



Subject	Chair's Report		
Status	Open Session		
Purpose	For Note		
From	Chair		
History	Parent Committee	First Submitted	Revision Number
	N/A		N/A

1. ARB/RIBA Meeting

On 20 January, Andrew Mortimer, Karen Holmes and I met with Jane Duncan (President) and Adrian Dobson (Executive Director of Membership) from RIBA.

We discussed matters of mutual interest, including the review of the Code of Conduct, the revised Qualifications Directive and the RIBA's on-going membership category review. The intention is to meet again within the next three months.

2. Presentation at the Bartlett School of Architecture

On 20 January, Karen and I presented to students at the Bartlett School of Architecture. Our presentation focused on our role as a regulator. Jane Duncan (President of the RIBA) also presented on the RIBA's role. After the formal presentations we answered questions from the audience.

3. Architects Elections and Appointed Members Recruitment

On the 19 November we held an information session for architects considering standing for election. The purpose of the evening was to provide an insight into the work of the organisation. In addition to those who attended the session, I spoke to several individuals on the phone, who wished to explore the role further.

We have undertaken recent relationship building work to connect with groups, which have been traditionally underrepresented in the construction sector, including women and LGBT networks. These organisations have shared information about the election with their members. Our intention is that these important stakeholders will help us reach out to their audiences, with a view to widening participation in the election (both in terms of encouraging candidates to stand and architects to vote.) The relationships we have developed are important to us, both during the election process and beyond, as our commitment to equality and diversity remains central to our organisational and personal values.

On the 14 January we held another information evening for those interested in the lay Board member vacancies. The recruitment campaign was advertised by the DCLG on the Cabinet

Office website, and promoted via the Board's website and social media channels. Once again, a number of our stakeholders, promoted the recruitment exercise through their networks and social media channels. The session was extremely popular with eighteen individuals attending.

On Monday 24 January I participated as a member of the DCLG's three member strong shortlisting panel for the recruitment of ARB lay members. I will also take part, as a member of the panel, when the interviews take place on the 1 February.

4. Board Member Appraisals

Chair's Feedback Report

Background

Given that three Board members would be leaving the Board in Spring 2016 due to the completion of their tenures, it was agreed that they would be offered the opportunity of an exit discussion with the Chair in early 2016 rather than undertaking an annual appraisal in late 2015. The appraisals for all remaining Board members were all undertaken by the close of 2015.

Given that I will also be leaving the Board in July 2016, I was not appraised at the end of 2015 as would typically be the case. I will be participating in an exit discussion with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) nearer the time of my departure from the Board.

Overall Board Performance

The Board has continued to operate efficiently and collectively during 2015, with newer Board members becoming more established in their roles. This has led to the Board's core functions being delivered effectively against a background of the on-going government Periodic Review.

General

Board members have continued to comment on the high quality work carried out by the staff team and their commitment to the organisation, particularly during a challenging period of potential change and uncertainty. Board members again confirmed that they felt well supported and informed by the staff team throughout the year.

Suggestions for improvement and action points

Conflicts of Interest

This was raised last year and remains a live topic. The Board undertook some work during the year to clarify its position regarding the declaration of interests and dealing with conflicts of interest/perceived conflicts of interest; we will, however, continue to work on this during 2016 so that we can develop further, concise advice and guidance in relation to this area.

This will be particularly useful given that a number of new Board members will be joining us during the year.

Induction Programme for New/Returning Board Members

The majority of Board members have provided feedback and constructive suggestions about the development of the induction programme for new/returning Board members once the architects election has been completed and appointed member vacancies have been filled. We also focused on this as part of our recent Development Day. We will be working to ensure that we develop a comprehensive induction programme to fully support new/returning Board members, briefing them about the roles they will undertake, as well as their responsibilities, during their time on the Board and about ARB's work. Specific sessions will additionally be run about ARB's role as we are committed to ensuring that Board members are up to speed and ready to contribute as quickly as possible.

The induction programme will also need to help the Board plan strategically to manage two other changes ahead as a further three appointed Board members will leave in March 2017 and the Board will need to elect a new Chair in July 2016.

Additional Briefing Sessions and Additional Discussions

Board members have again suggested that the Board would benefit collectively from additional briefing sessions and discussions, particularly in light of several large-scale projects which are due to commence during 2016, e.g., the review of the UK routes to registration; the review of the disciplinary process etc. We are currently planning a programme of post-board meeting opportunities to facilitate in order to enable Board members to develop their knowledge and understanding of these key areas.

Conclusions

The Board is moving forward in terms of its cohesion and has developed a more confident approach to dealing with difficult and complex issues. As ever, I have found the support of individual Board members and the Staff team to be of immense help during 2015. I am confident that the Board is well placed to deal with the outcome of the Period Review, the arrival of the new Board members and the challenges that lie ahead.