The Institution of Engineering and Technology

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Council

IET VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY

(Paper by Katherine Bunting. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting, please contact Katherine on 01438 767590 or by email kbunting@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To provide an update on the work which the Volunteer Engagement Board together with the Volunteer Support Working Party have been doing to develop a Volunteer Engagement Strategy for the IET.

2. Timing

Council meeting, 12 January 2021.

3. For Note

Council is invited to note this report.

4. Background

4.1. The Volunteer Engagement Board through the Volunteer Support Unit and Volunteer Support Working Party is developing a Volunteer Strategy for the IET. The strategy is seeking to provide to volunteers the full support and commitment from across the Institution for their volunteering activities as well as identifying and strengthening the ways in which volunteering with the IET is beneficial for the volunteer and what they want from the role.

4.2. The aim is to establish a Volunteering Strategy which is known to all volunteers and which they can easily identify with. It will be focused on them and how they interact with the IET as well as where the IET will need to emphasis its efforts to ensure appropriate volunteering provision for the future of the Institution and the Engineering & Technology sector.

4.3. The current draft has been collated through the following activities.

4.4. All Volunteers have been consulted via a Volunteer Survey which was sent out in August. Feedback to aid development was also sought through:

4.4.1. The majority of Committees and Panels which report to the three Main Boards were provided with a paper and given the opportunity to respond directly.

4.4.2. Notifications were placed in Volunteer News to encourage individual volunteers to respond to the Volunteer Support Unit with any concerns or ideas.

4.4.3. All IET staff were informed via a Town Hall presentation and encouraged to provide their thoughts, whether they work directly with volunteers or not.

5. Key Points

5.1. A final draft is currently being finalised to be reviewed by the Volunteer Engagement Board with an aim to be presented to the Board of Trustees in February 2021.

5.2. Currently, the draft consists of an executive summary detailing the need for a strategy, and a roadmap confirming how it will be implemented and embedded. It is currently summed up with a 2030 outcome and five key focus areas as shown below:

<u>2030 Outcome</u>
'Volunteering with the IET means Global One Team Working'

<u>Strategy</u>
We will achieve this outcome by:[1]

1. providing a global Volunteering Home for Life
2. providing the right opportunities for new volunteers and volunteer-facing staff, to help grow our reach in depth and breadth
3. raising the profile of our volunteers and volunteer facing staff to their peers and other stakeholders
4. being a recognised leader in volunteering management
5. understanding and committing to the IET's strategies and societal challenges

5.3. Each of these five key focus areas has 3 or more sub-sections which define further what this outcome means for volunteers and the IET.

5.4. Once the strategy has been approved by Volunteer Engagement Board and the Board of Trustees there will be further work to establish real and achievable actions and goals attributed to each of the sub-sections as well as extensive work on how it will be communicated to volunteers and the wider IET.

5.5. The strategy will remain an evolving document and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

6. Risk

Continuing to operate with volunteering areas not joined in a single strategy could mean that the IET is not prepared for the changes in volunteering provision and potentially risk losing valuable volunteers and their potential.

7. Resources

The Volunteer Support Unit will continue to support the Volunteer Support Working Party and Volunteer Engagement Board in development of the strategy. The Volunteer Engagement Board will produce the final strategy which will be fed back to all volunteers through the Committees and Panels who have been involved before being circulated more widely.

[1] Note that this is a work in progress, and these are subject to change following re-drafts.