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## Council Courier

25.03.2021

*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.*

### **President's introduction**

President Alan Jones drew Council's attention to changes in the format of the meeting, designed to allow greater time for discussion on key topics. The new Director of Inclusion, Marsha Ramroop, was introduced to the Council. Marsha would give a report on her work at the June Council meeting.

### **Obituary**

Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin.

### **Declarations of interest**

There were no new declarations.

### **Minutes of previous meetings, 26 November and 9 December 2020**

Agreed as a correct record.

### **ARB Presentation**

The President introduced Alan Kershaw (Chair of ARB) and ARB's Chief Executive Hugh Simpson – thanking them for accepting the invitation to speak at Council, and explaining that Board members were in attendance too. Alan Kershaw gave a presentation highlighting how the role of a regulator is a partnership with the profession and centres of excellence / education / research. After a number of questions from Council members, the ARB representatives undertook to respond to any others outside the meeting. It was also suggested that the standards committees of the ARB and the RIBA should liaise. President Alan Jones thanked the speakers.

### **#FutureArchitects**

Council members Victoria Adegoke, Maryam Al-Irhayim and Lewis North made a presentation on issues concerning student, associate and affiliate members' engagement and the future of the

profession. A number of recommendations were made including greater attention to working practices, a review of the relevance of RIBA membership categories, ways of raising professional standards for those seeking to join the profession, greater flexibility on career pathways and greater engagement with student and associate elected representatives.

A discussion ensued and a snap survey conducted to gauge Council member views. It was agreed that the proposals outlined should be referred to the RIBA Board.

### **RIBA Fee Calculator**

Steven Cross, RIBA's Director of Knowledge Partnerships, demonstrated an online tool to help architects generate a resource-based fee calculation for their clients and projects. Users enter their practice details, including company overheads and staff salaries, and then have the ability to create fee calculations aligned to the stages of the RIBA Plan of Work.

For architects, the RIBA Fee Calculator will highlight the real business cost of delivering services to their clients, and allow them to apply the appropriate project mark-up and profit, based on the nature, scope and complexity of the project and the business and commercial requirements of their practice. It will be piloted with a selected number of RIBA Chartered Practices in early April.

Council member comments on the Fee Calculator were noted.

Throughout 2021, the RIBA Fee Calculator will be exclusively available and free of charge to RIBA Chartered Practices. This should give practices a chance to use the tool and determine its value before it

becomes a subscription-based service, discounted to RIBA Chartered Practices, in 2022.

### **Committee Structure Review**

Council

1. noted the status of the committee structure review, themes in feedback received to date and proposed next steps.
2. noted the key governance principles used to advise the decision-making process.
3. agreed the proposed design as work in progress, subject to comments made by Council members at the meeting, and with the understanding that more detail would be provided.
4. agreed to note the timeline already agreed, with an adjustment for the Council to meet again on 29 April to discuss in more detail the proposed committee structure.

Council members comments were noted

### **Future strategy**

#### **President's Fact-Finding Mission (PFFM)**

##### **The Road to 2034 – final report**

The President introduced the final report. Council approved the report, its recommendations and resolved that the RIBA Board should note and adopt the content of the PFFM.

### **Long-term goals and short-term plans**

Following the PFFM the President introduced a “long term goals and short-term plans” approach for RIBA strategy, moving away from a 5+5+5 year strategy, to longer term values “held” by Council and shorter term strategic and operational plans. This would involve a process of rolling review – altogether enhancing relevance and flexibility. Council agreed to recommend to RIBA Board that a “long-term goals and short-term plans” approach be adopted for the period leading to 2034 with an initial 2022-2024 plan being brought to the additional April 2021 Council meeting.

The phrase “to stop zig zagging the supertanker” was appreciated.

### **President-elect priorities**

Simon Allford outlined proposed priorities for his presidential term commencing 1

September 2021 and requested feedback by email from Council members on the following:

- Communications with the profession, public and government
  - Property - review our property footprint nationally
  - Technological Platform – develop this as a key membership support and engagement platform
- President-Elect's Priorities - item 9.3
- Establish The House of Architecture as the home of Discourse and Debate – The RIBA as Institute of Ideas
  - Education - Encourage and support shorter more affordable courses to help craft a more diverse and representative profession
  - Practice - support and develop knowledge and competency.
  - Membership Services - develop the more extensive provision of essential membership services to help practices function successfully - including PII
  - Membership Body – support those currently eligible and open up membership beyond Part 1,2 and 3 to the wider world of friends of the RIBA
  - Membership Knowledge / Data - gather to promote knowledge and value of design
  - International Membership - Create a physical and digital platform that supports, services and engages our local and global membership clusters - with a focus on sharing knowledge and best practice
  - Public Affairs - Engage with Government to create better informed built environment policy and regulation
  - ARB – pursue Regulation of Function

### **Standards Committee Review – next steps**

Summary of Recommendations concerning the RIBA's recently created Standards Committee:

Council agreed the following:

I. Amendments to the Codes (of Professional Conduct and Practice) and/or the Rules (Disciplinary Procedures) or Declarations recommended by the Standards Committee should be subject to

final approval by RIBA Council. The Review Group proposes that this is achieved through a two-step process involving consultation with Council and, later, a change to the Byelaws

II. A new Regulation should be introduced such that when proposing changes to the professional competency or CPD requirements (the CPD compliance policy) for maintaining chartered membership, the Standards Committee must consult with RIBA Council before enacting any such changes, as well as with any other stakeholders as may be required under the Regulations.

III. In relation to the following activities/powers:

- Oversight of member admissions administration
- Setting of Chartered Practice accreditation criteria and oversight of procedures for suspension or removal for non-compliance
- Setting of accreditation criteria for Specialist Practitioners and oversight of procedures for suspension or removal for non-compliance
- Oversight of the RIBA's dispute resolution services and procedures for the appointment, suspension or removals from the panels of arbitrators, adjudicators and mediators

These activities clearly fall within the remit of the RIBA Board under the new constitution and should therefore be considered within the wider committee review project being undertaken by Board, for clarity and the avoidance of duplication. The Group recommends that the Board's proposals should be discussed with Council and consensus reached on any future delegations under a new structure.

IV. In undertaking the forthcoming review of the Codes of Professional Conduct and Practice and Disciplinary Procedures (Rules), the Standards Committee should pay particular attention to ensuring equity and inclusion in the both the Codes and the Disciplinary Procedures, and the issues of equality of arms and safeguarding for

vulnerable architects. The review must take expert advice on these matters.

V. The review of the Codes of Professional Conduct and Practice should give full consideration to the effectiveness of the Codes in safeguarding and protecting the well-being of students and architectural assistants.

VI. The Standards Committee should instigate an immediate review of the Professional Conduct Panel and the procedures for the selection and appointment of Panel members, to ensure that best practice is embedded and demonstrated in terms of inclusion and diversity and is manifest in the membership of the Panel.

VII. The Honorary Secretary and the Director of Inclusion and Diversity should be invited to make recommendations to Nominations Committee on the process and criteria for the recruitment of members to the Standards Committee, ahead of the expiry of the current one-year term, in order to increase the range of expertise within the Standards Committee and to encourage a diverse and inclusive set of applicants.

### **RIBA Procedures for Validation**

RIBA Council approved the new RIBA Procedures for Validation of schools of architecture, subject to any minor alterations and additions that may be required prior to implementation.

### **Board appointments process**

Council agreed principles for recruitment to the two remaining seats on the RIBA Board of trustees.

### **Committee appointments**

Council voted to make the following appointments:

**Audit Committee:** Mark Jarvis and Noeline Sanders (independents), Mark Benzie (Council member) and Valeria Passetti (trustee)

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**Remuneration Committee:** Harry Hayer and Catherine Ward (independents) and Jo Bacon and Marjorie Strachan (trustees).

**Standards Committee:** Tim Clark and Ian Standen (Council members) (to 31 August 2021)

**The following reports were noted:**

President's report  
Chief Executive's report  
Board report  
Regulation of function update  
Professional standards  
Membership report  
RIBA-ARB liaison meeting notes, 4 January 2021 and 20 February 2021

**Reply slot for questions on Council papers**

It was noted that five questions raised in advance had received written responses which had been published in the Council papers. Nothing further was raised under this section.