



Ulster-Scots Agency

Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

Index for Board Decisions

2007

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**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
The Ulster-Scots Agency Board Meeting
25th January 2007
Holiday Inn,
Belfast**

Present: Mr Jim Devenney
Dr Linde Lunney
Mr Pat Wall
Mr Alistair Simpson
Mr Bob Stoker

In attendance: Mr George Patton
Mr Michael McCullough
Mr Derek Reaney

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Vice Chairman Mr Devenney welcomed the Board to the 63rd meeting at the Holiday Inn, Belfast, the first meeting of 2007.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Dr Adamson, Mr Thompson and Mr O'Donnell.

Mr Patton also tendered apologies on behalf of Mrs Wilson, Director of Culture and Mr Millar, Director of Language and Education who were both off work ill at present.

3. Minutes of Meeting 3rd November 2006

The minutes were adopted by the Board

Proposed: The Board accepted the minute.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to Ms Flora Montgomery

Executive informed the Board that as requested he sent a letter to Ms Montgomery thanking her for the positive television documentary shown on BBC re: Hamilton and Montgomery 1606. Ms Montgomery has responded positively.

Membership to Committees

Executive informed the Board that they had taken up this issue with DCAL at the Board's request. Board members can serve on any committee as individuals but cannot represent the Agency on committees unless as part of the Agency's work.

Television Programme Proposal

Executive informed the Board that Mr Millar and Ms Deirdre Davitt from Foras na Gaeilge have had meetings to discuss this project. Ms Davitt has been assisting Mr Millar to ensure that the Agency is safe guarded in this project, and has already provided guidance on criteria to be met once a decision has been taken to go ahead with the programme.

To date she has outlined criteria subject to the project going ahead.

Monreagh

Executive informed the Board that the Agency had written to Minister O'Cuiv with proposals as outlined by the Board. A response was received from DCRGA and a meeting will take place with representatives of the Monreagh Management Committee and Minister O'Cuiv on Monday 12th February 2007 to discuss this issue.

Archive Project

There has been little progress on this issue due to Mr Thompson's illness. This item will forward to the next meeting.

Burns Night

Executive thanked all the Board members who represented the Agency at the Burns Supper the previous evening. It had been a great opportunity for the Agency to network.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr Devenney reflected back on the work of the Agency in 2006. He said that 2007 was a year to focus on the needs of the community and deliver accordingly.

Mr Devenney thanked Mr Reaney and Mr Hanna for their work to date and commented how the Agency were fortunate to have an excellent staff structure in place.

He emphasised that this was the year for the Agency to focus on language.

6. Chief Executive's Report

Mr Patton highlighted a few items on his report:

- Item I – Mr Patton met with Mr Alistair McReynolds to discuss his ideas relative to connections in North East America and Maine Ulster-Scots Association. He also made a proposal for the Agency to organise a literature symposium. Dr Lunney is keen to meet with Mr McReynolds to discuss these ideas.
- Item B – Meeting with DCAL representatives. DCAL wanted to know if more resources became available after the St Andrew's Agreement what the Agency would intend to spend it on.

Report from Derek Reaney, Development Worker, (West)

Mr Reaney informed the Board that he had met with representatives from the Maiden City Festival. Their proposal for 2007 was the same as 2006 but they are applying for more funding. They will not be approaching the Community Festival Fund with an application for the 2007 festival.

The Board were in agreement that they would like to see this event take place in 2007 but after discussion with Mr Reaney they felt that a grant application should be made to the Agency rather than a Sponsorship application. The Agency would consider potential funding up to £50,000 for an appropriate application.

Action: Mr Reaney is meeting the festival committee that evening and will propose these changes.

Mr Reaney informed the Board that at present he is searching for representatives to deliver Ulster-Scots language classes throughout the province. To date this is proving difficult.

Action: Feedback to the Board on this issue at next meeting.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The Board were informed that the accounts for 2006 were closed. In 2007 the Agency will be using accrual accounting procedures.

It was also highlighted that some application forms from 2006 had yet to be claimed but the staff are working on getting them closed.

The Board were told that the Agency needed to review the Financial Assistance Scheme to encourage more Ulster-Scots activity. The Executive came up with the follow proposal:

- The Agency will still to provide 75% of eligible costs of Ulster-Scot Events.
- Funding of 100% of Ulster-Scots elements up to 75% of total costs.
- Language financial assistance will be up to 100% to increase this activity.

Proposed: The Board were in agreement to these proposals.

The Board queried what ASLC's were on the Agency budget. Executive informed the Board that this was staff pension contributions that goes to DCAL and that the Agency do not draw down from.

£14,000 professional fees were also queried by Board members. Executive advised that these were fees the Agency were charged by NIAO for them to carryout an Agency Audit each year.

8. Grants

(1) Maguiresbridge Scottish and Country Highland Dancing Group

Proposal:	£8,000 from a total of £8,560
Reason:	This application is to run dance tuition classes.

Proposed: The Board were in agreement to fund £7,275 for this event.

(2) Coleraine Festival Committee

Proposal:	£6,530 from at total of £36,154
Reason:	The Festival will run from 7 th to 11 th July. It is not an Ulster Scots Festival but has a significant Ulster Scots content and the other activities may in themselves help to attract people to the Festival and the Ulster Scots elements will benefit.

Proposed: The Board were in agreement to fund £6,530 for this event.

(3) Blue Eagle Productions

Proposal:	£14,515 from a total of £96,530
Reason:	This project is receiving support from the Arts Council, Derry City Council, The Honourable the Irish Society and the University of Ulster. The project meets a desire expressed in the 2007 Business Plan to increase awareness of drama.

The Board were in agreement to fund this as a Sponsorship application in order for the Agency to receive full advertising at this event. It was stipulated that local actors were to be involved in this drama.

Proposed: The Board agreed as outlined above.

SPONSORSHIP

(1) The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, NI Branch

Proposal:	£50,000 from total of £102,700
Reason:	RSPBA are possibly the largest stakeholder group that the Agency would deal with and are very keen to widen the events and competitions they organise to more fully demonstrate a variety of Ulster Scots activity. In return for this sponsorship which guarantees a number of Ulster Scots activities, promotional opportunities such as signage at each event, advertising in brochures etc we would reserve the right to have an Agency presence at each event.

Proposed: The Board were in agreement to fund this sponsorship application.

Proposal of Project -

Agency working in conjunction with Cairncastle Ulster-Scots Group.

(1) Carincastle Ulster-Scots Group

Proposal:	£28,800
Reason:	<p>This is not yet a formal application but because of time constraints it is being brought to the Board for advice and guidance.</p> <p>Cairncastle consistently deliver a programme of Ulster Scots events with their annual Festival being a highlight attracting a significant attendance including visitors from Scotland and elsewhere. Larne Borough Council considers it to be a major attraction in the area.</p>

	This is a “pure” Ulster Scots festival and worthy of support. It is anticipated that the Council and the Community Festival Fund will as in previous years offer financial support.
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Proposed: The Board gave the Executive approval to negotiate up to £15,000 and continue discussions with a view to a proposal being presented to the Board.

9. Language Issues

Mr Patton informed the Board that he wrote to NSMC as directed by the Board regarding the language issues with USAIG. He will meet with Ms Bunting and Mr Hanney on 26th January 2007 and feedback to the Board.

Action: Mr Patton to feedback to the Board members on the outcome of the meeting.

After general discussion the Board members agreed to have a special meeting for the Board members on Friday 16th February 2007 to discuss language issues.

Proposed: Special Meeting of the Board.

Dr Lunney will give a fifteen minute presentation to the Board on linguistic development.

Action: It was suggested that members of DCAL be invited to receive a presentation on the language at a future date.

GOML

As Mr Millar was not in attendance at this meeting this item will move forward to the next meeting.

10 Community Radio Station

Executive informed the Board that the Agency would like to consider running six pilot radio stations, one in the South and the other five in the North called FUSE fm (For Ulster-Scots Enthusiasts). The stations will cover a 20/30 mile radius.

It will cost the Agency £10,000 per two week radio station but some of the cost will be recouped by selling radio advertising space.

It will be launched in the Newtownards area. An article will run in the next Ulster-Scot encouraging community groups to volunteer and get involved.

The Agency are at present compiling 200hours of material which will be needed to air the show. There is a consultant working with the Agency 2 days per week to assist in the organising of this project.

Proposed: The Board agreed to support this project that the Executive will be organising to promote Ulster-Scots.

11 New Agency Logo

Executive presented the Board with a paper containing a proposal for a new Agency logo.

Board members felt that if something wasn't broken, there was no need to fix it. After general discussion the Board felt that there was a need for a new logo but would wish to consider this further.

Action: The Board are to valuate and feedback to the Executive before the next meeting.

12 Internal Audit Committee

The next Audit Committee meeting will take place on Friday 23rd February 2007.

13 Corporate Plan 2008-2010

Executive informed the Board that dates and venues had been established for consultation meetings with communities.

Action: Information to be forward to the Board

14 Staffing

Executive gave an update of staffing issues to the Board.

The three posts for the SEUPB project had been advertised and closing date is 26th February 2007.

From Monday 5th February 2007 two new members of staff will commence at the Agency. Ms Glenda Gaston will take the post of Administration Officer, Ms Michelle Johnston will take up post of Finance Officer and Paul Cassidy will become the Finance and Administration Manager.

The Administration Officer post at the Raphoe Office will go to the press next week.

The post of Information and Communication Manager is advertised in the papers on today (25/01/07) and tomorrow, Friday 26th January 2007. Closing date will be 12th February 2007.

The post for Language and Education Officer still has some final issues on the job description before going to the press.

15 AOB

Board members requested that the Executive liaise with Educational bodies in the North and South. Suggestions that Stranmillis staff could deliver a presentation on the Primary Schools Project to key stakeholders in the Southern Education Boards were proposed.

Action: Executive

Board representative from the South are keen to arrange an Ulster-Scots Public Awareness Day in Dublin.

Action: Members to liaise with Foras na Gaeilge on a possible joint venture. Contact will also be made with St Lawrence O'Toole Pipe Band to participate at the event.

Executive informed the Board that the Agency is working with the Irish Peace Institute, Limerick.

Board were advised that work was in progress to finalise the Primary Schools Website to deliver a showcase event.

IUSS

Executive told the Board that the Agency has received a report from Prof Jayne Ohlmeyer who had carried out an audit of the work at the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies. It stated that the Institute met all the Agency criteria for further funding to be released.

Action: Mr Patton to arrange for letter of offer to be sent to IUSS.

Robert the Bruce

Executive will be meeting with community groups in the North Antrim area to progress this festival on 12th February 2007.

Arts Council

Foras na Gaeilge have agreed to joint funding this new language office post. A few meetings have been missed due to staff illness but Mr Millar will be taking this issue forward on his return.

Mr Devenney informed the Board that he had been invited to an America/Ireland Gala Ball. He asked the Executive to take note of this event so the Agency could plan for it in 2008.

Seminars coming up at University College, Dublin were highlighted to Board members.

It was suggested that a provisional list of up coming events be inserted into the Ulster-Scot Newspaper.

Action: Executive to look at this.

16. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Friday 2nd March 2007 was agreed for the next Board meeting in Monaghan. A venue is to be confirmed.

It was decided that the next Board meeting should take place in Ayr, Scotland. This will involve a Thursday and Friday night stay over on 29th and 30th March 2007.

Also agreed was a special meeting to address language issues on Friday 16th February 2007 from 11.00am to 15.30pm in Belfast at the Agency premises.

SIGNED:

DATED:

Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
A Special Meeting of the Ulster-Scots Agency Board
16th February 2007,
Ulster-Scots Agency, Franklin House,
Belfast

Present Mr Jim Devenney
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Pat Wall
 Mr Alistair Simpson

In attendance: Mr George Patton

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Vice Chairman Mr Devenney welcomed the Board members to this special meeting that would deal with language issues.

2. Apologies

Apologies were sent on behalf of Mr Thompson and Dr Adamson.

3. Language

Mr Devenney extended best wishes to Mr Millar, Director of language on behalf of the Board for a speedy recover.

Mr Patton advised that he had visited Mr Millar on 13th February 2007.

The Board were concerned that language issues may be delayed due to Mr Millar's illness but Mr Patton assured the Board that to date Agency staff were covering language issues and keeping things moving.

Action: Board agreed to review this matter at the March meeting.

The Board are keen to move language issues forward and therefore suggested that the Agency fasttrack the post of the Education Officer to assist the Director of Language. Mr Patton informed the Board that although this post has been approved by Sponsor Departments, Mr Millar is needed to create the Job Specification before the post can be filled. There was a feeling that this post may be more appropriate in terms of community education rather than the formal system.

CEO Meeting with NSMC representatives

Mr Patton advised the Board that he had delivered briefing papers as requested outlining the Board views regarding the standardisation process.

Ms Bunting and Mr Hanney are taking this matter seriously and are going to take the issues up with DCAL. The Agency has not been informed of any outcome to date. As no clarification has been received from NSMC the Agency must deliver accordingly as DCAL's instruction still stands.

Action: Mr Patton to inform Board of any outcomes.

Good Friday Agreement

Mr Devenney passed around copies of the Agreement. He outlined that the six established cross border bodies had to work within the parameters set.

Mr Devenney outlined that he felt that the Agency and Foras na Gaeilge that make up the Joint Language Body had not been active enough together to date to promote the Languages.

Mr Devenney also outlined that there was no mention of DCAL in the Good Friday Agreement but Mr Patton clarified that DCAL and DCRGA were the appointed Departments for the Agency to be answerable to in the North and South.

The Board agreed that the Agency needs to develop the Ulster-Scots language orally as well as written in communities as a living language.

IUSS

It was suggested that the Agency look at the IUSS bibliography to see what is available and what has been published. The Agency are also to identify any materials that are out of print that could be used for future language development. From this the Agency need to research how to make this bibliography accessible to the public.

Dr Lunney tabled a paper on the 8 Stage Model for Language. The Board evaluated the Ulster-Scots Language according to this model and felt the Ulster-Scots language was at stage 7/8.

Action: Board to look at this and feedback at next Board meeting.

The Board were keen to identify Ulster-Scots speakers in the community and have these recorded. The material could then be used for an online tuition website on historical Ulster-Scots. In doing this the Agency would be catering for the local and American communities creating a new interest to Ulster-Scots language.

To summarise discussion the Board were in agreement that the key language areas identified at the meeting for inclusion in the Corporate Plan were:

- Stage 8/7 Project and suggested interventions
- Identify out of print materials
- A mechanism to identify strengths of speakers in communities.
- DVD/Website on Ulster-Scots speakers and record them
- Work to improve language status
- Links with Scotland

The Board identified that the resources need to fulfil the summary items will be financial and human resources.

SIGNED:

DATED:

Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
The Ulster-Scots Agency Board Meeting
2nd March 2007
Four Seasons Hotel,
Monaghan

Present: Mr Mark Thompson
Mr Jim Devenney
Dr Linde Lunney
Mr Pat Wall
Mr Alistair Simpson
Dr Ian Adamson
Mr Eddie O'Donnell

In attendance: Mr George Patton
Mr Michael McCullough
Mrs Vanessa Wilson

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 64th meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan and also welcomed Mrs Wilson back to work.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Stoker.

Apologies were sent by Mr Devenney. He would be joining the meeting later after a meeting with Minister Ó Cuiv at Monreagh.

Executive also tendered apologies on behalf of Mr Millar, Director of Language and Education who is off work ill at present.

3. Minutes of Meeting 25th January and 16th February 2007

25th January 2007

The minutes from January were not adopted by the Board. Executive are to amend minute to shorter version before the Board would pass at next Board meeting.

16th February 2007

The minutes were adopted with the following exception:

- Bottom paragraph on page 2 to read as: In doing this the Agency would be catering for the local and American communities creating a new interest to Ulster-Scots language.

- Bullet 3 on page 3 should read: A mechanism to identify strengths of speakers in communities.
- Bullet 5 should read: Work to improve language status

Proposed: Board accepted the minute.

Arising from the minutes, Executive are to produce minutes more appropriate for inclusion on the website.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

NSMC have contacted Sponsor Departments to arrange a meeting to discuss Board concerns regarding the standardisation process.

TV Programme

Discussions are ongoing between Foras na Gaeilge and the Agency to find the right presenter for this programme.

Archive Project

Mr Thompson and Executive are to arrange a convenient date to take this issue forward.

It was noted that Mr Holmes will be travelling to Edinburgh on 9th March 2007 to engage in further research.

Monreagh

(Moved forward from AOB)

After a meeting with all concerned it was agreed that money for this project would be drawn down by the IUSS subject to conditions outlined in the letter of offer.

The letter of offer is to be prepared but will be presented to DCRGA before issue.

Language

Staff at the Agency are arranging an assessment day to identify potential language teachers for the Adult Learning classes that have been put together by the Stranmillis unit.

The Board noted the greater interest in cultural matters, and discussed the danger of forcing language issues prematurely; it was feared that this might actually damage long-term progress in confidence-building in the use of the language, as well as endangering the language's status.

The Executive expressed the hope that in 2007 the Board should see an increase in language applications because of the success of last year's Summer Schools Project, which should lead to increased interest in language matters.

Board members suggested that the Agency should in the near future give a presentation on linguistic issues, and invite staff from DCAL and current stakeholders.

The Board members are also eager to progress with a language event in the South to raise public awareness.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the following events that he attended or organisations he had been in contact with since the previous meeting:

- Meeting with Maria Eagle, Minister of Culture re: further funding for the Agency.
- Meeting with RSPBA re: Championship bid for 2010.
- Kent County Council re: Smithsonian event in summer 2007.
- Bruce Trust re: Robert the Bruce Anniversary
- Meeting with Scottish Executive re: Year of Home Coming - Robert Burns 250 years dead
- Meeting with Straightforward Productions re: Plantation film.
- Meeting with BBC representatives re: Language programmes
- Future Search meeting.

Mr Thompson tabled a letter that he received from the Arts Council re: funding for a Project Officer at the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association ended in September 2006. The Board proposed that the Executive explore partnership funding opportunities.

Proposed: The Board were in agreement

Mr Thompson tabled a letter that he received for Dr Hume of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. The Board would be extremely supportive of signage at the site if the Battle of the Boyne being available in Ulster-Scots.

Proposed: Board were in agreement

Mr Thompson has made arrangements to meet with local authorities and community groups in Ayr where the Board will hold the next board meeting.

6. Chief Executive's Report

Mr Patton's report was tabled. He highlighted the following items:

- Item E - After NCSM approaching the Agency to take the lead on the Plantation, Mr Patton and Mr Reaney organised a meeting on this matter at the Everglades Hotel, Derry. There was a great response from Councils and progress had been made.
- Mr Patton attended a meeting organised by NSMC, of all the CEO's of the North South Bodies. There will be a review of all the Bodies efficiency and effectiveness in autumn 2007.
- Mr Patton met with Cathal McManus to discuss proposals for history and genealogical classes to be delivered to the community as part of QUB's commitment to open learning. The Board proposed that the Executive support this project.

Mrs Wilson tabled her report.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The accounts for 2006 showed that spending was spent almost according to projections.

There is an ongoing issue about the accounts systems the Agency should be using. Clarification is being sought on whether the Agency should use accrual or cash accounting systems.

8. Grants

(1) Belfast Ulster-Scots Festival 2007

Proposal:	£10,000
Reason:	This festival will run for five days and is a celebration of our shared heritage. The aim is to create a festival through which all ages and aspects of the Ulster-Scots community can come together in celebration of our shared heritage.

The Board proposed that this application be approved for £10,000.

(2) East Donegal Ulster-Scots Association

Proposal:	€14,980
Reason:	This project will promote awareness of Ulster-Scots in Donegal and encourage a wider community to enjoy Ulster-Scots culture and identity.

The Board proposed that this application be approved for €14,960.

(3) Dunloy Accordion Band

Proposal:	£7,200
Reason:	Project – “Commission of Musical Arrangements”. This project will be a core part of concerts and recordings bringing the Ulster-Scots musical culture to a wide range of people.

The Board proposed that this application be held to next meeting as further work by Executive was to be carried out.

(4) Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra

Proposal:	£6,650
Reason:	

The Board proposed that this application be approved subject to conditions and all necessary paperwork received.

Mr Devenney joined the meeting.

9. Corporate Plan 2008 - 2010

Executive tabled a report on the Public Consultation Meetings to date. Information gained from monitoring the debates was most useful, and will greatly assist the development of the Corporate Plan.

Many people in the community, while greatly interested in Ulster-Scots culture, and appreciative of the Agency's assistance and support, are not yet ready for fullscale language activities.

Schools Drama

The Schools Drama opened in Derry. Board members in attendance were impressed.

Action: Executive to look at having the show recorded.

10 Community Radio Station

The Agency has three community groups signed up for the Radio Show. Promotional materials are still being gathered.

11 New Agency Logo

The Board further discussed the need for a new Agency logo. Ideas are to be presented at the next meeting.

12 Internal Audit Committee

Members of the Internal Audit Committee informed the Board that the Agency had received four out of five high assurances and one partial assurance in the recent Agency audit.

Executive made the Board aware of issues raised around starting salaries in 2006 during which the Agency complied with the financial memorandum. In December 2006 the Agency were advised that the financial memorandum signed in January 2005 should not have included delegated authority for starting salaries.

Primary School Project

Given the resources committed to the Primary School Project, the Audit Committee expressed concern that the website is not yet live. The CEO put forward a number of possible solutions and the Board agreed to give this further consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Update from Executive at next meeting.

Board members were made aware that all travel expense claims should be made to the Agency no more than three months in arrears

13 Staffing

Mr Millar is to return to work on Monday 5th March 2007 with a phased return. The CEO will comply with duty of care to accommodate this.

SEUPB

All posts have now been filled for this project.

Office Space

The Executive outlined their proposals for the Agency to extend its premises, since staff numbers have recently increased, and working conditions would be improved if upgraded accommodation is available.

Proposal: The Board were in agreement for the Executive to proceed.

14 AOB

SEUBP

This item was dealt with at item 13.

Robert the Bruce

A festival will take place at Rathlin on 16th June to celebrate Robert the Bruce 700. Community groups have been invited to get involved with the event.

Languages Arts officer

This job description has been accepted by all organisations involved.

Monreagh

This item was dealt with at item 4.

Links with Maine Ulster-Scots Association

Board agreed that the Executive should work with Mr McReynolds on his proposals, and that funding of up to £1,500 could be available to assist him.

Change to Funding

The Executive reminded the Board of the proposed review of the Agency Financial Assistance Scheme to encourage more Ulster-Scots activity:

- The Agency will still to provide 75% of eligible costs of Ulster-Scot Events.
- Funding of 100% of Ulster-Scots elements up to 75% of total costs.

Outcome of discussion: The Board were in agreement to these proposals.

Language Body Meeting

It was proposed that the Executive arrange a Joint Language Body meeting with Foras na Gaeilge for June 2007.

Action: Executive to organise.

Lord Antrim

Mrs Wilson met with Lord Antrim to input into event of highland Games that have been planned.

Proposal: The Board requested Ms Wilson to investigate further.

15 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in Ayr, Scotland. This will involve a Thursday and Friday night stay over on 29th and 30th March 2007.

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
30th March 2007
Ramada Hotel,
Ayr, Scotland**

Present: **Chairman;** Mr Mark Thompson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Mr Patrick Wall

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough
 Mr Jim Millar
 Mrs Vanessa Wilson

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 65th meeting of the Board at the Ramada Hotel, Ayr in Scotland.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Devenney and Mr O'Donnell.

3. Minutes of Meeting 25th January and 16th February 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some amendments.
Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

NSMC have held a meeting with Sponsor Departments. To date the Agency has not been advised of any outcome.

TV Programme

Mr Millar advised the Board that he was in discussions with Deirdre Davitt from Foras na Gaeilge. Screening tests are now taking place to find a suitable presenter. Further feedback will be given at next meeting.

Archive Project

Mr Patton tabled a paper on the timeline and responsibilities of the Agency for the Archive Project. The Board approved this paper and suggested that the Executive include specific names of projects outlined.

Proposed and agreed; that The Board were in agreement with the proposals outlined.

Primary Schools

The Board and Executive discussed the issue of the Primary Schools Website. The Executive presented a number of options to the Board:

The Board were in agreement, after discussion, to hand this project over to the Ulster-Scots Academy Implementation Group, with the stipulation that the website should be live by 31st August 2007. It was recommended that CCEA should continue to be involved in alterations to the site, and that an ownership clause be included in the terms and conditions to be outlined in the handover documentation.

A copy of the original site, as prepared by Stranmillis and CCEA, is to be retained.

Proposed and agreed; that this strategy be adopted.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events that he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the previous meeting:

- He met with Gerry Slater and Valerie Adams from the Public Records Office, NI about the possibility of digitizing manuscript and other sources of information about the plantation. Material might include *the Hamilton and Montgomery Manuscripts*, *George Hill's Plantation of Ulster*, *Bishop George Montgomery's Survey* and *Hill's The McDonnells of Antrim*. The Board gave approval for this project to continue and for a launch on 17th September 2007.
Proposed and agreed; that The Board were in agreement on the proposals
- Mr Thompson met with Frank Collins from the West Tyrone Historical Society after a presentation that he gave at the Society. They discussed a possible project on the historical rôle of the Campbell family.
- Mr Thompson met with the Presbyterian Historical Society in a follow up to a presentation that they had made some months earlier to the Board. The Historical Society is drawing up possible proposals for joint projects with the Agency.
- Mr Thompson has had correspondence with Richard MacMaster in America. He has recommended that Mr Thompson meet with Harold and Joyce Alexander from the Scotch Irish Society, USA to discuss work on a transatlantic project to digitize material in the USA and Northern Ireland.

6. Executive Reports

All Executive reports were tabled. The following items on Mr Patton's report were discussed.

- Item G and K – After meetings on the Belfast/Nashville links proposals for a programme to be held on 28th and 29th June 2007 were made. Mr Patton will keep the Board updated and asked that they note these dates in their diary.
- Mr Patton, representing the Ulster-Scots Agency, attended the European Framework Convention on National Minorities.
- Mr Patton, along with Dr Lunney, met with Mr McReynolds re: the development of the 1718 website. An article by Mr McReynolds has now been published in *The House Magazine* (the in-house magazine of the House of Commons) and will also appear in *Agenda NI*. Dr Lunney undertook to forward suggestions of suitable Republic of Ireland publications.

Mrs Wilson's report was tabled. Issues discussed were:

- "How to organise a Festival" seminar at Park Plaza Hotel. As a result of discussions there, Mrs Wilson had undertaken to prepare an article on Health & Safety at functions for the information of groups; it will appear on the Agency website.
- Mrs Wilson is organising a Child Protection training course for all Agency staff.
- After speaking with Glen Ross, Mrs Wilson is working with him to put together a package that may be useful for groups planning community festivals.
- The Board were informed that Mr Reaney has visited the Maiden City Festival representatives twice since September to encourage a further grant application for August 2007. The Maiden City Festival Committee will have until the end of May 2007 to submit an application to the Agency.

Mr Millar's report was tabled. Issues discussed were:

- Mr Millar is in discussion with a primary school in Dublin about hosting a performance of the Ulster-Scots Schools Drama in the republic of Ireland
- Mr Millar met with Mr Norman Houston, DETI after he visited a local Primary School to see the Schools Drama. Mr Houston was very impressed and is now sourcing funding to adapt the play to take it to the USA. Further information will follow at the next meeting.
- Mr Millar met with the Director of Musical Education from East Ayrshire Council, John Wilson. After jointly producing a presentation of the "Jolly Beggars Musical", based on the work of Robert Burns, along with schools from co. Antrim, Mr Wilson is working to develop further connections between the Agency, schools, and East Ayrshire.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

A report on the expenditure to date for 2007 was tabled. To date spend is going according to projections.

8. Presentation from RSPBA

The Board received a presentation from RSPBA representatives George Ussher and Ian Embleton

9. Grants

(1) Dunloy Accordion Band

Proposal:	£7,200 from a total of £8,000
	Project – “Commission of Musical Arrangements”. This project will produce material which will become a core part of musical performances, including concerts and recordings, and bringing the Ulster-Scots musical culture to a wide range of people.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £7,200 with a condition that the resulting musical material is made widely available.

(2) Cairncastle LOL 692 Community Cultural Group

Proposal:	£28,800
	This 4 day Ulster-Scots festival will promote the appreciation of the Ulster-Scots heritage and culture locally and further afield. The group has also applied to Larne Borough Council to cover core costs.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £15,000 with £3,000 funding to be available immediately

(3) “We come from the County of Antrim”

Proposal:	£52,379 of £113,037

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved and funding secured for the outlined eighteen months, making the stipulation that Mr Millar meet with Dr Lawrence Holden to set specific outcomes for this project.

(4) York Island Arts and Heritage Association

Proposal:	£19,675
	This programme will run for two months incorporating costume making courses, a play, and a concert with songs on Ulster-Scots themes. The Liberty Day festival will consist of bands, folk music and Scottish dancing and also a re-enactment.

Proposed and agreed; that Mrs Wilson investigate this application further, and the Executive should follow up

(5) Lost Legacy of Reivers Programme

Proposal:	£
	This programme will be aimed towards key stage 1 and key stage 2 pupils. A pilot program for 10 schools had been organised.

Proposed and agreed: that Mr Millar is to work on this project alongside Mr Mattison.

10. Corporate Plan 2008 - 2010

A working group paper was presented by the CEO. It was agreed by the Board that the Executive are to proceed with the draft of the new Corporate Plan, which is to be tabled at the next Board meeting.

11. Community Radio Station

Mr McCullough advised the Board that to date seven groups have expressed an interest in running of the community radio station. Work is continuing and the first licence has been purchased to run the station in Newtownards in June 2007.

12. Staffing

The CEO briefed the Board on the staffing situation.

13. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

All posts have now been filled. Conferences have been arranged in Armagh and Derry to showcase the planned work to be undertaken by SEUPB Development Officers. Government officials are to be invited to attend.

Robert the Bruce

Mr Patton expressed his appreciation of the Chairman's enthusiastic work on this project.

Mrs Wilson and Mr Hanna have been finalizing details for the Bushmills Robert the Bruce Festival, which has a total budget of £50, 000. Mr Thompson informed the Board that photographer Chris Hill was photographing sites in North Antrim, particularly the famous cave, for use in the promotion of the festival.

Mr Thompson mentioned that he had been in contact with the chairman of the Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust, who hoped to attend the dinner that evening along with the Board.

Joint Language Officer for Arts Council

This post was advertised in the Belfast Telegraph 30th March 2007.

Office Accommodation

Mr McCullough circulated the plan of the new office space for the Board’s information. The completion date for planned renovations and for the move is June 2007.

Ulster/Virginia Links/Smithsonian

www.UlsterVirginia.com

Mr Thompson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the above. It outlined potential posters and a preview of how he expected the website to look. The Board approved the work and requested that a proposal be put together by our PR on advertising costs.

Proposed and agreed; that the Chairman should further develop the concepts outlined.

The Agency will be working in partnership with Virginia Tourism Corporation. There has also been great interest from other potential partners.

15 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Letterkenny, Co Donegal on Friday 27th April 2007

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
27th April 2007
Mount Errigal Hotel,
Letterkenny, Co Donegal**

Present: **Chairman;** Mr Mark Thompson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Mr Jim Devenney
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough
 Mr Jim Millar
 Mrs Vanessa Wilson

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 66th meeting of the Board at the Mount Errigal Hotel, Co Donegal.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Wall and Mr Stoker.

3. Minutes of Meeting 30th March 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some amendments.
Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

The Board discussed the decision of the last meeting re: Primary Schools Project. Members who were not present at the previous meeting were concerned about the Board decision and sought leave to rescind this decision at the next meeting.

Members clarified the reasoning behind the original decision.

Action: Mr Patton to seek clarity from NSMC and Sponsor Departments to enable the Board to discuss this more fully at the next meeting.

Maiden City Festival

After discussion the Board agreed that Mr Patton should write to the Maiden City Festival committee to clarify their decision that no festival will take place this summer. When clarification is given, the Agency can proceed to organise a small Ulster-Scots festival in this area if necessary.

Dunloy Accordion Band

At the previous meeting the Board proposed and agreed that this application be approved for £7,200 with a condition that the resulting musical material is made widely available.

The Band has now advised that they made an error in completing the application form and have approached the Agency for further funding.

Action: The Director of Culture to seek further clarification but it was considered unlikely that additional financial assistance could be provided.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

This item was dealt with in item 3.

TV Programme

Mr Millar informed the Board that he is awaiting results from the screen test for possible presenters. Mr Millar advised that he has put Will Drennan's name forward for possible advice on Ulster-Scots.

Primary Schools

Mr Millar advised that he has approached Sponsor Departments with the Board proposal from the last meeting. To date DCAL have no problems with the decision and we await a response from DCAL.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events that he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the previous meeting:

- Accountability Breakfast at the BBCNI.
- Building relationship with Ken McCurry, Controller, BBC Scotland on future linked projects.
- Correspondence with Harold and Joyce Alexander from the Scotch Irish Society, USA re: Ulster/Virginia Website. Emails sent but no response to date.
- Development of the Bruce 700 Project. BBCNI have agreed to provide the Agency with supporting footage of helicopter shots in the Rathlin area. The Bruce 700 story has been highlighted in the Ulster-Scot paper.
- Mr Thompson was in contact with the Ulster Historical Circle re: Blue Plaque Campaign. Rathlin will be the first historical spot to be marked with a plaque.
- Mr Thompson stayed in Ayr, Scotland on Saturday 31st March 2007 and attended an event in Cumnock Town Hall. Networking, he met with North Ayrshire Cllrs and other future contacts.
- The job description for the post of Arts & Language Officer at the Arts Council that the Board proposed to jointly fund has been approved. It will require the application to speak Irish and have Ulster-Scots knowledge.

- Mr Thompson informed the Board that the new Minister for DCAL is to be Mr Edwin Poots of the DUP.
- Mr Thompson has been approached by Ms McKibben of the USAIG on private consultancy to design their corporate website.
Proposed and agreed; that Mr Thompson act on this matter.
- Mr Thompson has been in discussions with NSMC regarding the procedure of new Board appointments. He will give a further update at the next meeting.
- Mr Thompson has been working with Cllr Neslon McCausland on his research in the Nova Scotia/Belfast links.
- Mr Thompson noted regular American activity at Airports and thinks that the Agency should look at advertising space in Airports, sea terminals and in-flight magazines.
Proposed and agreed; that Mr Thompson pursue this matter.

6. Executive Reports

All Executive reports were tabled. The following items on Mr Patton's report were discussed.

- Item J – Mr Patton met with representatives of DCAL to discuss his contract of employment. Mr Patton will meet with Mr Thompson to finalise this matter.

Mr Millar's report was tabled. Issues discussed were:

- Mr Millar informed that Board that the Schools Play went to a school in Dublin and they were impressed. They have requested for the play to be shown in other schools in Dublin.
Action: The Agency is to recognise the work of the Drama team.

At this point Dr Adamson queried whether or not the nominated staff to the USAIG Language Standardisation Committee will be attending future meetings. He was advised that Mr Millar could not attend under the proposal of the Board at a previous meeting. Mr Thompson advised that although he has intended to attend these meetings he has other work commitments that have stood in his way.

- Item D – Mr Millar is working with Mr Wilson Burgess to publish his book on Ulster-Scots poetry.

Mrs Wilson's report was tabled. Issues discussed were:

- Item K – She attended the Ulster-Scots Dance Championships on 13th April 2007 and they were a huge success.
Proposed and agreed; that Mrs Wilson send a letter to the organising committee thanking and commending their achievement.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

A report on the expenditure to date for 2007 was tabled. To date spend is going according to projections.

8. Grants

(1) Stranocum Ulster-Scots Cultural and Heritage Society – Robert the Bruce 700th Anniversary Community Festival

Proposal:	£6,650 of £8,150
	They state 'The event will be designed to demonstrate all aspects of our much valued Ulster-Scots culture. The objectives are to place within the public domain Ulster Scots activities in a positive and entertaining way, in the belief that this will lead to a willingness on the part of the local populous to involve themselves and organise future Ulster Scots activities.'

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £5,500.

(2) York Island Liberty Days Festival

Proposal:	£19,675 of £39,035
	The aim of this festival is to further develop through the broad range of artistic expression and awareness of the history and culture of Ulster-Scots. The festival will include in May/June a Play, a concert of songs, a concert of revolutionary themes. Family entertainment day and a costume course.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £17,107.50

SPONSORSHIP

(3) East Antrim Traditional Music School

Proposal:	£7,000 of £12,000
	This programme will provide a platform for local musicians and will deliver a series of talks with an historical perspective. Activities will include workshops, performances and session over a five day period.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £7,000.

(4) Ballycarry Community Association

Proposal:	£6,000 of £17,310
	The Broadisland Gathering Festival involves events including children's programme, pipe bands, band concerts, exhibitions and it focuses on music, pageantry and cultural expression. This event will attract numbers between 3,000 to 4,000 over 4 days and has every potential of growing.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £6,000 sponsorship.

Millstone Events Forum

Kidiscap (Newry Heritage and Development Association Youth Group)

As both application forms arrived late to be assessed before the Board meeting the Board proposed and agreed that the Executive should assess and advise these 2 groups of possible funding so that they can progress with the planning of their events.

The final decision will be made by the Board at the next Board meeting.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

East Donegal Ulster-Scots Project.

This group approached the Agency to seek advanced funding for their project as they were having difficulties with upfront payments to run activities. The Board proposed and agreed that this group should receive half the proposed funding. The balance will be paid on return of all received receipts for the event.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

Bushmills Project

This group approached the Agency to seek advance funding for their project as they were having difficulties with payments for advertising. The Board proposed and agreed that this group should receive £8,000. The balance will be paid on return of all received receipts for the event.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

9. Comprehensive Spending Review

Mr Patton informed the Board that he had to provide DCAL with the Agency budget for three year at short notice. He was unhappy to do this in advance of Board approval but had to proceed. He based the spend inline with the Corporate Plan.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board that Mr Patton's report be approved.

10. Corporate Plan 2008 - 2010

Mr Patton tabled the new draft Corporate Plan to the Board. He has emailed this to Board for their views to be discussed at the meeting. The final draft is to be submitted to Sponsor Departments by 8th May 2007.

Suggestions by the Board to be included in the draft Corporate Plan included:

- Tourism Development
- Connections with the USA to be developed
- Scottish links to be developed
- Retain SEUPB staff when current funding has finished
- Policy, lobbying and public affairs
- Data protection – new list of groups that can be shared amongst Ulster-Scots activists
- More involvement with public art.
- Involvement in more core funding eg a piping centre
- Weavers Poet books to be reprinted
- Show casing Irelands landscapes
- Project including North and South of Ireland to celebrate people who came and left Ireland eg a website.
- Museum of Emigration
- Permanent Head Quarters with a centre for events.

The Board proposed and agreed that the Executive should delete the section on language on page 6 and the list of stakeholders as we have many more stakeholders than listed.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

2008 Business Plan

Mr Patton tabled a draft of the Business Plan and requested the board to return comments by email to Executive before Friday 4th May 2007.

11. Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies

Mr Millar highlighted the report tabled received from the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies. This is the first quarter report received by the Agency. It was noted that work of Frank Ferguson has not been included in the progress report and Mr Millar is waiting a reply to his query concerning this.

On receipt of this additional information further funding will be released to the Institute.

The Board agreed that a further meeting of the advisory committee and Management Board to be initiated. Mr Millar will replace Mr Patton on the Advisory Committee and Dr Adamson will continue to represent the Agency on the Management Board.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

12. Staffing

Mr McCullough informed the board that the new Business Plan included approval from DCAL for two further Development Officers and a staffing paper had been presented for approval.

The new Communications Manager will commence work at the Agency on Tuesday 1st May 2007.

Agency staff will be attending training away days on 10th and 11th May 2007.

Interviews have taken place for a part time Administration Assistant in the Raphoe Office and successful candidate has been informed. Board have approved flexible hours and increase in hours if needed.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

13. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

Two planned conferences will take place in June 2007 to showcase the SEUPB project to local government and government officials.

Action: Dates to be emailed to Board.

Book Week

Twenty three libraries have been identified to host the Ulster-Scots Book week from 21st – 25th May 2007. Local schools will be invited along to attend this event.

Robert the Bruce

The festival will take place on 16th June 2007 in Bushmills from 12 noon to 18.00pm. Mr Gareth Fulton has been assisting the Agency with plans. Further up date will be given at the next meeting.

Advertising costs will amount to £8,500. Advertising will be on Bus Stops, Phone Boxes and large posters throughout the area.

Mr Thompson informed the Board that representatives from the Scotland Home Coming festival will attend the Bruce 700 Festival to get ideas from it.

Ballymoney Agriculture Show 100th Year

The Agency will be show casing at this event.

Joint Language Officer for Arts Council

This issue was dealt with at item 5.

2002/3 Accounts

These have been consolidated and presented.

Ulster-Virginia Links

The website for this will go live in June 2007. An advertising campaign that will run for two weeks in June and two weeks in July will cost £18,000.

Belfast/Nashville

The Mayor of Nashville is coming to Belfast on 29th June 2007. The Agency will provide a showcase at Carrickfergus Castle which will also be the launch date of the Agency new leaflet.

Community Radio

The caravan under construction at present for the Radio show which will run in five venues, for two week events commencing on 16th June 2007 in Newtownards and finishing in September 2007.

David Healey Coaching Day

This event will take place in Newtownards on 23rd June 2007. The Northern Ireland Scouts have volunteered to carry out all administration for the event. Sponsorship is being agreed at present with local companies.

Summer Schools

Thirty four Summer Schools will take place over the Province during July and August 2007. They will be advertised in the Ulster-Scot.

After Schools Clubs

Three areas have been identified for a pilot scheme. The programme will run over two weeks with six sessions in storytelling, drama, poetry, dance, music etc. Feedback will be given to board after pilot scheme finishes.

Reivers Festival

The Agency is at the planning process of this festival. Location will be in Co Fermanagh. At present discussion with the Heritage and Environment Agency are underway to secure a venue.

Independent Producers

To date a few Independent Producers have approached the Agency to complete some Ulster-Scots programmes. The Executive are in discussions at present and the Board approved the decision to provide financial support as appropriate.

Virginia College

The Board proposed that the Executive send a letter of condolences to the Virginia College.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

The Board are to be notified of the dates of all events taking place over the summer months so that they can plan which events they will be attending.

Action: Email list to Board and also for insertion in the next edition of the Ulster-Scot.

15 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Belfast on Thursday 17th May 2007.

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
17th May 2007
Holiday Inn Hotel,
Belfast.**

Present: **Chairman;** Mr Mark Thompson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Mr Jim Devenney
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough
 Mrs Vanessa Wilson

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 67th meeting of the Board at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Wall and Dr Lunney. Mr Millar sent apologies due to other Agency commitments.

3. Minutes of Meeting 30th March 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting.

Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

It was noted that Dr Lunney provided feedback to the Executive regarding the Business Plan for 2008.

The Board were in agreement that all members should note their attendance in writing 3 days before the meetings take place.

Proposed and agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

Mr Patton updated the Board on this issue. He had been informed that NSMC had delegated the decision re: Standardisation of the Ulster-Scots Language to Sponsor Departments. There is still no outcome. Mr Thompson and Mr Patton have approached Departments on separate occasion to clarify this matter.

Until clarification has been given the Agency and Board must adhere to the directive outlined to them.

Mr Thompson suggested that the Board invite Dr Ivan Herbson to give the Board a presentation on the work of the translation committee after clarity has been sought from Sponsor Departments.

Mr Patton informed the Board that their decision to hand the Primary Schools Website project over to the Ulster-Scots Academy Implementation Group, with the stipulation that the website should be live by 31st August 2007 has not been implemented. Whilst neither Sponsor Department has any issues this had not progressed given the discussion at the last meeting.

This issue will continue to appear on the agenda until resolved.

TV Programme Proposal

There has been no progress on this item. To date the project is still searching for an appropriate narrator.

Primary School Project

This item has been dealt with above under "Letter to NSMC".

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events that he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the previous meeting:

- Mr Thompson attended the Ulster Historical Foundation's 50th Anniversary Dinner. The Foundation is interested in a joint partnership with the Agency in printing materials. They have an existing customer database that would be useful to the Agency. The Board were in agreement to approve.
Proposed and agreed; for Mr Thompson and the Executive to work with the Ulster Historical Foundation.
- Mr Thompson informed the Board that an Ulster-Scots plaque would be placed in the Rathlin Visitors Centre on Rathlin Island by the Ulster History Circle to commemorate the "Bruce 700".
- Mr Thompson informed the Board that he has approached NSMC re: Board member positions. He will know more in October 2007 and will keep Board members updated.

6. Executive Reports

All Executive reports were tabled. The following items on Mr Patton’s report were discussed:

- Mr Patton met with John Nicholson and Ian Kennedy of “Straightforward Production” regarding a proposed TV documentary on the plantation. This project will cost £25,000 for research and the end product will be owned by the Agency.
Proposed and agreed; for Mr Patton to continue working on this project with funding approved to £25,000.
- Mr Patton met Pete Bleakney who was suggesting the establishment of an Ulster Scots TV station via the internet. This is to be visited again at the next Board meeting when all Board members will have received a copy of the plan.

Mr Thompson noted from Mr Derek Reaney’s report the subject of the Maiden City Festival.

Mr Patton informed the Board that Mr Reaney and Mr Kee are now working on the plan for an Ulster-Scots Festival in Londonderry as the Agency has a responsibility to build and keep working in the North West to promote Ulster-Scots.

They will invite representatives from community groups to shadow the organisation of this event to enable them to gain the skills to run a large festival in years to come.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

Mr McCullough tabled the figures of spend to date.

Communities are becoming more aware of the needs to make festivals more appealing to visitors and are receiving assistance from the Agency to do this.

Mr Thompson complimented to Mr Devenney on the recent success of the East Donegal Ulster-Scots group festival in Letterkenny, Co Donegal in April 2007.

The Board suggested that Mr Patton invite the Ulster-Scots Heritage Council to make a presentation to the Board at a future Board meeting.

It was noted at all future reports from key stakeholders will be forwarded to Board members so that they can see the good work to these groups.

8. Grants

(1) Millstone Events Forum

Proposal:	£6,550 of £11,445
	“Ulster-Scots Community Festival” This festival will run over 3 days. The aim of the festival is to promote awareness of the Ulster-Scots traditions on the Moneyslane area by reaching out to the wider community by

	combining Ulster-Scots elements with social activities to reach a wide audience.
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Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £6,550.

(2) Kidiscape (Newry Heritage and Development Association Youth Group)

Proposal:	£19,500 of £22,700
	“Ulster-Scots Frontier Festival 2007” This free event will spread over 3 weeks. This festival will lead to a better understanding of the Ulster-Scots language, arts, music and dance. This event will have a huge impact on the community.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £17,025.

(3) Inner East Historical Association

Proposal:	£6,900 of £10,900
	“11 th Titanic Celebration” This is a one day event that should attract a large amount of people. It will bring working performances which will include Ulster-Scots culture.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £5,300.

(4) Burnside Ulster-Scots Society

Proposal:	£6,685 of £11,585
	“Ulster-Scots American Festival” This is a two day event. This will include a concert, competitions, Ulster-Scots displays and an exhibition on famous Ulster-Scots Americans, US Presidents and Border Reivers.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £6,685.

(5) Schomberg Festival Committee

Proposal:	£12,845 of £15,845
	“Schomberg Ulster-Scots Festival” This festival will increase the public awareness of Ulster-Scots culture. It will include performers, public displays, open air concerts, workshops and exhibitions.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £11,247.

(6) Milltown Rural Development Association

Proposal:	£7,785 of £11,940
	"Bann Valley Ulster-Scots Festival" This event will run for 3 days and will include educational lectures, musical entertainment, cultural dancing displays, historical exhibition and open-air family fun day.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £7,785.

Bushmills Ulster-Scots Group Project

Other grant aid for this project has been re-defined. After discussion the Board agreed to keep their funding as previously agreed.

Proposed and Agreed.

Under care and duty for community groups the Agency are to monitor the costs they are incurring for performances to ensure that they are not being over charged.

Development Grant Proposal

The Executive proposed that a development grant be put in place. This will make money available up to £3,000 if a group commits to work with the Agency Development Workers over a year period. This will involve capacity building and the group will be involved in a 2/3 year programme until they are confident in their work of organising programmes.

Proposed and agreed in principle; that the Executive are to take this project forward.

9. Corporate Plan 2008 - 2010

The Corporate Plan 2008/10 is now with Sponsor Departments for approval. All suggestions from the Board were added to the final draft.

The Business Plan has been given to all Board for the second time for comments to Mr Patton.

10. Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies

The IUSS submitted a report to the Executive but Mr Millar requested a more comprehensive report. Mr Millar is now content with the comprehensive report and has recommended the institute can draw down further funding.

Proposed and Agreed by the Board.

The next Audit for the Institute will be completed by December 2007. After referring to DCAL's recommended list of auditors, Mr Patton and Mr Millar will be meeting with Mr Eric Kaufman to see if he is interested in carrying out the audit.

Mr Thompson suggested that the Institute needs to publicise their events and publication more in the future to ensure that people are being made aware of the work they are doing.

11. Staffing

Mr McCullough informed the board the new Communications Manager commenced work at the Agency on Tuesday 1st May 2007.

Agency staff attended the planned training away days on 10th and 11th May 2007. From this the Executive were able to identify the key area that they needed to work on to improve productivity at the Agency.

12. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

The staff is carrying out a project with 20 libraries in Northern Ireland from 21st to the 25th May 2007. This will include storytelling and Ulster-Scots music. Primary Schools in the areas will be invited along on the day.

SEUPB ran an "Article Four Check" on the funding spend to date for the project. It was approved and all procedures are in place. When written report is available it will be copied to all Board members.

Robert the Bruce Festival

The playing fields where the Robert the Bruce was to take place are no longer available. A new venue has been secured at the local primary school in Bushmills.

TV Research Proposals

This item was covered at item 4.

Belfast/Nashville Sister City Links

For Information - The Mayor of Nashville will be visiting Belfast on 28/29th June 2007. The Agency will be involved in this.

Community Radio

The 15th June 2007 is the launch date in Newtownards for the radio show.

David Healey Coaching Day

This event will take place in Newtownards on 23rd June 2007. The Northern Ireland Scouts have volunteered to carry out all administration for the event. Ticket distribution has been done.

Summer Schools

Thirty six Summer Schools will take place over the Province during July and August 2007. They will consist of 20 sessions, 15 of those are to be Ulster-Scots themed, 5 must be Agency driven and 3 must be language sessions. This will ensure quality of the content.

Eddie Hanna, a student from the Ulster-Scots Society at Queens University, Belfast will be working at the Agency over the summer period to help Agency staff in the running of these.

After Schools Clubs

This pilot scheme will run in 3 schools, 2 days per week over 3 weeks. If the project is successful it will run next year in TSN areas.

Reivers Festival

Castle Coole is the possible venue for the Reivers Festival on 18th August 2007. At present Mr Reaney is working with key stakeholders in that area to progress events.

Mr Thompson suggested that the Agency should in future plan in advance for large festivals. After speaking with Aubrey Irwin from Tourism Ireland he was advised by him that they schedule and plan their calendar of events 18 months in advance.

Traunche Funding for Festivals

The Executive are to look at the possibility of inviting applications to apply for festival funding with a deadline. This will allow future planning and publicity for events.

Mr Thompson informed the Board that Tourism Ireland are keen to met with the Board. The Board were in agreement to schedule this for the September Board meeting.

Action: Executive to arrange

Calendar of Events

Gillian Gilmore is presently creating a calendar of summer Ulster-Scots events. The Board were asked to forward other events (not engaged with the Agency) that could be added to this list.

Interreg

It was suggested that Mr Devenney arrange a meeting with Mr Reaney to take forward the application to Interreg for the Agency.

13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Armagh on Friday 22nd June 2007.

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
22nd June 2007
Armagh City Hotel,
Armagh.**

Present: **Chairman;** Mr Mark Thompson
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Pat Wall
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell
 Mr Jim Devenney
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Mr Bob Stoker

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Jim Millar
 Mrs Vanessa Wilson

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 68th Meeting of the Board at the Armagh City Hotel, Belfast.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of Meeting 17th May

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with the exception of a few typos.
Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

Mr Patton updated the Board on this issue. He had been informed that NSMC had delegated the decision re: Standardisation of the Ulster-Scots Language to Sponsor Departments. Mr Thompson and Mr Patton have approached Departments on separate occasion to clarify this matter. They had

sought an outcome to present to the Board at this meeting. Mr Patton advised that it was anticipated there would be a definite response in the next few weeks.

Until clarification has been given the Agency and Board must adhere to the directive outlined to them.

This issue will continue to appear on the agenda until resolved.

It was suggested that the Executive invite members of the Departments to a later Board meeting to receive a presentation on Ulster-Scots.

Primary School Project

This matter cannot progress further until the above issue is resolved.

TV Programme Proposal

Vinegar Hill Productions have now identified a compere for the TV proposal. A letter of offer has been made to the candidate and Vinegar Hill are waiting acceptance.

It is hoped that Mr Willie Drennan will be involved in this project.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events that he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the previous meeting:

- Mr Thompson had a meeting with representatives from the Ulster Historical Foundation
- Potential Postal drop in Antrim
- Mr Thompson had a meeting with the Scottish Cultural Minister

Mr Thompson is in discussions with James Nesbitt's agent to see if he can secure James's assistance in producing some audio texts.

Presentation to the Board from item 4 of agenda.

A presentation was given to the Board by Pete Bleakney from NVTV.

He proposed that the Agency establish an Ulster-Scots TV Channel via the internet that could reach Ulster-Scots throughout the world. This would allow the Agency to build archives of material.

Through this the Agency could avail of:

- Possible advertising and sponsorship on the web TV
- Children's Ulster-Scots programmes and more
- Set up cost for this would be around £70,000 with annual running costs for a two man crew of £60/70,000.

6. Executive Reports

All Executive reports were tabled.

Mr Patton highlighted that he and Jonathan Burgess met Norman Houston, Head of Tourism at DETI to progress proposals for an Ulster Scots drama to be toured in the USA. At present Mr Houston is working on possibilities to move this idea forward.

The Board noted the reports from the Executive and Development Workers.

It was suggested that from this point on the Executive are to change their style of report. They are only to note potential projects or progress of live projects rather than the style of a diary of activities attended that is being presented to the Board at present.

It was suggested that the Development Workers give a 15 minute presentation to the Board on their progress every quarter.

Proposed and agreed.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The figures of spend to date were tabled.

It was agreed by the Board that the Agency Float is to be reviewed at the end of the summer as storage costs are high.

8. Presentation from Alister McReynolds

Mr McReynolds gave the Board a presentation re: his studies into the Ulster-Scots in Maine, USA.

9. Grants

(1) Kilmegan & Aghlisnafin Rural Community Group

Proposal:	£13,330 of £23,330
	"The Ulster-Scots Factor" This project will promote the best of the Ulster-Scots traditions and culture. It will run for 3 days and will include exhibitions and workshops.

The Board were in agreement that this group should receive 100% of the eligible Ulster-Scots element and 33% of appropriate overheads.

Proposed and Agreed.

(2) Hollymount Rural Community Association

Proposal:	£8,970 of £9,470
	"Cranley Games" This is a one day event on 28 th July 2007. This festival will promote awareness and understanding of Ulster-Scots culture through workshops, music, song and dance.

The Board were in agreement that this group should receive £7,102.50.

Proposed and agreed.

(3) Ballymageough Rural Development Association

Proposal:	£5,590 of £6,140
	"Ballymageough Dixieland Festival" This is a two day event on 17 th & 18 th July 2007. This festival will attract a crowd of 1500 people. Events will include: Reivers, history show, displays of world war two American Army vehicles. Dance, music and cultural events.

Mr Thompson retired from the meeting and Mr Devenney (Deputy Chairman) chaired the remainder of it.

Mr Stoker left the meeting at this point.

The Board were in agreement that this group should receive £4,290.

Proposed and agreed.

(4) Lower North Belfast Community Council

Proposal:	£4,950 of £10,950
	"Ulster-Scots Family Day" This is a one day event on 18 th August 2007. This festival will attract a large percentage of the youth of this area that want to identify themselves as Ulster-Scots. Events will include MacDonald Brothers show, highland dancers, accordion bands, and lambeg drumming.

The Board were in agreement that this group should receive £4,950.

Proposed and agreed.

(5) York Island Arts & Heritage Association

Proposal:	£25,140 of £31,140
	"www.ulsterscotsheritage.com" This project will involve creating a web based application which will allow Ulster-Scots to document and share their knowledge, learn from others and interact with interested people from all over the world.

The Board were in agreement to defer this application until the next meeting.

Proposed and agreed.

(6) Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra

Proposal:	£9,230 of £9,230
	<p>"Youth Project"</p> <p>This project will run from 01.09.07 to 28.02.08. It will educate school pupils in the culture and traditions of Ulster-Scots music, song, dance, language and history.</p>

The Board were in agreement that this group should received £8,830. A condition is to be added that the Agency are to be provided with times and dates of the project so its progress can be monitored by the Agency.

An Action Plan is to be prepared by the Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra with the Executive and brought to the Board in Autumn 2007 re: how this project will be further funded.

Proposed and agreed.

On the back of this it was agreed that Mr Millar would provide a report on how musical training in Primary Schools could be co-ordinated to greater effect.

(7) Lower Bann Valley Ulster-Scots Society

Proposal:	£6,600 of £8,850
	<p>"Lower Bann Valley Ulster-Scots Festival 14-18th August 2007"</p> <p>This festival will run for 5 days and will include Ulster-Scots lectures, introduction to language, talks and a family fun day.</p>

The Board were in agreement that this group should received 75% of the proposed £6,600.

Proposed and agreed.

SPONSORSHIP

(1) Gillian Jones Ulster-Scots Dancers

Proposal:	£4,000 of £5,400
	<p>"Attainment of a Fellowship"</p> <p>The attainment of the Fellowship qualification would enable Gillian to offer tuition to the highest level in Scottish Highland Dance.</p>

The Board were in agreement to defer this application so that the Executive could investigate how the Fellowship would benefit Ulster-Scots Dance.

Proposed and agreed.

(2) Len Graham – Harvest Home

Proposal:	£5,000
	<p>Creation of a book on Joe Holmes (1906-1978) of Ballymoney, Co Antrim</p>

The Board would welcome an application from Mr Graham in relation to the outlined project.

(3) Ulster-Scots Play

Proposal:	£28,075
	This project will include "The Invasion Handbook" and an "Ulster-Scots Play"

The Board were in agreement not to fund this proposed project.

Application from Dr Lawrence Holden in March 2007

Dr Holden informed the Agency that he wished to withdraw his 1st application to the Board that had previously been successful for funding in March 2007 due to fundamental alteration on behalf of the University of Ulster. A 2nd application has now been received by the Agency from Dr Holden.

The Board were in agreement to defer the decision on this application until issues were resolved with the University of Ulster.

**The Board asked that "funding" be an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Executive to draft a paper to bring before the Board

10. Amendments to Financial Assistance Scheme

The Board were in agreement to defer this item to the next meeting as outlined above in item 9.

11. Stranmillis College

Secondary School material

Mr Millar briefed the Board on the current work completed at Stranmillis College. To date there are 46 workbooks produced. Mr Millar suggested that the work be produced onto a new website and tabled tenders for the project. The Board were in agreement to proceed with the tender submitted by Netramedia.

Proposed and agreed.

12. Staffing

Mr Patton informed the board that recruitment for 2 proposed development officers would commence after the summer period.

He also thanked the Agency staff who had attended events over the last few weeks for their assistance.

13. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

Mr Patton briefed the Board on the SEUPB funded library week in May that was a huge success. Library Boards have requested this event to be expanded and aimed at adults as well as school children.

A written report on this project will follow.

Interreg Funding

Executive are to follow up this item as we have received conflicting dates for completed applications to be submitted.

Audit Report

The written report was tabled. The need for travel claims to be made in a timely manner are to be highlighted with Board and staff.

Robert the Bruce 700 (Bushmills)

The event was very successful with the Bushmills residents. It was noted that publicity needs to be addressed for other large scale events that the Agency are to run.

Arts Council Language Officer

Two candidates applied for this position with neither meeting the criteria for interview. It has been agreed that this position will be re-advertised as 2 different 20 hour part-time posts so that all elements of the job description can be met.

Ulster Historical Foundation

It was agreed that the Executive send a letter to the Foundation inviting them gave a presentation re: Partnership Working.

Ulster/Virginia Links/Smithsonian

It was highlighted the Mr Thompson will be attending the Smithsonian event that will be taking place in Washington at the end of June 2007.

Belfast/Nashville Event

Invitations were sent to the Board to attend events organised by the Belfast City Council.

Community Radio

This was launched on Friday 15th June 2007 in Newtownards. The first live FUSE fm Radio Show will take place today.

David Healy Coaching

This will take place in Saturday 23rd June 2007 in Newtownards. Four TV companies are interested in televising this event.

The Agency has also secured sponsorship from Irwin's Bakery, RiverRock, Dalefarm, Wilson's Foods, Newsletter and Ards Borough Council.

Summer Schools

Summer Schools will commence on 2nd July 2007. A total in excess of 30 will be held during the summer months.

After Schools Clubs

These are currently running as a pilot scheme in Omagh, Bushmills and Belfast. A review of this project will take place in at the end of June 2007.

Reivers Festival

Raphoe staff are working with community groups in Fermanagh to organise the Reivers Festival which will take place from 6-11th August 2007.

TV Presentation

The Executive are to seek further information on the TV presentation and report back to the Board at the next meeting for a decision.

Ulster-Scots Newspaper

The Board have asked the Executive to add this to the next agenda as an item for discussion.

PR in Dublin

It was noted again that the Agency are to arrange a showcase of Ulster-Scots in Dublin.

The Board were in agreement that the Agency should re-visit links with the Department of Education in Dublin.

13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Dublin on Wednesday 25th July 2007.

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
25th July 2007
Trinity College,
Dublin.**

Present: **Deputy Chairman;** Jim Devenney
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Pat Wall
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Dr Ian Adamson

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Deputy Chairman, Mr Devenney welcomed the Board to the 69th Meeting of the Board at Trinity College, Dublin. He thanked Mr Wall for the facilities that he had arranged for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Thompson and Mr Stoker.

3. Minutes of Meeting 22nd June 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting.

Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

Interreg

Mr Patton informed that Board that he had made enquiries about the two closing dates issues for applications. The earlier date on their website was the correct one therefore the Agency missed the closing date.

David Healy Fitba Day

Mr Devenney suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Board to groups that had been let down at this event because of Translink. In the western counties 2 buses did not appear and a third bus was 2 ½ hours late.

Mr McCullough advised the Board that Translink have accepted responsibility and have offered the Agency compensation of £3,000 due to the impact the delays had on the event. This has been rejected and the Agency is waiting on another offer from Translink.

A copy of Translink's letter accepting responsibility is to be sent to groups that were affected.

Action: Mr McCullough

Mr McCullough informed the Board that David Healy was happy to engage with the Agency on a three year contract. The Board were enthused by this years event and proposed that the Agency take this opportunity as it had a high PR value and Ulster-Scots education element for the children.

Proposed and agreed.

Mr Devenney thanked the Executive and staff for all their work organising the event.

It was suggested that the Agency should run a competition in the next Ulster-Scot on "Tell us about your day with David Healy".

Action: Mr McCullough.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

Mr Patton updated the Board on this issue. He had previously advised the Board that it was anticipated there would be a definite response in the next few weeks. To date nothing has materialised.

This issue will continue to appear on the agenda until resolved.

Mr Patton had circulated the USAIG Business Plan. It is open for consultation until 24th September 2007. The Board agreed to hold a special meeting of the Board to discuss this paper on 24th August 2007

Primary School Project

This matter cannot progress further until the above issue is resolved.

TV Programme Proposal

Vinegar Hill Productions have now started recording for the programme.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman highlighted events that he had attended.

The Raphoe festival was very successful with over 800 people attending.

Mr Devenney also attended an interview with Eamon McCann RE: Raphoe Festival on Radio Foyle.

6. Executive Report

Mr Patton highlighted contact that he had with the “Home Coming Scotland 2009” festival committee. Lord Semple also made contact with Mr Patton on this issue.

Mr Patton informed the Board that he has approached potential partners to form a partnership with the Agency to taken this event forward.

Action: Mr Patton to progress this.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The figures of spend to date were tabled.

To date the Agency budget for the financial assistance scheme has been fully committed. The Executive proposed a moratorium on financial assistance. Applications can continue to be accepted where committed spend will be paid in 2008 e.g Tuition.

Proposed and agreed.

It was felt that the Agency are now in a strong position to approach southern Education Departments as previously suggested by the Board to arrange a meeting.

Proposed and agreed.

Once links have been made the Agency could use this opportunity for a Dublin Showcase to show living history, play, Stranmillis project, music and dance.

8. Grants

(1) Altnaveigh House Cultural Society

Proposal:	£10,790 of £18,570
	“A Celebration of Ulster-Scots” This event will run for 8 days. It will consist of highland dance competition, workshops, historical visits, Piping Hot show, cookery and craft classes, exhibitions and a Ulster-Scots Family night.

The Board were in agreement to fund this application for the recommended amount of £8,492.

Proposed and agreed.

Gillian Jones – Fellowship in Dance

The Board were in agreement to fund this sponsorship application that had been deferred at the previous Board meeting after further information was provided. The Executive are to meet with Gillian to confirm details before a letter of offer is sent. The Board suggested that a condition of conducting workshops be applied.

Proposed and Agreed.

York Island Website

The Board agreed to defer this application until the next meeting as Mr Patton only received requested paperwork this morning and was unable to provide the Board with a recommendation.

Proposed and agreed.

Kilmegan and Aughlisnafin

After the last Board decision a letter of offer was sent to this group. The offer included funding that other Funders had already agreed to provide for. As double funding cannot be provided in line with corporate governance the Board were supportive of Mr Patton's action to recall the letter of offer.

During this procedure Mr Patton was made aware that confidential information from the previous Board meeting had been disclosed. It was proposed that Mr Patton carry out an inquiry into how the information had been leaked.

Proposed and agreed.

This application for funding will proceed with adjustments made accordingly.

Ulster-Scots Language Society

Mr Patton informed the Board that the new Ulster-Scots Grammar book approved by the Board early in the year had been printed. The Board agreed recommended expenditure.

9. Amendments to Financial Assistance Scheme

The Executive presented a paper which included two new initiatives to the Board for amendment to the financial assistance scheme. They are:

- Tranche funding for festivals
- Development Grant proposals

The Board agreed in principal to support the tabled paper from the Executive

Proposed and agreed.

10. Stranmillis College

The Board were informed that the Stranmillis contract will come to an end on 31st August 2007.

It was noted that the work of Stranmillis education projects could be used when the Agency approach the southern Education Departments for a meeting.

11. Staffing

The CEO briefed the Board on staffing issues.

12. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

Mr Patton briefed the Board on the work of the SEUPB workers. They are building on Library week and hope to develop this project in September 2007. At present they are running a summer school in special needs schools.

It is hoped to develop a joint after schools project with Foras na Gaeilge in Special schools.

Belfast/Nashville Event

Executive informed the Board that the Mayor of Nashville visited in June 2007. He is keen to grow and develop links with Belfast.

Community Radio

Mr Patton took time away from the office to visit the radio station at Rathfriland. This has proven to be very successful. The radio is still to travel to Ballycarry, Bready and Dromore. The station can be reached within a 5 miles radius.

The Board asked that it be noted that they thanked Mr McCullough who organised the radio station for all his work and enthusiasm.

David Healy Coaching

This issue was dealt with at item 4 – matters arising.

Summer Schools

Summer Schools have been successful to date. Mr Devenney informed the Board of the success of the Raphoe Summer School.

After Schools Clubs

The pilot schemes in Omagh, Bushmills and Belfast are now successfully completed. The Agency now has demand for 20 clubs in September before they have even advertised this project.

Reivers Festival

The Reivers Festival will take place at Castle Coole on 18th August 2007. The Londonderry Festival will take place from 6-11th August 2007. All Board members are welcome to both events.

Ulster-Scots Newspaper

This item was agreed to be adjourned and a special meeting to be arranged to discuss this item.

Executive to ask Ms Gilmore to prepare a briefing on the Ulster-Scot paper for next month.

St Andrews Society, Dublin

Dr Lunney thought that it might be an idea for the Agency to make connections with this group when showcasing Ulster-Scots in Dublin.

Joint Language Body Meeting

Mr Patton advised the Board that the accounts were due to be signed in September and that a Joint Language meeting may be arranged around that time.

Colin Brookes

Dr Lunney told the Board that Colin Brookes was visiting from America. It was suggested that Mr Brookes be interviewed and recorded for the Ulster-Scots promotional DVD.

13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Monaghan on 6th September 2007.

A special meeting of the Board has also been agreed by the Board to discuss the USAIG Business Plan and issues raised by the Deputy Chairman on 24th August 2007 in Belfast.

The next Internal Audit Committee meeting will take place on 31st August 2007 in Belfast.

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
70th Board Meeting
6th September 2007
Four Seasons Hotel,
Monaghan.**

Present: **Chairman;** Mark Thompson
 Mr Jim Devenney
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Pat Wall
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Mr Bob Stoker

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough
 Mr Jim Millar

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 70th Meeting of the Board in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mrs Vanessa Wilson, Director of Culture.

3. Minutes of Meeting 22nd June 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some amendments.
Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Interreg

Mr Thompson informed that Board that he had made enquiries about the next opening date for proposals and is awaiting confirmation.

David Healy Fitba Day

Mr McCullough advised the Board that Translink have accepted responsibility and have agreed compensation of £5,000. At present the Agency are working with groups affected to ensure that compensation is received.

Action: Mr McCullough

Mr O'Donnell thanked Mr McCullough on behalf of the Board for all his work on this project.

Budget/Moratorium

Due to the moratorium the Agency may have secured additional funding from Sponsor Departments. Executive are waiting a response.

Mr Stoker joined the meeting at this point.

Kilmegan and Aughlinnafin Ulster-Scots Group

Mr Devenney and Mr Simpson monitored this event. The event was extremely successful but further development on Ulster-Scots elements need to be worked on.

Mr Thompson thanked both Mr Devenney and Mr Simpson for their help in monitoring this event on behalf of the Agency.

Mr Patton briefed the Board on a meeting he had with the group the previous evening (05/09/07). The Board approved the actions taken by Mr Patton.

Radio Station

Mr McCullough informed the Board that Bready Ulster-Scots group will no longer be running the Ulster-Scots radio station FUSE fm. Ballymoney will now run the station in December 2007.

Border Reivers Festival/Foyle Festival

Both festivals were an outstanding success with large turn outs at both venues.

Letter to NSMC

No further clarification has been received on this issue.

This issue will continue to appear on the agenda until resolved.

Primary School Project

There has been no further progress on the matter.

TV Programme Proposal

- **Language Programme**

Production team will be interviewing Mr Wall and Dr Lunney at Trinity College week commencing 9th September 2007.

➤ **Ulster-Scots TV Channel**

This is a project the Agency would wish to develop but at present the finance is not available.

Mr Thompson has been made aware of a forthcoming initiative from Northern Ireland Screen which may provide an opportunity for partnership with the Agency to provide online television programmes. Mr Thompson should receive more details over the next few weeks.

➤ **USAIG**

The Executive had been tasked with drawing together a paper following the meeting of Board members on 24th August. This was circulated to the Board and Mr Thompson thanked Board members for their responses to the Business Plan circulated. As previously advised at the August meeting Mr Thompson and Dr Adamson declared a conflict of interest and both left the room.

After considerable discussion the Executive were asked to redraft the paper taking on board the points made and circulate the revised draft for final approval.

Mr Stoker stated that he will be making a personal response to the proposed paper.

It was noted that the response is to be with USAIG by 24th September 2007 and as Mr Patton would be out of the office this would be coordinated by Mr Millar.

Proposed and Agreed.

Mr Thompson and Dr Adamson returned to the meeting. Mr Thompson advised that whilst he may submit an individual response he would be happy to sign the Board response and if necessary deliver it to the Academy Implementation Group.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman highlighted a number of issues:

➤ **World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow**

The RSPBA will be seeking bids to host the Championships in 2010-2012. The Agency would be keen to be involved.

➤ Talks with the BBC re: Ulster-Scots programmes.

➤ **USAIG**

Reception to introduce the new Minister Edwin Poots to the Academy and showcase their work.

➤ Fuse FM Radio station.

➤ Working with the Executive of the Agency re: the Communications Plan.

➤ Meetings with Ian Kennedy and John Nicholson re: re-launch of "On Eagle's Wing" in 2008.

6. Executive Report

Mr Patton highlighted contact that he had with the "Home Coming Scotland 2009" festival committee.

Mr Patton informed the Board that he has been in contact with Tim Campbell of the St Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick. They are keen to work with the Agency on a joint project for young adults from North America. The Board were keen for Mr Patton to take this forward.

Action: Mr Patton to progress this.

Sister City Links

The Belfast/Nashville Committee are keen to ensure that the importance of Ulster Scots to this project is recognised. A potential visit to Nashville next year is being considered by the committee

Mr Patton reported on a meeting with Colin Brookes from USA who had been carrying out research in the Limavady area. He had made contact with Mr Willie Douglas who holds hundred of sheets of flute music from the 1800's and suggested that the Agency should speak to Mr Douglas regarding possible publication The Board asked Mr Patton to progress this.

Proposed and Agreed.

Mr Patton highlighted that he had attended meetings with Mr Gerry Lennon from the Visitors Convention Bureau re: Ulster-Scots performances over holiday periods in Belfast.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The figures of spend to date were tabled.

To date the Agency budget for the financial assistance scheme has been fully committed. The moratorium will continue.

Mr Devenney queried work carried out by the Ulster-Scots Language Society with funding from the Agency.

Action: Mr Patton is to check ownership of the material in terms of the conditions in the letters of offer. Mr Millar is to write on behalf of the Board requesting sight of the work.

Mr McCullough advised the Board that Mr Eddie Hanna would organise a debriefing session with those involved in running Summer Schools. This would enable the Agency to evaluate the success of the schools. All Board members were welcome to attend.

8. Grants

(1) Altnaveigh School of Dance – Scottish Dance Tuition

Proposal:	£6,000 of £7,400
	"Scottish Dance Tuition" These tuition classes will run for 30 weeks every Saturday from 10-4pm for both old and young people to enable participants to develop their dance skills to compete.

The Board were in agreement to fund this application for the recommended amount of £7,400 under the condition that the group commence the tuition from 15th October 2007 to coincide with the Agency recommendations.

Proposed and agreed.

(2) York Island Arts & Heritage Association

Proposal:	£20,640 of £25,640
	“www.UlsterScotsHeritage.com” This project will run from September 2007 to August 2008. The main aim of the project is to create an online map based catalogue of built heritage sites in Counties Antrim and Down.

The Board were in agreement to reject this application.

William Roulston “How to Study the Plantation”

Mr Patton advised the Board that they would be receiving an application on a proposed booklet on “How to Study the Plantation” after the Board agreed to work on some projects with the Ulster Historical Foundation. The Board welcomed the application.

Proposed and Agreed.

Ulster Historical Foundation

A proposed Service level Agreement for partnership working between the Agency and the Foundation was presented and would be considered by Board members for discussion at the next meeting.

Gavin Falconer

Mr Falconer’s dissertation was presented by Dr John Kirk with a proposed cost of £4,750.

Action: The Board were unable to proceed with this proposal due to the moratorium.

Consideration could be given in the future to publish sections rather than the whole document. A shorter version could be considered in 2008.

9. Amendments to Financial Assistance Scheme

The Board having previously agreed in principal to support the tabled paper from the Executive have now agreed for the Executive to take this forward.

Proposed and agreed.

10. Internal Audit Committee

The latest Internal Audit Committee meeting report was tabled. The system in place at the Agency is satisfactory however there are some minor issues that the Executive are addressing.

This report was proposed and agreed.

11. Stranmillis College

The Board were in agreement to proceed with the tender submitted by Netramedia at the June 2007 Board meeting. It was agreed that that Mr Millar check that this work has been quality approved before he proceeds with the project.

Proposed and agreed.

12. Staffing

The CEO briefed the Board on staffing issues.

13. Board Appointments

The current Board will cease as of 12th December 2007.

14. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

The project workers have been engaging with district councils with further planned projects in the pipeline.

Community Radio

This issue was dealt with at item 4 – minutes of last meeting.

Meeting with Southern Education Departments

This issue has been put on hold until the issue with the UASIG has been resolved.

Summer Schools

Summer Schools were a great success. Framed photos of the Summer School are to be sent out to every school.

The Board proposed and agreed that the Agency should create a directory of Ulster-Scots entertainers that the public can use for events.

After Schools Clubs

Work is ongoing to identify appropriate lessons and get schools on Board for 2008.

Reivers Festival

The Fermanagh festival was very successful. As was the Foyle festival which secured £10,000 funding from the council towards events over the two weeks that the festival ran.

Ulster-Scots Newspaper

Gillian Gilmore, Communication Manager is presently looking at the overall communication strategy of the Agency at present and will feed back to the next Board meeting.

Poetry

There is a volume of work by Dougal the poet from the Lagan era. Due to financial pressures the Board are unable to commit at present to this project but have proposed in principal to publish this book at a later date.

13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place as follows:

Thursday 11 th October 2007	Belfast
Thursday 15 th November 2007	Dublin
Friday 7 th December 2007	TBC

SIGNED:

DATED:

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
72nd Board Meeting
25th October 2007
Grosvenor House,
Belfast**

Present: **Chairman;** Mark Thompson
 Mr Jim Devenney
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Mr Bob Stoker

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the emergency meeting of the Board in Grosvenor House, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Dr Linde Lunney, Mr Pat Wall and Mr Eddie O'Donnell.

3. Open Meeting

This was an emergency meeting to put in place the process with regard to the Ulster-Scots Agency Grievance Procedure.

The Board were in agreement that the Vice Chairman, Mr Jim Devenney along with Dr Linde Lunney and Mr Eddie O'Donnell would meet with the complainant on Friday 2nd November 2007 in Grosvenor House, Belfast.

Dr Lunney and Mr O'Donnell had notified the Board that they would, if necessary, be available to attend this proposed meeting.

Outcome:

The Board will contact Mr Ronnie Robinson of Johns Elliott Solicitors (the Ulster-Scots Agency legal advisors) first thing tomorrow morning to seek approval of the Board decision on the proposed meeting.

A letter notifying the complainant will be delivered by courier recorded delivery to the complainant's home address on Friday 26th October 2007, to meet with the timetable in the Agency's grievance procedure.

SIGNED:

DATED:

**The Board o Ulster-Scotch
72nd Board Meeting
15th November 2007
Trinity College, Dublin**

Present	Chairman; Mr Mark Thompson Mr Jim Devenney Mr Pat Wall Mr Eddie O'Donnell Dr Lindy Lunney Mr Alistair Simpson Dr Ian Adamson
In attendance	Mr George Patton Mr Michael McCullough Mr Jim Millar
Recording Secretary	Miss Sarah Lockhart

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Mr Thompson welcomed everyone to the 72nd Meeting of the Board in Trinity College, Dublin.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr Stoker.

3. Minutes of Meetings 11th October and 25th October 2007.

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meetings with some minor amendments.
Proposed and agreed; that both these minutes be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

Mr Patton stated there had been no further developments

Primary School Material

There was some slippage on the timescale but the material would be on the Agency website in early December 2007.

Communications Strategy Progress Report

Mr Patton informed the Board that Miss Gilmore has completed the tendering process for the Agency new branding, with "Mammoth" being the successful company. The approximate costing for

this new corporate brand is £17,000. Currently there is a Tender Exercise underway for the re-design of the website. Dr Lunney advised that she would be glad to help Miss Gilmore with this.

Ulster-Scots Tattoo

Mr Patton stated there was an issue with expenditure and that the Agency does not wish to commit a lot of money without partnership funding. The date was originally September 2008 but September 2009 may be a more realistic time.

Summer Schools follow up

Mr McCullough stated that the 2007 Summer Schools were huge successes and he informed the Board of plans for 2 Ulster-Scots Fun Days on 28th December 2007 with the first being held in Banbridge and the other in Omagh. Approximately 500 children will be in attendance at each venue and the cost will be £2,000 - £3,000 for each. The Board approved this.

Action: Mr McCullough to progress.

5. Indicative Budget 2008

The Board were advised of the Indicative Budget figure contained in the Draft Budget for Northern Ireland. This falls short of the figure proposed in our Corporate and Business Plans. The Board expressed disappointment with this and asked the Chair to write on their behalf to the Department.

6. Chairman's Report

Strategy for North America

Mr Thompson stated he had spent 5 days in Ayrshire. He stressed the importance of food in Ulster-Scots culture and perhaps a future project could be based on this.

Television

Mr Thompson also informed the board that a local Production Company had approached the Ulster-Scots Agency with a view to producing fifty, 30 minute long TV Programmes aimed at both American and home audiences. Mr Thompson stated that we would have editorial input.

7. Report from Executive

Joint Language Body Project.

Mr Patton informed the board that Jim Millar and he have been engaged with Foras na Gaeilge regarding the potential for a joint project which would bring together young people from Irish speaking and Ulster-Scots backgrounds.

Action: Jim Millar to take lead on this.

Meeting with Ulster Council GAA

Mr Patton informed the board he had met with the representatives of the Ulster Council. He stated it had been a very positive meeting and recommended that Ulster-Scots Agency continue to progress this. The Board fully supported this idea.

Mr McCullough informed the board of contact he has had with Ulster Rugby regarding 3 possible Ulster-Scots Showcases.

Action: Mr McCullough to progress this.

8. Report from NSMC Meeting

Mr Patton circulated the report from the meeting held in Altnaveigh House , 26th October 2007. The Ulster-Scots Agency presented a 3 year plan on what should happen in the future. The Board welcomed opportunities and recognition by NSMC but reiterated the need for additional finance to implement our strategies and future plans.

9. Budget and Business Plan Progress 2007.

The Progress report was received and accepted.

10. Grants

(1) East Antrim Elementary Accordion Orchestra

Proposal:	£2,470 of £2,950
	“Tuition and Development of Ulster-Scots Music” This project will run for 18 weeks and will include having 3 Ulster-Scots tunes arranged for Accordion Orchestra and tuition for the Orchestra.

The Board were in agreement to only fund £750 for the arrangement of the tunes but that we should not fund any further applications for musical arrangements.

Proposed and agreed.

(2) IUR-fm (Aerwaves Limited)

Proposal:	£4,940 of £6,190
	“Ulster-Scots Radio Programming on IUR-FM” The programme will provide an opportunity for a weekly radio programme to be broadcast on the Ulster-Scots culture over and 80km ² area. This project is proposed to run for one year.

Action: Mr Patton is to meet and discuss with local Ulster-Scots Groups in Newry area and report to the Board.

(3) East Donegal Ulster-Scots

Proposal:	€6,300 of €7,300
	“Researching your ancestry in Donegal (Brochure)” This project will last 4 months with distribution of the product continuous and ongoing. The project will provide a template for Ulster-Scots research in Donegal, identify main sources available, raise the profile Of Ulster-Scots heritage and identify in Donegal.

The Board were in agreement to fund this application for the recommended amount of €6,300.
Proposed and agreed.

(4) The Long Room Hub

Proposal:	€54,528 of €54,528
	This project is a one year project for a research assistant. The project focuses on the preparation for a scholarly addition and ongoing digital curation of the project. As well as a series of additional outcomes designed to promote cross-border scholarly and public interest in early Ulster-Scots life.

The Board asked Mr Millar to discuss this further with Dr Gribben as it was felt that this might come under the role of IUSS

(5) Dr Lawrence Hamilton Holden

Proposal:	£99,760 of £99,760
	This program will provide a historical and ethnological analysis of the traditional craft and culture of a distinct and unique cultural region at the heart of County Antrim. The primary aim of the research is to investigate the breadth and complexity of cultural knowledge and identity within the region through an analysis of specific categories of traditional work, celebration, poetry and song.

The Board were in agreement to fund this application for the recommended amount of £99,760.
Proposed and agreed.

Cairncastle Festival

The Board received a report from Mr Patton and approved remedial action.

11. Financial Assistance Scheme/Funding

Mr Patton suggested to the Board members that the Executive look at funding procedures to potentially reduce community groups.

Action: Board members and Executive to think about this and discuss outcome at next meeting.

12. Staffing

New posts to be filled;

- 2 Development Officers
- Finance Officer
- Grants Officer
- 1 Development Officer (temporary)

Mr Devenney raised the possibility for a Deputy CEO. Mr Thompson stated DCAL rejected this idea earlier in 2007.

The Board reiterated its view that as we approach a new era. A full detailed a staffing review of the Agency would be required urgently, looking at compliment, grading and individual job descriptions.

It was noted that agreement had been received from one of the Sponsor Departments regarding the CEO award.

Radio Consultant

Mr McCullough informed the Board that there was a possibility of engaging a Technician on a 12 month contract on £24,000 per annum. This would be cost effective and a more efficient in terms of output from the Agency. The Board were in agreement that this should be explored further with a view to implementation.

Proposed and agreed.

13. Board Appointments

It was noted that the term of the current Board will cease as of 12th December 2007.

14. AOB

Institute of Ulster-Scots

The Review is currently underway.

SEUPB

The report had previously been circulated

World Pipe Band Championships

It was anticipated that Belfast City Council may lead with a bid for this in 2010.

Young Americans

Mr Patton and Mr McCullough have a meeting with Dr Campbell on 16th November 2007. They will report back at the next meeting.

Belfast Visitors Convention and Bureau

The Board were briefed on ongoing discussions.

International Horse Show

Mr McCullough stated it was a huge success and the Ulster-Scots Agency received a great amount of positive coverage as a result.

15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on Monday 10th December 2007 at a venue in Blefast that is to be confirmed.

Signed:

Dated:

**The Board of Ulster-Scotch
73rd Board Meeting
10th December 2007
Europa hotel, Belfast**

Present

Chairman; Mr Mark Thompson
Mr Jim Devenney
Mr Pat Wall
Mr Eddie O'Donnell
Dr Lindy Lunney
Mr Alistair Simpson
Dr Ian Adamson
Mr Bob Stoker

Recording Secretary

Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Mr Thompson welcomed everyone to the 73rd Meeting of the Board at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr Patton, Mr McCullough and Mr Millar.

3. Minutes of Meeting 15th November 2007.

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meetings with some minor amendments.

Proposed and agreed; that minute be accepted.

Ms Hanna left the meeting at this point so that the Board could discuss a matter that had arisen.

Ms Hanna was later invited into the meeting and business resumed.

4. Matters Arising

Indicative Budget 2008

Mr Thompson advised the Board that he had written to Paul Sweeney, Permanent Secretary at DCAL. He is awaiting a response.