

KLTR Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on Friday 1 November at 2.00pm, Victoria Quay & Hybrid

Present

John Logue (Chair)	KLTR
Bobby Sandeman	Chief Executive and Accountable Officer
Evelyn Aitken	Chief Financial Officer
Richard Frew	Head of Policy, Communications & OPTS
Marlene Anderson	Director of Finance & Procurement for COPFS
Vanessa Davies (via Teams)	Non-Executive director
Annie Gunner Logan	Non-Executive director
David Watt (joined item 2)	Non-Executive director

In Attendance

Stuart Allan	Chair of Treasure Trove Review (TTR)
Stephen Woodhouse	Advisor to Chief Executive
Marcus Dean	Secretary to the Treasure Trove Review
Sarah Kavanagh (via Teams)	Policy Support Officer to the Treasure Trove Review

Agenda Item 1 - Introduction & Apologies

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all colleagues. There were no apologies. There were no declarations of interest. It was noted that David Watt would join the meeting later due to travel delays.
2. The Chair extended his thanks and appreciation to the Treasure Trove Review Team for the good piece of work that had been compiled and recognised that it had landed well with stakeholders.
3. The Chair also advised that he had received a response directly from one stakeholder and would forward it onto the Review Team for inclusion.

Agenda item 2 - Overview and Key Issues for KLTR

4. Chair of TTR introduced a short background overview of the review and highlighted key recommendations.
 - 4.1 Strategic Leadership - A key recommendation is that KLTR should assume policy and strategic leadership for the system. This is already happening but not formally. It was highlighted that while the Code of Practice states that policy lies with Scottish Government (SG) and KLTR has operational responsibility, which is delegated to NMS. However, in practice, the policy role has not been exercised by Scottish Government but rather is dispersed between stakeholders. Since KLTR has been more proactive in recent years, progress is being made in addressing the strategic needs of the system and its users. KLTR will be able to collaborate with multiple and competing interests and bring them together collectively.
 - 4.2 Financing - Currently KLTR is funding both the core staffing and temporary staffing of the TTU at NMS, so no major change is recommended, but the Review recommends that these

funding arrangements are consolidated. There is as yet a lack of consistent data over time, sufficient to inform the optimal operating staff model for the TTU and the resourcing it needs, but this is being gathered by TTU and with support from external analysts commissioned by KLTR. It was highlighted that the recommended investment in technology would deliver efficiencies in the longer term, making processes faster and making reporting of finds easier for the finder. It was highlighted that the trial of a new network of supported TT Partner Museums is a cost-effective way of addressing the over-centralised arrangement of the system which could attract external funding, and that this will be explored further.

4.3 Culture - change will require investment from all participating organisations to achieve greater degrees of trust and pragmatism in the operation of the TT system. It was highlighted that feedback from finders was that they feel excluded and seek greater recognition for their contribution to heritage. Alongside this need for greater openness, efficiency and a spirit of collaboration, there remains a need for greater clarity around the legal duties in the system, and suitable sanctions for non-compliance, hence the recommendation on legislation in this area.

5. There was a discussion around the financial and strategic overview of the TTU, about models for collaborative working between KLTR and NMS, and that options are being considered. The Board advised KLTR to ensure it has the correct governance framework to take this forward and that there is senior buy-in among stakeholders to shift culture and drive process changes. The Board were assured that the recommended Steering Group is intended to be made up of senior personnel within the represented organisations and it was noted that culture change needed to be kept at the forefront of the Steering Group's remit.
6. The Board made some observations around specific recommendations, including being clear about the remit and purpose of the recommended Steering Group, achieving a fully developed MOU with NMS, sources of funding and financial implications and risks for KLTR in its arrangements with Scottish Government, KLTR input into assessment of TTU staffing model, and recommendations affecting COPFS and future legislation on compliance.
7. The Board recognised that this was a really good report, one that would make a difference, and encouraged the KLTR to accept the recommendations with some minor caveats.

Agenda item 3 - Advisory Group Stakeholders Responses

8. A collation of the responses was tabled, it was noted that stakeholders were positive and supportive overall and that comments on detailed recommendations would be considered as part of the wider implementation

Agenda item 4 - Implementation Plan

9. The Secretary to the TTR delivered an initial high-level draft implementation plan and explained that this had been devised to make the plan as cost effective as possible and deliver all recommendations by the end of 2027. It was stressed that there would be a need for collaboration with KLTR and stakeholder organisations on the recommendations, and required close working with TTU, in a way that does not impact on the TTU's day to day delivery.

Agenda item 5 - Next Steps

10. The Chair of TTR advised the intended next steps, which was that a statement would be placed on the KLTR website advising that the recommendations have been accepted and an implementation plan is being prepared in consultation with stakeholders
11. The KLTR advised that he wanted implementation to be progressed as quickly as possible recognising that the timescales need to be realistic and achievable.

Agenda Item 6 - AOB & Closing

12. There was no other business.
40. The CEO thanked the Board and colleagues for their contributions.