

Board Paper

for Open session

Subject: **Chief Executive's Report**

To note a report from the ARB's Chief Executive on matters relating to the running of the Board's business

Board meeting:

6 September 2023

Agenda item:

12

Action:

- For noting
- For discussion
- For decision

Purpose

To provide an update from the Chief Executive on matters relating to the Board's business.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note this paper

Annexes

None.

Author/Key Contact

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1. Open Session

- 1.1. This item will be noted in the open session of the Board meeting.
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2. Background and Key points

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

Update on Strategic Priorities

Modernisation of Initial Education and Training

- 2.2. We have concluded the recruitment process for the new Accreditation Committee, as well as the pool of Visitors who will carry out reviews of the standards for providers, and ongoing monitoring of existing qualifications. The Visit teams will also work with the Executive to assess new qualifications, and make recommendations to the Accreditation Committee. We are completing the due diligence process for appointments, and will be issuing contracts. An induction programme, including in person elements, will be delivered in the last quarter of 2023.
- 2.3. We envisage the Accreditation Committee will have its first meeting in late October, subject to Board approval.
- 2.4. Key updates and recommendations relating to the modernisation of initial education and training are included elsewhere in the Board's agenda.

Continuing Professional Development

- 2.5. The pilot scheme will be completed in the autumn, and we have appointed a small number of assessors to review the completed documents and provide us with important intelligence on compliance, time taken to review, and issues we will need to consider before finalising the scheme.
- 2.6. We have also met with the RIBA as we continue to work towards ensuring that our respective schemes are compatible. This will be to avoid RIBA members having to complete duplicate CPD returns, which was an important principle of our CPD design. Further meetings are planned.
- 2.7. The CPD elements of the IT system have been designed and tested, and are ready for launch when the system goes live. Architects will be able to submit evidence of CPD activities and their reflective statements through 2024, in anticipation of our first cycle of reviews. We will be able to gauge uptake and the types of materials that are being submitted as the year progresses, to assist with planning for when the Registration team manage the operational review cycle.

Development of International Routes/Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAS)

- 2.8. Our new international Mutual Recognition Route to Registration is now fully operational. Our first UK Adaptation Assessments for those seeking registration in the UK have been undertaken. We will now look to embed the route, taking on board feedback from each element of the registration process involved in this route. We will use the feedback we gather to make improvements to the UK Adaptation Assessment and prepare for the review of the Assessment process after its first six months of operation.
- 2.9. We are in the early stages of undertaking 'due diligence' reviews in relation to a small number of new potential MRAs, which will build on the initial discussions that we have held with our counterparts in South Africa, Canada and India. Our discussions with our Hong Kong counterparts are also moving forward.
- 2.10. We have concluded two UK Adaptation Assessments for those using the USA MRA. Both applicants passed, and the time from completion of the Assessment to being added to the Register was two working days. We have a further twelve assessments booked until November 2023, with nine of those being USA MRA, and the remainder from Australia.
- 2.11. We have received 62 applications from UK architects for certification of their qualifications in order to join the US register. Of these 45 have been issued, 5 are work in progress and 12 were ineligible or withdrawn.
- 2.12. We have received 108 applications for certificates from UK architects wishing to move to Australia. Of these 99 have been issued, 3 are work in progress, and 6 were ineligible or withdrawn.
- 2.13. Finally, we received 19 applications for certificates from UK architects planning to move to New Zealand. Of these 17 have been issued, 1 is work in progress, and 1 was ineligible under the MRA.

Strategic Transformation

- 2.14. We are at a major milestone in the development of the IT system to replace the current Register. We have formally exit user acceptance testing (UAT) and move to migrating of data to the production environment. There have been some delays to this testing, but we are still on track to go live as planned, in a series of stages throughout September, in time for the annual retention fee collection, once the Board has considered and decided on the 2024 fee.

People Strategy

- 2.15. An updated is scheduled to be presented to the People Committee at the end of August and a verbal update will be given to the Board alongside this paper.
- 2.16. We have sent invitations to a number of agencies and individuals who we hope will be able to help us carry out an EDI audit of ARB which will inform our work for the end of 2023 and into 2024.

2.17. In addition, we will be discussing with the People Committee plans to support diversity by looking at our policies in relation to Bank Holidays and how we can support those who, for example, celebrate other days or religious festivals.

2.18. We will also be discussing with the Committee plans to refresh the People Strategy and in particular how we can ensure ARB is seen as an excellent employer which promotes diversity and inclusion.

Update on Board's Workshop Meeting held on 5 September 2023

2.19. A verbal update will be provided in relation to the workshop on 5 September so that any actions are recorded in the minutes.

Update on Board and Committee Effectiveness Review

2.20. Preparations for the externally facilitated Board and Committee Effectiveness Review are well underway. The Governance Team has provided the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), who are conducting the review, with a series of documents so that the NCVO review team can begin its background research and better understand the roles and responsibilities of the Board and its committees, as well as how they are currently operating.

2.21. The review team will be observing the full Board meeting in October, as well as some upcoming committee meetings; they will also wish to meet with Board members as part of the review. Discussions with the Chair, Chief Executive and Registrar, and the Governance Team will have taken place by the time the Board meets in order to agree a timetable for the review; this will be circulated to all Board and Committee members.

3. Resource Implications

3.1. There are no specific resource implications arising from the Chief Executive's report.

4. Risk Implications

4.1. Key risks relating to strategic priorities are captured in the Risk Register and highlighted in separate update papers.

5. Equality and Diversity implications

- 5.1. There are no specific EDI implications arising out of this paper, however a number of key strategic priorities are either directly or indirectly designed to support and promote EDI. The People Strategy update also references the Executive's work in this area.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. The Board is asked to note this paper.