

CEO INTRODUCTION - COUNCIL REPORT 10 OCT 2019

As I start to write this, I am perplexed by the uncertainty and nervousness that I see around the world from my Balham based observation post - the UK Government and our political elite is in disarray, the civil unrest and uncertainty in Hong Kong coupled with a widespread disillusionment with politicians. The challenges we face are presented in a broad array of issues headed by climate change, air quality, overheating and energy - which are all centre stage. The UK plans for developing the infrastructure, be it HS2 or Crossrail for example – face us with challenges of how Government select, fund and manage large public sector projects and thus maintain public confidence. There is a determination to ‘build a safer future’ post the Grenfell Fire Disaster; also there are wide-ranging consultations on Part L and much more coming down the track, more of which is in the technical part of this report. There is a hiatus in the commercial and residential markets with serious questions about how buildings with cladding are to be valued, and major deals and developments currently stalled. Meanwhile the detrimental effects of Carillon are still being felt in the industry. However, there is equally a growing pent-up demand for development, especially in London, once some sort of political stability is created. We certainly do live in ‘interesting times’! I reflect what is the role of the Institution in the midst of such uncertainty – in my opinion that at least is an easier question to answer: we need to show professional leadership and focus, engage in the debate within our community and provide to society as a whole high quality expertise and advice - I believe our members expect nothing less.

Strategy The work to refine the 2025 Strategy is well developed modifying the 2020 version, as I write, but the next phase is yet to be approved by the Board, so more details to come. There has also been a good deal of work on refining the CIBSE Mission, Vision, Values and Purpose that I anticipate will be developed alongside the 2025 Strategy. Meanwhile the Budget setting exercise for 2020 has started. This work followed-on from the Board Away Day in May and demonstrates the importance of Trustees working together.

Membership Our Membership efforts are showing rewards, although we shall have to wait for the Engineering Council (EC) figures at the end of the year; our membership revenues are well above budget and this has been a welcome fillip. We are still trying to create a stable membership team; two of our managers have recently departed - Olga Mendes for maternity leave and Romina Trinidad to support her family, - and naturally we wish them both well. Thus Carilyn is busy recruiting and reshaping her team – I anticipate we shall have positive news as we intend to reinforce the membership development areas of the team. While with the Membership Team, I also need to mention the Membership Services Team (MST), established earlier in the year under the leadership of Roisin Sweeney. We all believe that this has been a hugely positive step and, 2020 Budget allowing, we hope to reinforce and grow the MST. Roisin is helping to organise the next YEN Global Conference in November and she will be joining the YEN in Malaysia where our President is hosting the event – we wish them all a very successful event.

Technical During the summer CIBSE responded to the “Building a Safer Future” consultation and indeed we are aware that the drafting of the legislation, some of it

for further statutory consultation, is well in-hand. Thank you to so many of our members who have given their time and expertise so freely. The whole regulation and legal framework in which we operate is complex and interwoven; I would commend Hywel's regular piece in the CIBSE Journal to you and thank him for his sterling work keeping us all abreast and informed, especially when it is so fast moving. The big unknown will depend upon the Public Inquiry conducted by Sir Martin Moore-Bick - the complexity of the task, the number of witnesses called, the political capital and the very protracted process, will ensure it is a main event for some time to come. I do feel confident that there will be a much greater role for approved and accredited engineers.

The weather extremes and the "Extinction Rebellion" movement demonstration have flagged up the significant challenges in climate change, air quality, overheating and energy use within the built environment. There is a growing belief that the professional bodies should and must have a role in this debate, in my view CIBSE has an excellent record in this arena for many years and I am most grateful to Anastasia Mylona and Julie Godefroy who have had a number of starring roles on TV and radio – most recently Julie appearing live on BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme to discuss overheating. I wonder if there isn't more we can do.

Visiting Speaker Scheme The CIBSE Speakers pilot was launched in June, to give Regions access to high quality, expert speakers in a variety of technical fields. A diverse set of eight speakers are available for regional events, and an accompanying event guide is available to help Regions maximise the impact of their participation in the initiative. I would encourage the Regions to take advantage of this opportunity to access some excellent speakers on relevant and topical issues.

Staff Alex Cannon has just been appointed Head of IT and the IT infrastructure project that Kevin Chapman initiated is almost complete - Office 365, new hardware, better resilience, soft phones and a new IT partner. This has been a significant project but will deliver considerable benefits to the organisation. Kevin joined us from the IMechE on a 12-month contract that has now ended; we thank Kevin for his hard work and wish Alex every success.

Finally, I must encourage you to attend our **Build2Perform at Olympia, 26-27 November 2019**; this will be our third year and we hope to improve upon the record numbers of attendees, stands and speakers; the very comprehensive programme is now available to view at <https://www.build2perform.co.uk> So please do make a note in your diary for a CIBSE event not to be missed. It is also free to attend thanks to our commercial sponsors whose participation makes it possible at all. I encourage you to take full advantage of two days of the highest quality CPD material and why not take along some colleagues and persuade them to join CIBSE - now that would be great!