

Council Courier

12 December 2024

This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions taken at Council.

Obituary

Recently deceased members were remembered. A minute's silence was held.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion moment

Calum Duncan (Scotland South) shared a short film about a project for inclusive beaches and the potential for wider application of the principles underpinning it (real accessibility for all, including the most disadvantaged groups).

Minutes of 27 June and 26 September 2024

Agreed as a correct record.

President's report

The President's diary report was noted, in particular

- Stirling Prize ceremony at the Roundhouse
- Black History Month events around the country
- COP 29 in Baku
- UIA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur
- Five Presidents meeting
- Visit to the Leeds Society of Architects
- TV and radio interviews for BBC, ITV and CNN

The President welcomed the UK government's employment rights bill.

Chair of Board's report

The report was noted.

CEO Report

The report was noted.

Governance Review

Jamie Hunt, Director of Governance and Legal Affairs, gave an update on the work underpinning the governance review.

Membership: Fellows Category

The reintroduction of the Fellows membership category in 2025 was noted.

Nations and Regions Council Committee update

VP Membership Tom Foggin outlined the application of local initiative funding (LIF) during the course of 2024. There had been a 10% uplift in the funding for 2025.

The timing for making applications for 2025 was outlined. Deadlines for international applications were still to be confirmed.

Tom Foggin suggested a special edition of RIBA Journal to publicise LIF-funded projects.

Expert Advisory Group reports Climate emergency:

The President had attended COP29 and had met the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband. A written report to Council outlined the key outcomes from COP on the built environment as well as RIBA members' contributions to a

number of discussions and events which had taken place.

The UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard was now live. Information on 'pilot' buildings was needed. It was hoped to produce a building case study for summer 2025 to show 'what good looks like'.

Defra had established a circular economy plan for England and Wales.

The Climate Emergency EAG would next meet in January.

Housing and Planning

The group had recently met with Phoebe MacDonald (RIBA's Head of Policy). A written update would be issued after the meeting.

A skills analysis of the existing panel was being undertaken, looking at refining the scope of the group. More external experts would be recruited. Representatives of Housing Associations and planning would have designated workstreams.

Comments: It was agreed that speed was of the essence and RIBA must champion design quality. The wastefulness of housing projects needed to end. Katie Fisher drew attention to the group Architects' Action for Affordable Housing, which was supported by a large number of practices and had produced its own manifesto with five priorities.

<https://5affordablehousingpriorities.co.uk/>

Finding and Accessing Architecture

The written report was noted.

AI, Generative Design and Data

EAG co-lead Phil Allsopp gave an update on the detailed report which

would now be presented to Council in March 2025.

Joan McCoy (RSUA) requested it include examples of practical technologies that could be employed right away to streamline ways of working.

Discussion: Workplace and wellbeing

Both the ARB and RIBA had conducted surveys into workplace behaviour. The ARB's survey was already public while RIBA's was yet to be published.

ARB's Chief Executive and Head of Policy made a joint presentation, followed by RIBA's Head of Research and Economic Analysis. There was then a discussion about the findings of the two surveys and how RIBA could help the profession improve the workplace.

Following the discussion, Council agreed to the setting up of a task force convened by the President to drive change in partnership with RIBA members and chartered practices. This would seek to understand causes and to develop a supportive mechanism enabling practices and architecture offices to be a force for good.

Committee minutes received for noting:

Audit & Risk
Nations & Regions Council
Education & Learning
Membership
Practice & Policy
Standards
Culture, Knowledge & Outreach

A report on Principal Designer registration fees was also noted.

End