

## January Council 2020 – CEO Report

As I write this report in the middle of January, it is unseasonably warm in England; yet as we look forward to a new decade it appears that many things in the CIBSE orbit are ‘unseasonal’. No one viewing the devastation of the bush fires in Australia can doubt the political impact and growing momentum to respond to the climate change challenge; many believe that mankind has a relatively short window of opportunity to address these challenges and thus CIBSE has an ever important role as we explain, educate and advise on how we should design, build and manage the built environment in an appropriate and professional way going forward.

Meanwhile, within the Westminster village, the substantial Conservative majority has changed the political map considerably and the indecision of “Brexit politics” that have blighted us for so long has gone - although other challenges will no doubt come. The Queen’s Speech laid out the ambitions for the new Government; climate change and the built environment were prominent but lacking any detail. However, government have confirmed that they will be taking forward not only the *Building Safety Bill* and *Fire Safety Bill* but also the *Environment Bill* and the *National Infrastructure Bill*; the safety bills are designed to enforce penalties to deter non-compliance, ensuring all buildings are safe throughout their lifecycle. Rather than take space here I would commend Hywel Davies’s piece in the January CIBSE Journal to you; what we are certain of, is that there is a huge bow wave of consultations coming our way – we need to grasp this opportunity quickly or others will do so.

**Hong Kong.** In late November the President Elect & I travelled to Hong Kong and spent four days with our largest Region. When we set-off we did not anticipate that the civil unrest would mean that our visit that would be long remembered - the Technical Symposium was postponed as were some of our scheduled visits. The President Elect may not wish to see tear gas canisters raining down from the sky, petrol bombs burning in the road, nor dodging the protestors and breaching the police lines again; however, it was a wonderful trip and we left with a strong feeling of optimism for the future, acknowledging that we are so fortunate to have such fantastic and dedicated people in HK Branch.

**Build2Perform at Olympia, November 2019.** We returned in time for the 2019 edition of Build2Perform Live, the third edition of CIBSE’s own conference and exhibition at Olympia. We saw growth in the number of exhibitors and delegates and this year managed the entire conference programme in-house, with Sara Kassam performing a first-class job as co-ordinator of the technical programme, that featured over 70 different speakers.

Feedback from exhibitors and attendees alike has been positive and we believe that there is a real need for the event, although we must continue to manage costs very firmly to keep it financially viable and free to attend. The staff costs are a big investment, and we really do need the event to grow significantly this year, so please put the dates in your diary, **24-25 November 2020**, and if you would like to be an exhibitor or know someone who would please let Rowan Crowley or myself know. It has huge potential, so please do support this event. <https://www.build2perform.co.uk>

**Membership.** In my last Council report, I said we were “still trying to create a stable membership team”; shows how little I know! Just before Christmas, we said goodbye to Carilyn Burman who had been our Director of Membership for over seven years. Carilyn leaves us for the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) and I am sure we all wish her well and thank her for her contribution. I am delighted to say that Laura Webb from the Pensions Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) has been appointed as our new Director of Membership; Laura joins us next month. We have continued to strengthen the membership team with Julia Savage being promoted to Membership & Registration Manager and Tash

Van der Krann re-joins us, after a gap travelling, as Head of Membership Development. This is a significant and positive step for the Membership team. I also need to mention the flourishing Membership Services Team (MST), under the leadership of Roisin Sweeney. We all believe that this has been a very positive step and we shall reinforce the MST in the coming months. Roisin helped to organise the YEN Global Conference last November where our President hosted the event – by all accounts it was a very successful conference.

**Strategy.** The work to refine the 2025 Strategy is well in-hand; developing the 2020 version, yet to be approved by the Board, so more details to come. I reflect that it almost eight years since the Institution took a huge step to launch the Knowledge Portal and make our publications free to all our members on-line; it is hard to think now that it was such a challenging decision. As we look forward to the next five-year strategy, I think the development of what we call Version 3 of the Knowledge Portal (KP3) is key. How does the Institution intend to generate, review and disseminate our knowledge in the next 3-7 years? What role does IT have and what do our young members expect as CIBSE supports them in their career? We are committed to a scoping study for KP3 this year – we shall need all your support and advice.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and demanding year, never mind a new decade