

Open session

Board meeting: 20 July 2022
Agenda item: 11
Subject: Chief Executive's Report
Action: To Note

Purpose

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

Annexes

None

Author/Key Contact

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1. Open/Confidential Session

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

2. Background and Key points

This paper updates the Board on key operational developments including progress to delivery our key strategic priorities. Updates on a new pay and performance framework as well as CPD are included elsewhere in the Board's agenda.

Update on Strategic Priorities

Modernisation of Initial Education and Training

- 2.1. Work on modernising the initial education and training is being progressed under three workstreams.

Competence outcomes

- 2.2. Work continues to develop a new set of competences and outcomes required by an individual at the end of their initial education and training to gain access to the Register.
- 2.3. The outcomes are currently being drafted with the assistance of technical author. Stakeholder meetings are being held with subject matter experts (sustainability, ethics, health & safety, business practice) to ensure that initial drafts are sufficiently developed to share with wider stakeholders.
- 2.4. We will continue with the iterative process of feedback and redrafting before bringing to the Board in September for discussion, and issuing for formal consultation in the New Year.

Standards for Institutions

- 2.5. We are drafting a new set of Standards for Institutions that must be met in order for the Board to have confidence that a qualification can be prescribed.
- 2.6. Initial drafting is being carried out internally and in conjunction with the Accreditation team, and meetings continue to be held with Heads of Schools, educators, other regulators and SCOSA.
- 2.7. The Prescription Committee will be updated in detail at its August meeting, and the Board will be able to discuss further in September.



Structure of Education and Training/routes to registration


- 2.8. While decisions on the structure of delivering qualifications and training must logically follow the Competence Outcomes, we continue to engage with the sector to discuss the big challenges that we must consider: accessibility to the profession, the quality of practical experience, funding and quality assurance.
- 2.9. An online event was held in June at which two of these topics: how and when ARB should accredit qualifications, and the issues with practical experience were discussed. This followed ARB attending a RIBA event on similar themes.
- 2.10. The information gathered at these events will feed into policy proposals to be discussed at a Symposium in early September, and the Board workshop session two weeks later.

Professional indemnity insurance

- 2.11. Our intelligence suggests that there has been little or no softening of the professional indemnity insurance market, meaning that trading conditions for professions across the built environment remain difficult, and subject to significant uninsurable risks.
- 2.12. Our consultation on the draft PII guidelines closed in early July, with more than 350 responses, including from representatives of insurance underwriters. We will analyse these responses over summer and report back to the Board in autumn.

EU Exit/International Routes

- 2.13. Since the last Board meeting we have been focussing our attention on the development of the UK Adaptation Assessment process, which form part of the new international routes to registration. The draft procedures are on the Board's agenda for consideration before they are issued for consultation.
- 2.14. As we understand it the supplementary legislation that needs to be passed before our powers to sign mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) are switched on is being progressed. Work in relation to the MRAs/memoranda of understanding (MOU) we are developing with our counterparts in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, the EU and Hong Kong is continuing to progress smoothly. Most notably, the ARB/NCARB agreement has now passed through the NCARB's governance processes. Whilst the additional legislation is needed before ARB can enter the agreement, this is an important and positive milestone.



Strategic Transformation

- 2.15. The discovery phase continues to move at pace with various parts of the business processes being mapped at a high level and the building of wireframe designs have commenced in relation to the CRM functionality. We are still in an early phase of the programme but work is progressing slightly ahead of schedule in advance of our market testing for a new CRM system. We are keen to make urgent progress to enable us to better estimate costs prior to the decision of fees for 2023.
- 2.16. The transfer of the IT service desk, from our current provider, is scheduled to go live late July/early August. This will be a significant milestone and will help us move to the role out of end user computing (EUC) and Web Access Firewall (WAF) in the coming months.
- 2.17. As part of the discovery work, a risk was identified in relation to the capacity of our Virtual Desktop servers as we grow as an organisation as well as a risk if one of the servers fails. Prior to any remedial work to reduce the risk, we are exploring with our ITPP (IT principal partner) to see if we can bring forward the EUC rollout. This is a complicated process due to the number of legacy applications that may not work within the new EUC environment and so we will know by the end of July if this early rollout is possible.
- 2.18. The WAF project has been scoped and is now undergoing internal review and challenge by our Head of IT. The work is scheduled for August and subject to internal signoff as a viable solution.

Investing in our people

- 2.19. Detailed proposals in relation to a new and updated pay, reward and performance framework features elsewhere in the Board agenda.
- 2.20. Further progress has been made with the completion of a new values and behaviour framework for ARB. This has been co-created by staff over a period of months, culminating at an all staff away day at the end of May. A process has begun to embed them in our ever day working lives and ensure staff performance management considers behaviours as well as technical delivery.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1. There are no specific resource implications arising from this paper. The budget sets out how we are financing the delivery of the Business Plan 2022.

4. Risk implications

4.1. 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.

5. Communication

There are no specific communications issues arising from this paper.

6. Equality and Diversity implication

There are no EDI implications specifically arising from this paper.

7. Recommendations

The Board is asked to note this paper
