

6 March 2020

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Council

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Paper by Dr Peter Ward, Chair of Council. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting please contact Dr Peter Ward by email peter.ward@ietvolunteer.org)

1. Issue

To provide a report to Council on the report to be made to the Annual General Meeting on 14 May 2020.

2. Timing

Council meeting, 19 March 2020.

3. For Note

Council is invited to note 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 2020 the Annual General Meeting will be held as part of the Members Annual Information Event to be held at Savoy Place on 14 May 2020.

5. Draft Report

A draft report from Council for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 14 May 2020 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 Members Annual Information Event
Savoy Place, Thursday, 14 May 2020**

During 2019 Council has continued to play its part in helping to develop and shape the strategy of the IET. What began three Sessions ago has now become an important part of Council's reason for existence. It does this through submitting papers to the IET's Board of Trustees with recommendations for strategic actions.

This relationship between the Board of Trustees and Council is affirmed every June when they hold a joint strategy meeting. In June 2019 a significant topic was refining the content of the revised IET Strategic Framework.

As well as contributing to strategy, Council is also informed about existing IET strategies. Council meetings have received updates on several topics including the IET's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) strategy, something which is relevant to IET volunteers as well as IET staff, the 2020 President's Themes, and the IET@150 celebrations strategy.

Last year Council delivered several sets of strategic recommendations to the Board of Trustees. It has generally developed those recommendations through detailed discussions in World Café breakout sessions, but some have been developed for the first time on the IET's Microsoft Office 365 "Yammer" platform which facilitates open discussion on any topic. From both methods, inputs were collated and analysed by Council volunteers into strategic papers. Council works hard to deliver relevant papers in a timely fashion, and is encouraged by the Board of Trustees' active responses to its recommendations.

Council's strategic thinking has been delivered to the Board of Trustees through papers recommending actions:

- leading to the IET adopting a 50-year strategy;
- which the IET should take regarding Climate Change;
- in support of the President's three Themes;
- in support of the IET's 150-year celebrations.

Monitoring Governance is an important role for Council and we ran a strong Working Party throughout 2019 providing inputs to Council as and when required. Council also contributed members to the IET's Sustainable Planet and IET@150 committees, demonstrating that Council members' expertise and experience can contribute at the heart of the IET's activities.

The membership of Council comes from a varied set of geographic, industrial and academic backgrounds, and with a spread of ages as well. There is an international dimension with some members having links with Local Networks in different parts of the world, not only the UK. All of this helps Council to reflect the IET membership views.

One third of Council (9 members) sits on each of the IET's 3 Main Boards, bringing knowledge of those activities back to Council and with it the basis for the ability to address cross-Board matters. In turn that gives Council the potential to help recognise the implications of change for the general membership and for other parts of the IET. There are representatives of all three Boards on the team which defines the agenda for Council meetings, ensuring all Boards' activities have been considered.

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 we aim to make the outcomes of the majority of discussions available on the IET website. Members of Council also regularly contribute articles to *Member News* to update members on the activities of Council.

Members of Council are all volunteers and freely give of their time for which I am grateful on behalf of Council and the IET. Thanks must also go to the IET Secretariat who always provide friendly and helpful support with the IET's One Team ethos. Many Council members gain great satisfaction from networking with members having different experiences and opinions but even greater satisfaction from knowing that they, themselves, are helping to shape the future of the IET.