

Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

1 Scope of Responsibilities

Our ambition is to demonstrate that we have the necessary governance to maintain a sound system of internal control and support our policies, objectives and strategic priorities.

The Alliance was an early signatory to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance, produced in 2011, and the Board, at its meeting in June 2017, reaffirmed the Alliance as a signatory to the new *Principles of Good Governance for Sport and Recreation* ("The Principles") which has replaced the Voluntary Code. The Alliance also made sure that it was fully compliant with Tier 3 of *A Code for Sports Governance* ("Code") by the end of October 2017. This annual governance statement is prepared to provide you with an update on our work to date.

2 The governance framework of the Alliance

The Alliance Board has four sub-committees:

- **Finance and Audit Committee** to take delegated responsibility on behalf of the Sport and Recreation Alliance Board for overseeing all financial and audit aspects of the Sport and Recreation Alliance and the Sport and Recreation Ventures Ltd [the wholly owned subsidiary of the Alliance] so as to ensure short and long-term viability and integrity and report back – and make recommendations - to the Alliance Board accordingly;
- The **Income Generation Committee** is intended to help the Alliance develop diverse revenue streams and manage its relationships with corporate partners and sponsors. In addition, the IG Committee will look wider than its CPs and sponsorship towards Trusts and Foundations for areas of additional income;
- The **Remuneration and Staffing Committee** is established to make recommendations to the Alliance Board on all aspects of the remuneration and terms and conditions of service of the Chief Executive and senior management, maintaining an overview of policy in relation to other members of staff;
- A **Nominations Committee** has the responsibility to ensure that there is an open and transparent process for the selection and recruitment of the Sport and Recreation Alliance Directors, Chair and for 2019 a new Chief Executive.

The Terms of Reference for all these committees can be found on the website. The Finance, Income Generation and Remuneration Committees are chaired by one of the Directors and the Nominations Committee is chaired by the Alliance Chairman.

NB the Income and Generation Committee became a Working Group in autumn 2020 and now reports to the Finance and Audit Committee, although the Director with the lead for Income Generation/Commercial experience skills and experience still chairs the Working Group.

The Board met eight times in 2020-21, 21 April 2020, 23 June 2020, 27 July 2020, 8 September 2020, 20 October 2020, 15 December 2020, 2 February 2021 and 20 March 2021.

Summaries of the Board meetings remain available on the members' area on our website following the meetings, these will include an update on membership, strategy, finance and areas of compliance.

3 Risk Assessment

The Alliance has identified both strategic and operational risks for its 2017-2021 Strategy. These are reviewed and updated regularly by the Senior Management Team (SMT).

The Finance and Audit Committee reviews the risk register at their meetings and submit any recommendations or issues to the Board for consideration or back to the SMT to take forward accordingly.

In February 2020, the Board requested that the Risk register now be reviewed by them at each of their meetings. The Board reviews all strategic risks, any high-rated operational risks and debates new risks and reviews current risks.

4 Governance issues

Since 2017 the Alliance Board had achieved gender parity and had members who reflected a range of the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010 including disability, sexual orientation, race, religious belief and age.

Since 2017, the Board has been made up of over 25% independent Directors and has not considered any of its Elected Directors as 'independent'. The Nominations Committee has been tasked to ensure that both the diversity of the Board and 'independence' of individual members is taken into account during Board recruitment to ensure compliance. The Alliance had maintained gender parity on the Board but this changed in 2019 with the departure of Monica Shafaq who unexpectedly resigned from the Board. However, with the extension of Jackie Sebire's appointment, the Board again had gender parity.

At the 2020 Annual General Meeting, the Alliance amended its Articles to allow hybrid General Meetings and electronic voting and took the opportunity to increase the number of Directors to 12 and amend Directors' terms of office to four years. The Alliance will now have up to 4 Elected Directors and 6 Appointed together with an Independent Chair and CEO.

The Board recruited its 12th member to the Board – Hamid Vaghefian, from London Marathon Events – in February 2021.

Finally, the Board regularly reviews its policies to ensure they remain up-to-date, and we have made several of these available on the website. These include, among others, our Conflicts of Interest, Board Remuneration and Code of Conduct.

Signed on behalf of the Alliance



LISA WAINWRIGHT
Chief Executive



ANDREW MOSS
Chairman