

## 1 Open session

**Board meeting:** 7 December 2022

**Agenda item:** 11

**Subject:** Chief Executive's Report

**Action:** To Note

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### Purpose

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

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### Annexes

None

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### Author/Key Contact

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## **1. Open/Confidential Session**

This item will be noted in the open session of the Board meeting.

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## **2. Background and Key points**

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


### **Update on Strategic Priorities**

#### Modernisation of Initial Education and Training

- 2.1. We continue to make progress on our work to modernise the initial education and training of architects. The Board will be considering detailed draft proposals for consultation during its confidential session at this Board meeting. The proposals are being considered in confidential session to ensure stakeholders receive accurate and final versions of documents as part of a full public consultation to be launched in the New Year.
- 2.2. The public consultation will set out the full suite of information necessary for stakeholders to understand how we envisage the new model working including:
  - the new learning outcomes which describe the competencies required of architects at the point of registration;
  - new standards for learning providers; the new accreditation methodology;
  - the constitution of the new accreditation committee
- 2.3. These proposals have been informed by detailed research and extensive pre-consultation engagement including professional bodies and learning providers across the UK. We have also kept in regular contact with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

#### Continuing Professional Development

- 2.4. On 23 September we launched the CPD consultation which invites feedback on the CPD guidelines and scheme. The consultation is due to end 3 January 2023. We have received a very high number of responses so far, and many respondents have also registered an interest to participate in the pilot. A reminder email will go out to all registrants in the first week of December.
- 2.5. We held a webinar to explain our proposals and invite questions. which had 152 attendees. An RIBA representative accepted the invite to speak at the event,



indicating our organisation's intention to work together to avoid unnecessary duplication. In our feedback poll, 98% of attendees told us they found the event useful.

2.6. We are preparing to launch a pilot CPD scheme in 2023, for which we already have over 100 volunteers. The main objectives of the pilot will be to test our guidance and instructions of how CPD must be recorded, seek feedback on the utility of the scheme, and gain a better understanding of the time and cost of reviewing selected records.

2.7. As part of the transformation project we will be developing an online CPD portal, which we anticipate will be available for initial testing in Q4 of 2023.


### Continuous Improvement

2.8. We have commenced an audit of historic qualifications pass lists, provided by institutions, as part of our preparations for improving the way applicants for registration submit their evidence of qualifications. Over the years, we have moved from paper copies, through to a portal system. We are matching and identifying any variations in course title, duration or changes, in order to cleanse the data that will migrate to the new IT systems. This work will not only assist the IT transformation requirements, but will improve the user experience on application, as well as raising awareness with the institutions of the likely future ways we are intending to work

2.9. We have also commenced a review of the Register data format and completeness, in advance of identifying the programme and approach to clean, test and migrate the historic data set under the transformation programme. This work will help us decide what additional data, and how we map future data categories to historic data will be managed. This will be key to the way we use data intelligently, an example being the way we accurately reflect changes in best practice in categorisation of EDI characteristics, such as gender identity, sexuality or ethnicity, as well as identify data that we do not currently collect – but should.

### Development of International Agreements/Routes to Registration

2.10. Further to the Board's approval of the UK Adaptation Assessment Procedures in October 2022, we are now continuing to develop the Adaptation Assessment process. We reported in October that we would be piloting the process in late Autumn, however this will now take place in early 2023. We are still on track, however, to deliver the new international routes once the final legislative changes, which will enable us to enter and sign Mutual Recognition Agreements, have been passed by Parliament.



2.11. Work in relation to the MRAs/memoranda of understanding (MOUs) we are developing with our counterparts in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, and Hong Kong is continuing to progress and we should be in a position to operationalise the first MRAs in tandem with the opening of the new international route next year.

### Strategic Transformation

2.12. The CRM project business case, essentially the requirements for our new application system agreed between ARB and our ITPP, was agreed earlier this month. Our ITPP is managing the procurement of a CRM delivery partner through an agreed sub-contract tendering process.

2.13. The project is swiftly progressing through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process with potential delivery partners, this on track for contract award completion 07/12/22. Prior to contract award there is a session scheduled for ARB to take part in an assurance meet and greet workshop whereby shortlisted s will be providing an opportunity to present to ARB.

2.14. This will ensure ARB have the opportunity to raise any questions or queries directly to the delivery partners prior to a final evaluation decision. It will also allow potential providers to assure themselves about the content of our business case as well as any outstanding issues.

2.15. Following contract award a kick off meeting will be held with immediate effect, to ensure all parties. We are also trying to schedule a meeting of the Transformation Assurance Group as a matter of urgency.

### Investing in our people

2.16. We continue to make progress in implementing key plans for our People Strategy. As set out in the minutes of the Remuneration and Appointments Committee (which appear later on this agenda) progress has been made in implementing the new Performance Management process including a new appraisal system.

2.17. SLG will be moderating ratings and recommendations shortly but early indications are that the new model is working well. This new model is being supported by externally delivered training for managers to support our goal of improving management capability.

2.18. Data on turnover continues to show a very positive trend.

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### **3. Resource Implications**

There are no specific resource implications arising from this paper which are not dealt with elsewhere.

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### **4. 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.

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### **5. Equality and Diversity implication**

There are no specific EDI implications specifically arising from this paper although a number of the policy updates include work to improve the way in which we address EDI as both a regulator and employer.

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### **6. Recommendations**

The Board is asked to note this paper

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