

Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Online Via MS Teams

10:30 on Thursday 20th May 2021

Present: Ann Allen (AA) Chair, Alistair Scott (AS), Angela Bonney (AB), Caroline Parkinson (CP), Daisy Narayanan (DN), Kirsty Macari (KM), & Bruce Ross (BR)

Staff: Jim MacDonald, (JM, CEO), Lynne Lineen (LL), Sue Reynolds (SR) Andrea Hepburn (AH), Karen Ridgewell KR – item 5), Laura Hainey (LH – item 5) & Val MacBeath (Minutes)

Guest: Ian Gilzean (IG)

Apologies: Lynn Wilson, Graham Hill and Sue Evans

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed everyone to the online Board Meeting. Apologies were received from Lynn Wilson, Graham Hill and Sue Evans, and no declarations of interest were noted.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The previous Minutes were APPROVED as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no outstanding Matters Arising.

3. POST ELECTION UPDATE

The Board received an update on post-election changes. The extent of the changes were significant and on that basis the Chair and CEO will need time to re-establish links. Sponsor Team have offered to facilitate the set-up of meetings with Ministers as a first step to establishing links and understanding the landscape. The post strategy launch campaign would continue to be a focus of activity.

The Board noted the interesting move to put planning in the titles of the Minister's portfolio, this represented a significant move forward and gave an indication that the importance of planning as an enabler has been recognised.

The Board noted and welcomed the announcement of a separate Minister for Transport and a Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Energy and Net Zero.

The Chair placed on record A&DS thanks on behalf of the Board to Ms Hyslop and asked that a letter expressing our thanks for the support she had given us over the years be sent.

ACTION: Letter to Ms Hyslop to be drafted and sent.

4. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2017-21 REVIEW

a) 2017-21 Delivery

The Review provided the Board with an overview how the organisation performed on the outcomes set out in the 2017-21 Strategy. A more detailed assessment of each of the elements of the work done to deliver this strategy, and the extent to which we were able to evidence the impact, would be presented in the autumn. The report would also share learning on aspects that outcomes shortfalls.

The Board acknowledged that the update contained good progress and successes and that those successes should be used when we are engaging with the new Ministers.

Sponsor Team welcomed the report and noted key areas such as the Happenstance and the Housing 2040 workshops and exhibition were a real public engagement triumph with ongoing impact. Partnership working between SG and A&DS had been very successful.

2021-31 Implementation

The new Home Teams were now in place and will form the driving force around new ways of working to deliver the new strategy. That programme of work will be presented to the July Board meeting in the context of the outcomes in the corporate plan.

KM noted one of her students had just completed a dissertation on the value of placemaking and would investigate if there was some relevance to support us.

The Chair was keen that each Board member holds a portfolio for an element of the new strategy. This would be explored further during appraisals.

The report was NOTED.

5. CLIMATE ACTION TOWNS & COP26

KR and LH joined the meeting and gave the Board an update on Climate Action Towns and COP 26.

Climate Action Towns

Climate Action Towns was noted in the Programme for Government in Sept 2020. Stating simply “development of a network of Climate Action Towns – targeting small towns with little historical involvement in climate action”. From a total of 156 small towns across Scotland the hope is to filter down to 6-10 active towns.

Conversations between A&DS and the Energy & Climate Change Directorate (ECCD) began in February 2021, with an outline submitted in late February. A Business case had been submitted to the ECCD unit director and today we received a letter of comfort confirming we were successful in securing funding. The grant is from ECCD and to be added to our grant from our sponsor team.

COP 26

Last week the Creative Carbon Scotland Climate Beacons project for COP26 short listed 12 from 50+ applications. Interviews had taken place and the final 6 Beacons would be identified at a meeting this afternoon. A public announcement would be made on 3rd June 2021.

We still await the UK Governments announcement if our application has been successful and whether or not we will be in the blue or green zone

CSIC

In recognition that the Built Environment is on the agenda this COP CSIC also submitted an application around the built environment and the power of collaboration across agencies, which includes ourselves, for the blue/green zone. They are also awaiting a response. If unsuccessful they are hoping to deliver an event anyway irrespective of the location and are going to start planning shortly.

Our Carbon Conscious Places Report will be included in the forthcoming UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report, which is due out next month. This had been produced by sniffer on behalf of the UK Climate Change Committee.

Following on from the Carbon Conscious Places work we were asked to identify a way to further embed the climate change message within A&DS. We proposed training for all staff as a way to embed an understanding of the Climate Emergency and how it affects our work. Keep Scotland Beautiful are working with us to develop a course to underpin all our work to support the green recovery, reduce emissions and messaging on climate change. An 8-hour course would be delivered to staff in four 1-hour online training sessions and four 1-hour study groups. There may be related Board training later in the year.

The Chair thanked and congratulated the team on securing funding and the way we are now collaborating across different groups.

The Board asked whether transport and infrastructure was one of the criteria we looked at in assessment of towns. It was reported we had been specifically asked to consider the 20-minute neighbourhood.

May be able to link back to Scotland's Climate Assembly, full report to be published soon.

The Chair expressed her thanks from the Board for sharing the work with us today and noted that Climate Emergency training would be welcomed as a Board.

In light of the formal confirmation we would be immediately looking to recruit for these posts and Board members were asked if they could promote within their networks.

6. SCOTLAND + VENICE UPDATE – WHAT IF.../SCOTLAND EXHIBITION

It was reported there had been a strong pick up from both broadcast and print media. BBC Radio Scotland had broadcast an interview with Euan Anderson of 7N Architects and one of the participants in the Dundee workshops which came across well and was a great advert for the project.

The launch would be an on-line event taking place on 21st May 2021 at 1200 and open to the public from Saturday 22nd May until 21st November 2021.

The Chair noted the success of the new direction of the project due to factors out with our control and highlighted that it was clear how this all related to our Strategy. It was suggested that we should consider holding the September/October Board meeting at the V&A.

ACTION: CIT to consider once Covid-19 guidance becomes available over the summer months.

The Board NOTED the report.

7. AOB

July meeting arrangements

It was reported that a few Board members had indicated they would be happy to come into Bakehouse Close for the July Board meeting and the others could join via Teams.

Office Re-opening

Government guidance remains as work from home. We are working on putting a plan in place for colleagues potential return to work, following guidance, over the summer.

Lighthouse Office, Glasgow

The lease for the Glasgow office had not been renewed. An accommodation strategy for A&DS will be drafted up and will be discussed at Board level in Autumn 2021.

KM reported she was part of an independent UK taskforce for planning. They are currently gaining insight into the future of planning in the light of big data and the advance of digital technology. Thoughts from Board members would be welcomed around what we might be doing in terms of big data and digital in the future.

The Chair thanked the Board and colleagues from Scottish Government for their attendance. The meeting closed at 11:30.

Signed: 
Ann Allen, Chair

Date 08/07/2021