

## **Board Meeting: 10 September 2025**

### **Summary Report to be used when sharing with members.**

This was a Quarterly Review online Board meeting.

- **CEO Report and Department Reports** – The Board continues to seek a better balance between providing detail that will help trustees to perform their roles, and providing succinct performance-related data that demonstrates progress towards the achievement of specific objectives.
- **Risk Management Report** – The report contained the key risks currently faced by the Trust including mitigation actions needed to manage those risks. The report summarised the risk register which is administered by the CEO and considered by the Governance Committee. Trustees questioned the role and progress of mitigation actions, and the Governance Committee will clarify for future Board meetings.
- **Council Report** – The Council Chair reported that most “teething problems” were being resolved although some differences of understanding about the communications aspect of the role remain, largely due to a wide range of different structures and practices in regions. There is likely to be a number of vacancies once the next tranche of elections falls due in April 2026 - consequently, all members had been encouraged to identify potential candidates. The Board agreed to hold a future informal discussion to clarify areas about the roles and effectiveness of CRs, and the relationship between the Board and Council as set out in the terms of reference and relevant protocols, including the quality of information flows.
- **TATTL Report** – Board members noted the resignation of Dr Clive Grace, TATTL Chair and to ensure continuity, they approved the appointment of Liz Page as Interim TATTL Chair, pending a future formal nomination and appointment process. Members also recognised that future recommendations for appointment should include background details of the individual and where possible, an appearance before the Board. The Board paid tribute to Dr Grace and the manner in which he has stewarded TATTL from its origins to a successful and profitable subsidiary of the Trust, as well as to his contributions to many areas of the Trust’s activities.  
Once the Interim Chair, the future VC, the Trust Chair and CEO have had an opportunity to formulate thinking about the future of TATL’s activities and processes, an informal discussion of trustees will be arranged to review any proposals for change.  
The Board also approved Tony Ridler, Chair of the Beacon/SW Committee, as an interim Director of the TATTL Board. The TATTL Board membership is formally reviewed annually in October.
- **Governance Committee Report** – The reports of recent meetings were received, and it was proposed that considering its role in supporting the effectiveness of charities, the Charity Governance Code should be considered at a future Governance Committee with a view to a recommendation to the Board.

- **Treasurer's Report and Q1 Report** – The report provided a review of all finance activities including updates on the current gift aid issue, recent investment, and progress against the Finance Committee annual plan. The Q1 report showed a Group surplus which is ahead of budget.
- **Nominations Committee and Vice-Chair Vacancy** – The Board noted reports from the Nominations Committee concerning the assessment of candidates and process for the VC vacancy. Even though the process had been refined to support the principle of a skills-based, Board, concerns had been raised during the voting process by a number of u3as. These included, that the ballot paper suggested a preferred candidate; the process placed an undue emphasis on the need for a female; that one candidate was unfairly promoted on the ballot form; and that the process had reduced the candidate field unnecessarily. These issues would be considered by the Nominations Committee at its next meeting and recommendations would be made to the Board before the next round of trustee elections.
- **Annual Report and Accounts, and Letter of Representation** – The Board approved the content of the report and accounts, and Letter of Representation subject to a small number of amendments.
- **Digital Service for u3as (DSU)** – Members noted the initial activity underway to identify the scope for future digital services for u3as. Budgetary and project approval will be required from the Board if the project develops beyond the proposed exploratory phase.
- **Trust Strategy Day** – Following the Strategy Day with Council representatives in July, trustees considered wording for a draft vision and mission for the Trust. The aim is to use the draft to discuss next steps with the Council and create a focus for activities to feature in the 2026/27 business plan.

The Board also considered a presentation from a Council Task and Finish Group that offered a number of constructive proposals for re-defining the Strategy Implementation Groups (SIGs). Whilst trustees acknowledged that the SIGs had not been as effective as hoped, there was doubt that re-creating them without a clear focus for their activities, would lead to more effective performance. Ideally, the new groups designed along the lines proposed, need to have the benefit of a clear focus from the forthcoming business plan. Each group can then focus specifically on the Trust's objectives that align with those of the Department leads.

In the meantime, it was proposed that a number of initiatives identified by the Task and Finish Group should be pursued by Council Representatives in conjunction with Department Heads as part of the department's current objectives.
- **Other Business** – Board members also received papers for information, on Resolution 500k, a recent satisfaction survey, a communication review and initial plans for the 2026/27 Business Plan.

**Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Board meetings. This is a brief summary of the main topics discussed and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact the CEO.**



**AW/10/9/25**