The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Paper Number
T(21)61

25 August 2021

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Board of Trustees

POLICY PANELS AND SECTOR EXECUTIVE PANELS

(Paper by Simon Edwards. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting please contact Simon Edwards on 01438 767416 or by email simonedwards@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To propose changes to some of the IET's Policy Panels and Sector Executive Panels.

2. Timing

Board of Trustees meeting, 9 September 2021.

3. For Recommendation

3.1. The Board of Trustees is invited to approve:

3.1.1. the merger of the Manufacturing Policy Panel and the Design and Production Sector Executive Panel to create a new Design and Manufacturing Panel;

3.1.2. the merger of the Energy Policy Panel and the Energy Sector Executive Panel to create a new Energy Panel;

3.1.3. the merger of the Transport Policy Panel and the Transport Sector Executive Panel to create a new Transport Panel;

3.1.4. to rename the Health and Safety Policy Panel as the Engineering Safety Policy Panel;

3.1.5. to rename the Innovation and Emerging Technologies Policy Panel as the Innovation and Skills Policy Panel.

4. Background

4.1. Responsibility for the delivery of IET Policy input to Governments and the development of the associated evidence-base across industry Sectors, ultimately lies with the Board of Trustees. On an operational level, the IET's Policy and Sector work is overseen by the Director of Governance and External Affairs. In the UK, direction is taken from 14 expert, member-led Policy Panels and Sector Executive Panels, whereas outside the UK it is led by the relevant national level groups.

4.2. The December 2020 meeting of UK Panel Chairs considered how Policy and Sectors could maximise their support and resources towards the IET Strategy 2030 by (a) greater focus on the IET's societal challenges, (b) greater emphasis on opportunities for cross-sector and cross-Panel collaboration; and (c) adoption of new ways of working to further increase the impact of the work of the Panels.

4.3. As part of a wider internal restructuring and strengthening of the Governance and External Engagement Directorate, the staff team responsible for the day-to-day delivery of the IET's Policy and Sector work has been renamed from Strategic Engagement and Partnerships to Policy and Insight.

4.4. Working with their staff Leads, Panel Chairs and their expert members have been exploring the opportunities to merge some Policy and Sector Panels to create single end-to-end Panels, not least to help accelerate the delivery of the aims set out in paragraph 4.2 above and to reduce the total number of Panels from 14 to 10. The new Panels will be created during the Session 2021/22. Recommendations for the appointment of Chairs for the reconfigured Panels will be submitted to the Nominations and Succession Committee, as they merge. It will not be possible to do this before the start of the Session 2021/22.

5. Education Policy Panel

In the light of the transfer of the Education Policy Panel from the Governance and External Engagement Directorate to the Membership and Professional Development Directorate, it is proposed to rename its Innovation and Emerging Technologies Policy Panel to become the Innovation and Skills Policy Panel. This has enabled the 'skills' interests of the former Education and Skills Policy Panel to be retained within the Governance and External Engagement Directorate.

6. Risk

There are no risk implications resulting from this report.

7. Resources

The resources are assigned to this function through the annual planning process.