

Minutes of the OLICAT Directors meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2025



Attendees

**Directors:** Christopher Donnellan, Bill Nelson, Ilona Bond

**Executive:** Tony Bishop, Asha Morjaria, Bernie Grimley, Andrew Waterhouse

Apologies

Joe Burns

Catherine Leong

**Reflection:** Tony Bishop

Agenda item	Key information
<p>1. Declaration of pecuniary interest/conflict of interest arising from agenda Bill Nelson explained his business brings in external experts as required and one working on 2 projects is Pauline Cuddihy’s husband (Diocesan Director of Education.) There is no direct connection to any of the Trusts work.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes &amp; Matters arising</p> <p>a. Draft minutes Accepted as a fair record. Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sarah Meeks’ presentation – she passed and is delighted with a distinction.</li> <li>– Whistleblowing and RSE policies updated as directed and now live.</li> <li>– AW to follow up meeting with DG.</li> </ul> <p>b. DFE update The response to the finance submission from the DFE is positive. AM is of the opinion that they didn’t expect the level of detail provided. The focus has now shifted to 26/27. We are aiming for a meeting in July when Trust budgets are set. Directors noted the response reflects the work done by AM and team. IB observed whilst a difficult and sometimes challenging process it has brought things into sharp focus for heads.</p> <p>c. Reporting for Directors IB tabled the need for an additional strand of reporting for Directors relating to school improvement to act as a running state of play at any given moment, but for this not to be an additional task or burden on School Improvement functions. TB confirmed there are a quantity of reports generate by the SI team that do not go wider than school SLT, and these can be shared in some format. TB will expand further with SI team.</p>	
<p>3. Catholic Life</p> <p>a. Update (Bernie Grimley) BG delivered the Catholic Life report (same report goes to DST). Key points noted:</p>	

- Report gives an overview of where the schools are in relation to CSI. In general we are in a good place with glimpses of outstanding.
- OLCP rated 2 across the board. RE leadership is strong and chaplaincy collaboration very effective. View is mission now a 1.
- For STE we felt the inspection did not reflect the school. RE pedagogy is very good. Trust review recently felt it was outstanding.
- OLW was inspected under the old framework. Leadership, Mission and RE are 1s. Collective worship needs a little more development.
- STG has one area at a 2. We expect it to be outstanding next time.
- St Marys is working on the implementation of RECD. Effectively run and well led.
- SJR currently doing another review in June/July. Issue of losing chaplain placing a lot of work onto head and assistant head.
- TBCS challenge is the RE dept. On the Trust day there's a session for secondary RE depts to help develop a cohesive ethos. Chaplaincy at TBCS is good.
- SJSJG expects inspection this year, but suspect it wont happen until next academic year. They have been notified of the new name and site. Heads leadership is very sensitive to the diversity of the school. IB requested can BG attend a LAC meeting to give overview on role of governors for CSI inspections.
- STMP has a number of 2s we believe should be 1s, especially RE teaching. We believe the school is exemplary.
- STB will be reviewed after half term. 2s across the board. Need to see RE teaching in classrooms to see how its developed.
- STMS will benefit from input on trust day. Want to see some passion in the RE dept. Chaplaincy and leadership has it.

Directors' noted an overview of positives and strengths and challenges provided within the report. Directors' noted that many of the schools had dual challenge of doing this whilst moving from RI to good.

#### 4. Wellbeing

Directors received the wellbeing report. Directors noted:

- Trust approach and process is now well established.
- The trend remains upward with a number of positives across the board.
- The focus is on asking how well we are delivering our approach.
- Directors' queried the lower response rate at OLCP. AM noted OLCP has significantly reduced the number of fixed term staff.

Directors thanked to NW and SJ for their work in this area.	
<p>5. Risk Register</p> <p>Directors reviewed and agreed the risk register. Actions agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised LAC level register and 2 way communication between both.</li> <li>• To highlight in both director and LAC planners.</li> <li>• Items now systemised and no longer a risk can be removed.</li> </ul>	
<p>6. Finance</p> <p>a. Finance Report</p> <p>AM shared the finance report. Key points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall picture is more positive. Ordering closes 13<sup>th</sup> June. Going forward we are looking for a position where forecasting is more accurate, as at the moment best guess position. New systems and processes should allow this to develop. We anticipate we will come out better than budgeted – additional money and tighter controls.</li> <li>• SJSG project has committed money not yet received. Initially we thought would cost 600k, looking more like 1.5 million. SCA comes in at 250k/month. Sale of LPS is ongoing. Would recommend we try not to use, and place projects on hold till next cycle of SCA and use sale money to boost reserves. This will help with DFE position. IB queried where are we with the sale to the LA? TB still awaiting firm offer – education team desperately want it but buildings department is the hold up. Costing is based on condition survey. Directors agree in principle with AM proposal.</li> <li>• Latest and up to date budget figures circulated. BN queried resignation deadline 31 May and Bedford curriculum review? TB explained the school has adjusted option blocks to increase capacity and reduced number of options. If there are resignations by 31 May they would be absorbed. Meeting arranged for Tuesday of week 1 back to review position and next move.</li> <li>• Directors extend thanks to those who have worked on those things asked of them and movement in the right direction.</li> <li>• Investment item slightly delayed. Barclays will set up account. Insignis information being submitted. Also call with Lloyds – instant access savings account. Directors’ agreed to proceed as indicated.</li> </ul> <p>b. Catering contract</p> <p>This will require board approval due to size. We are currently tied into a contract with Coombs looking for a 2 yrsr extension to take on STM Bedford and invest c60k into aging and failing equipment, STM Bedford is currently losing money, and the risk of equipment failing is increasing. Primary prices charged to end users have not risen and we want to ask to increase that. Directors agreed. Directors agreed in principle to the extension subject to further evaluation and timeline to move STMS to Coombs</p> <p>c. Gas and electricity through church marketplace</p>	

<p>Proposal has been seen for 12m and 24m on rates lower than 2 years ago. Recommendation is a 24month contract. Directors agreed.</p> <p>d. Lettings Audit report stated depreciation rates are different for each school and we need to align. Directors agreed.</p> <p>e. TBCS lettings/all weather pitch Proposal submitted for the further development of the all weather pitch and school lettings arrangement.</p> <p>BN observed any arrangement for development with Kingsthorpe jets requires formation of a new CIC and we need to ensure representation on that board. The CIC needs to be formed before development plans can proceed. Directors agreed to go with the Kingsthorpe proposal subject to further exploration and detail on the agreement and legal advice as required.</p>	
<p>7. Chair's Update Cd reported the DFE requested access to banks accounts to view. We declined as it was not a full picture so therefor not helpful.</p> <p>TB and CD meet wit the Bishop this Friday and we expect the discussion will relate to Milton Keynes.</p>	
<p>8. Governance Noted receipt of LAC minutes but gaps. AW to assemble full set of minutes in separate folder as running set for each year.</p>	
<p>9. Safeguarding No critical issues arising.</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p> <p>a. Trips – issues and revised policy Policy and revised process agreed. Change to reference behaviour for learning policy. BN raised concern over the Korea trip (and similar). IB will follow up with school.</p>	