

8 March 2023

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Council

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Paper by Mr Ian MacGillivray, Chair of Council. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting please contact Mr Ian MacGillivray by email ian.macgillivray@ietvolunteer.org)

1. Issue

To provide a report to Council on the report to be made to the Annual General Meeting on 15 June 2023.

2. Timing

Council meeting, 16 March 2023.

3. For Recommendation

Council is invited to approve this report.

4. Background

4.1. Bye-law 53 states that the Annual General Meeting of the IET shall include “an annual report from Council”.

4.2. In 2023 the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 15 June 2023.

5. Draft Report

A draft report from Council for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 15 June 2023 is attached as an Appendix.

6. Risk

No risk issues have been identified in connection with this paper.

7. Resources

No resource issues have been identified in connection with this paper.

**Draft Report from Council for the Annual General Meeting
to be held on Thursday, 15 June 2023**

In line with Council's right and responsibility to tender advice to the Board of Trustees concerning the Institution's direction and strategy (as well as the conduct of affairs more broadly), it began in 2022 receiving a report on revised IET Strategy 2030 documents. Subsequent dialogue among Council members resulted in an advisory paper to the Board or Trustees later in the year. This endorsed the identification of appropriate key audiences relating to the institution's charitable and professional objectives and strategic themes to support these, along with identifying contemporary societal challenges to help focus activity. It did however highlight some uncertainty about the structure and intended audience of the strategy document itself, and about setting credible levels of ambition and articulating associated progress, also recommending a greater level of member engagement.

Two other advisory papers were submitted to the Board of Trustees in 2022. In January Council conducted a World Cafe session in support of Sir Julian Young's presidential theme of shining a *Spotlight on Technicians*, resulting in recommendations about raising the profile of technicians as vital members of the engineering profession and of the value to them of the IET. In its March, hybrid meeting – for which some members could attend in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic – a World Cafe session was held on two members-oriented topics: the perceived value proposition of the Institution; and the effectiveness of member communication channels. Recommendations covered a range of areas including: prioritising information to be shared with members; considering the 4% response rate from member surveys; multiple website languages in support of internationalisation and CPD support.

With easing of international travel restrictions, a larger number of Council members travelled to Savoy Place in June. At the Council meeting proposed amendments to the Royal Charter and Bye-laws were discussed – these being put to members today in a SGM – along with related topics, particularly associated with professional conduct such as ethical principles, CPD and disciplinary procedures. A short time after this final formal meeting of the 2021/22 Session Council and Board of Trustees members combined for the annual Strategy Input Meeting. After hearing general updates, the positioning of some of the IET's knowledge services and the opportunities presented by digitalisation of professional registration were considered.

An informal virtual meeting in July allowed Council members to reflect on the 2021/22 Session and discuss ideas for the future. After the start of the 2022/23 session, with approximately 1/3 of Council members changing, Council considered the formal responses from the Board of Trustees to its papers on IET Strategy 2030 and on key member matters, and listened to the priorities of the Institution's new President. At a virtual meeting in November it decided to establish Working Parties for 2023 to support all three of Professor Bob Cryan's priorities and to work with IET staff to determine how Council can most constructively provide input on the IET's direction and strategy.

The composition of Council and the supporting election and appointment processes facilitate a blend of democratically elected membership representation and balance of experience and skills. Membership is inclusive, diverse and international, and one third of members sit on each of the IET's three Main Boards. In addition to providing valuable input to these Boards, this arrangement allows Council as a whole to consider matters on a cross-Board basis. Whilst members of Council are volunteers, giving their time freely, all

commend and encourage participation to others. Being involved in this way provides a valuable contribution to the governance of our Institution and insights about how it delivers its charitable objectives and secures its future. The opportunity to engage and work with a wide range of IET staff is highly valued, as are the general networking opportunities afforded by getting involved. Special thanks go to the members of the IET Secretariat who provide friendly and helpful support to the progression of Council business under the IET's One Team ethos.

Some of the work of Council has to be confidential because of the implications for people or markets that the IET is involved with, but in many cases papers for and minutes of Council meetings over the past three years are available online. And in addition to this annual report, Council updates are also provided to the *Member News* publication.

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