

Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Online Via MS Teams

10:00 on Thursday 11th February 2021

Present: Ann Allen (AA) Chair, Sue Evans (SE), Alistair Scott (AS), Angela Bonney (AB), Caroline Parkinson (CP), Daisy Narayanan (DN), Graham Hill (GH), Kirsty Macari (KM), Lynn Wilson (LW) & Bruce Ross (BR)

Staff: Jim MacDonald, (JM, CEO), Heather Chapple (HC), Lynne Lineen (LL), Sue Reynolds (SR), Anja Ekelof (AE), Emelie Borg (EB), Kate Hendry (KH) & Val MacBeath (Minutes)

Guest: Ian Gilzean PAD (IG), Graeme Walker PAD (GW)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed everyone to the online Board Meeting. There were no apologies, and no declarations of interest were noted.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The previous Minutes were APPROVED as an accurate record with the following 2 amendments:

- page 2 2nd para amend 'complimentary' to 'complementary'.
- page 5 item 3) close paragraph break

Matters Arising

Editorial Group

The Chair thanked KM and AB for their invaluable input into the Editorial Group.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Discussions with SG confirmed that this was not required.

3. DRAFT STRATEGY AND CORPORATE PLAN

The Board noted the updates to both the draft Strategy and draft 3-year Corporate Plan.

The Board were happy with the edited text on both documents which gave greater emphasis to our leading role and to the challenges that our work is seeking to tackle.

The Board also noted that the illustrations throughout the documents had been reviewed and new images added, or existing ones developed in line with comments from previous meetings and were pleased to see the focus was more on impact rather than measures.

The Board asked that both front covers be strengthened to clearly promote diversity and inclusion.

The Chair expressed her thanks to all staff involved.

The Board **AGREED** the drafts of the 2021-31 Strategy and the 2021-24 Corporate Plan.

ACTION 1: Strengthen front cover of both Strategy and Corporate Plan documents to clearly promote diversity and inclusion.

4. LAUNCH OF STRATEGY – HANDLING PLAN

The Board noted that the launch of the Strategy afforded significant opportunity to engage with a range of key audiences and generate positive coverage across a range of media. A launch 'campaign' had been developed which would maximise the value and impact of the Strategy publication.

The Board noted that the campaign aims were to:

- Raise awareness of our strategy with key stakeholders.
- Build alliances with key stakeholders.
- Embed our messaging across all our people and platforms.

The Board noted the campaign handling plan, and it was agreed to tie the launch event to the next Board meeting on 18th March 2021. This would allow the launch to take place before purdah.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Board noted that Graham Hill (GH) had resigned from the Audit Committee due to work commitments but would continue as a Board member of A&DS. The Chair thanked GH for his contribution to Audit Committee.

The Board also noted the proposal from the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Audit Committee to fill the vacant position. Bruce Ross (BR) had been approached to join Audit Committee with immediate effect.

The Board **NOTED** the resignation of Graham Hill from the Audit Committee and **APPROVED** the appointment of Bruce Ross with immediate effect.

6. VENICE UPDATE

The Board noted the intention of the Venice Biennale organisers to open the international exhibition on 21st May 2021.

But with travel is still not possible due to Covid-19 restriction, and the intention that this will remain the case for some time, the Scotland + Venice Partnership Board (Scottish Government, Architecture & Design Scotland, British Council, Creative Scotland, and National Galleries of Scotland) have looked at alternatives to presenting in Venice.

The Board noted that in the circumstances, the Partners Board agreed their preferred option is to present the "What if Scotland" exhibition in Scotland and, if possible, to participate in the Biennale remotely and/or through a short programme of events, e.g., film screenings should it become safe and appropriate to travel later in the year.

An initial exploration of this option with the V&A at Dundee has resulted in a very positive and supportive response from the V&A. Both the Scotland + Venice Partnership and the V&A at Dundee see considerable merit in pursuing this option as an alternative to physical participation in Venice which is not now seen by any of the partners as a realistic or viable route to delivery of the exhibition.

The Board felt that despite the disappointment this was an excellent opportunity to introduce Scotland to the international Venice Biennale stage.

The Board AGREED the presentation of the Scotland + Venice exhibition in Scotland.

7. AOB

COP 26 (26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties)

Currently looking at plans to get involved and will bring details to the Board when we have them.

Budget 2021/22

Funding from the Health and Learning Directorates at the same level as last year was confirmed after the budget announcement. Discussions on possible funding streams from energy and climate in progress. Detailed report of budget breakdowns for approval planned for the March 2021 Board meeting.

SURF Awards

The SURF Awards online event would take place at 7pm Thursday 18th Feb. A link was posted for those interested in attending.

Heather Claridge Presentation

It was noted that Heather Claridge's presentation at Scotland's Climate Assembly was very well received along with the Carbon Conscious Places document. The Board noted Heather Claridge was now on maternity leave and would be returning to Glasgow City Council to work and the Board wished her well.

Next Board Meeting on 18th March 2021

The next Board meeting would also include the launch of the Strategy and Corporate Plan and Board members were asked to keep the day free until the schedule was confirmed.

The Chair thanked the Board and colleagues from Scottish Government for their attendance. The meeting closed at 11:05.

Signed: 
Ann Allen, Chair

Date 18/03/2021