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## Council Courier

**24.02.2022**

*This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions most recently taken at Council. Action notes and official minutes will be produced in due course.*

### **Introduction**

The President welcomed Council to its first meeting of 2022 which would be structured in two parts: a closed session for confidential and governance items, and an open session including attendance by the press.

### **Obituary**

Recently deceased members were remembered. Particular mention was made of Richard Rogers, Chris Wilkinson and Max Fordham Hon FRIBA. The more recent death of former RIBA Chief Executive Richard Hastilow CBE, was also reported with sadness. Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin and a minute's silence was held.

### **Declarations of interest**

There were no new declarations.

### **Minutes of previous meeting, 9 December 2021**

Agreed as a correct record.

### **President's report**

66 Portland Place refurbishment: seven practices had been selected for the next stage of the tender. There would be a strategic plan for the House of Architecture.

Nations and Regions feedback had been received on the new organisational structure.

### **Member Hub**

Avril Chester (Chief Technology Officer) and James Troy (Training and Adoption Specialist) gave a short presentation on the progress of the online member hub, which was about to be launched in a limited way with an initial focus on specific geographic areas and topics, with a view to expanding over time.

It was noted that whilst the groups being formed on the hub would not have a constitutional role, they would offer real insight into the interests and concerns of the membership.

Another update on the hub would be given to Council at its next meeting in April.

### **Finding and Accessing Architecture task and finish group**

An update from lead member Femi Oresanya was noted. The aim was to bring a number of RIBA initiatives together into a new pilot scheme to co-ordinate with the start of a new academic year. Proposals for resourcing would need to be considered by the RIBA Board.

### **Climate Emergency task and finish group**

Smith Mordak and Duncan Baker-Brown gave an update on the group which was just starting. Council members were invited to get in touch if they were interested in joining. There were a number of existing resources available to feed into the group's work.

The group would also be making recommendations about partnering with other organisations which would need to be considered by Board in due course. Retrofit, for example, was a huge question and needed the best designers involved. The group would also draw ideas from those active on the new Member Hub.

**Professional Indemnity Insurance Task and Finish Group** – this group now had a new channel on the Member Hub. A written report was due to be made to the next meeting of Council.

**Regulation of the Architect Task and Finish group** –The working group had met earlier in the week. A report from the group would be made at the next Council meeting.

**Proposals for formation of other task and finish groups**

Immediate Past President Alan Jones outlined two groups focused on research and delivery which had been themes in the 2034 Masterplan, and canvassed for interest from Council members. He would help to run the groups until his term on Council ended in August. Council members should contact Alan Jones if interested.

Concerning other groups which might be formed, there was a short discussion and ideas put forward would be pursued at the next meeting.

**Board report**

Chair of the Board Jack Pringle outlined the Board's main priorities:

- Balancing the budget
- Property consolidation
- Refurbishment of 66PP
- Organisation design review (ODR)

Feedback from regional chairs on the impact of restructure proposals had been noted.

**Nations and Regions Council Committee (N&RCC)**

VP Membership Tom Foggin gave a report on the recent meeting of the NRCC. Council agreed:

a) For the chairs of the current and planned Council task and finish groups to attend N&RCC committee meetings in rotation and to establish ongoing communication channels with N&RCC to enable task and finish groups to (i) access member insight from the wider branch network, via N&RCC and (ii) to share relevant information and obtain member support through the branch network, via N&RCC. The topics about which Council was setting up task and finish groups closely mirror the topics which N&RCC members highlighted as priorities within their own branch and regional networks.

b) For the N&RCC to consult with RIBA membership within the RIBA branches/chapters and regions to obtain insight on the topics of (i) membership engagement (current and pipeline) and (ii) branch/regional engagement strategy to inform future RIBA strategy and to report back to Council on these topics, which are not covered by a current or planned task and finish group.

**Reports for noting:**

- Finance report
- Chief Executive's report
- Board report
- Board courier
- President's diary
- Standards draft annual report 2021

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**Minutes for noting:**

- Nominations Committee
- Standards Committee
- Nations & Regions Council  
Committee
- Board-Council Working Group

SW 28.2.2022

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