



Subject Update from the Chief Executive
Purpose For Note
From Chief Executive

If you have any enquiries on this paper, please contact Hugh Simpson at HughS@arb.org.uk on 020 7580 5861

1. Summary

To provide an update from the Chief Executive on the operational activities of the Executive team.

2. Open Session

Open session. Any confidential matters will be discussed in a separate report in the confidential session.

3. Contribution to the Board's Purpose and Objectives

This paper updates the Board on key operational developments including progress to delivery our business plan and key strategic priorities.

4. Update on Strategic Priorities

Reform of Initial Education and Training

- 4.1 On 7 October ARB published a discussion paper inviting feedback on our proposals to modernise the initial education and training of architects. In anticipation of the analysis of that feedback in January we are establishing the necessary governance to ensure the smooth running of the project in 2022 and beyond. Recruitment for an Education Policy Manager remains ongoing, but a project team has been formed and project management literature prepared.
- 4.2 We will be establishing a new Reference Group, which will contain both Board members and external expertise. This Group will have a dual purpose: to ensure ARB is continuing to receive input from a range of stakeholders as we develop our ambitious reforms to initial education and training; and to enable to the Board to be assured to the progress of the project. This substantial project will have a number of discrete but connected workstreams – from delivering the competencies required of an architect to creating a new system of accreditation.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme

- 4.3 The legal powers for ARB to monitor the CPD of architects are included within the Building Safety Bill which we expect to be passed by Parliament and receive Royal Assent in 2022.
- 4.4 We published our proposals for developing a monitoring scheme for CPD in August 2021 and sought feedback from stakeholders. That survey closed at the end of November and we will be analysing the results and discussing them at the Board workshop on 26 January 2022. A detailed project plan is being developed and we will continue further engagement with the sector throughout 2022 as we consult on a new framework and develop proposals to operationalise the new model. We are currently planning to begin roll-out of the new scheme in 2023.

Strategic transformation

- 4.5 We continue to undertake preparatory work for the strategic transformation programme of work across ARB.
- 4.6 Our business analyst is currently supporting detailed mapping work in the registration directorate, with an initial focus on international routes to registration.
- 4.7 We engaged an external consultancy to review our procurement policies and strategy so that when we do go to market for consultancy support, we are well placed to secure the right supplier, with the right capabilities and able to deliver value for money.
- 4.8 We have developed draft terms of reference for the new Board Transformation Assurance Group which we hope will meet in December. This group will include members of the project team and Professor Elena Marco and Dr Teri Okoro.

People Strategy: Staff development day

- 4.9 We held a successful all staff development day on 5 November. It provided an opportunity for many staff to meet face to face for the first time and allowed us to discuss the new corporate strategy 2022-25 and how we will deliver our ambitions plans for the 2022 business plan.
- 4.10 The Remuneration and Appointments Committee, at its November meeting, received an update on the roll-out of the new performance framework and progress to introduce a new grading and competencies framework for all job descriptions. We also provided a verbal update to the Committee on changes to the portfolios of the Senior Leadership Group.

EU Exit/International Routes

- 4.11 Updates regarding the consultation document and roundtable event that we held regarding the development of our new international routes can be found in the Communications update below.
- 4.12 Work in relation to the mutual recognition agreements (MRA)/memoranda of understanding (MOU) we are working on with our counterparts in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, the EU and Hong Kong is continuing to progress positively. Further to our update in October, we are taking forward our discussions with the Architects Registration Board Hong Kong/Hong Kong Institute of Architecture in relation to the development of an MOU which will cover our respective bachelors

and masters level qualifications and are in the process of finalising the timetable for the drafting and approval of the agreement.

5. Resource Implications

Resource requirements for the delivery of the strategic plan priorities were included as part of the Budget process for 2022.

6. Risk Implications

There are no additional or specific risks to report. Each of the major projects set out in the corporate strategy for 2022-26 will have a project risk register. These will feed into the strategic risk register agreed by Board and reporting through the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

7. Communication

There are not specific communications implications arising from this paper.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

None directly emerging as a result of updates in this paper.

9. Further Actions

These are referred to within the key points set out above.