of Delegations: Annual Review**

**The Board approved some minor amendments to the Scheme of Delegations.**

## **Item 10 – Committee minutes**

**The Board noted minutes of the following Committee meetings:**

- a) **Audit and Risk Committee: 5 May 2020**
- b) **Audit and Risk Committee: 10 June 2020**
- c) **Remuneration and Appointments Committee: 20 May 2020**

**d) Historic Estates and Conservation Committee: 2 March 2020**

**Item 11 – Any other business**

- 11.1 Trustees were reminded that this was Luke Purser’s last day with EH and thanked him for building such an effective Development team, developing a strong prospect pool and attracting millions of pounds’ worth of donations.
- 11.2 There was no other business.

**Next meeting**

The next full Board meeting would be held on 15 October 2020, time to be confirmed.

Kathryn Lanning  
Governance Officer  
June 2020