

Meeting Annual General Meeting 2024

Date 16 July 2024

Time 18:02hrs

Chair Anusha Shah - President

Attendance Dr Janet Young – Director General & Secretary; Séan Harris – Deputy Director General & Director Membership; Andrea Naylor – MD Thomas Telford Ltd; Gary Payne – Chief Operating Officer; Mark Hansford – Director Engineering Knowledge; Calum Mercer – Group Finance Director; David Hawkes – Interim Associate Director Policy & External Affairs; Tas Bhanji – Director Communications; Pat Marsh – Head of Governance; Sean O'Donnell – Governance Manager, Lara Howard – Governance Administrator and the following corporate members attended:

A. Akpodiete, T. Barber, L. Barlow, R. Bayfield, C. Beaumont, J. Bircumshaw, G. Castka, R. Coackley, A. Coy, A. Dickerson, P. Docherty, N. Edward, K. Elliott, J. Gammon, T. Gunnarsson, S. Hawkes, D. Hirst, K. Howells, O. Ilalokhoin, A. Ivowi, S. Khisaf, Y. Murphy, N. Jayasuriya, J.P. Jeganathan, K. Nejjar, G. Oludotun, E. Orchard, Y. Owoyemi, D. Porter, T. Quinn, L. Rew, S. Robertson, G. Smith, L. Smith, J. Spruce, I. Thomas, D. Turner, Z. Vaid, R. White, J. Wood.

774 The President welcomed all members attending the Annual General Meeting, held as a hybrid event, and gave an overview of the meeting. The notice convening the meeting had been circulated to all members on 3 June 2024.

Annual General Meeting Minutes – 18 July 2023

775 The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 July 2023 had been published on the ICE website.

776 The President read the resolution: “That the minutes of the previous AGM held on 18 July 2023 are taken as read and an accurate record of the meeting”. The meeting agreed the resolution unanimously.

Appointment of Auditors for 2024

777 The President reported that the Trustee Board had proposed the auditors “haysmacintyre LLP” be appointed for 2024.

778 The President read the resolution: “That haysmacintyre LLP be appointed the Auditors for the current year”. The meeting agreed the resolution unanimously.

Trustee Board members 2024-2025

779 The President reported that the following had been elected as Trustee Board members for the 2024-2025 session of the Institution:

President

Professor Jim **HALL**

Vice Presidents

David Norman **PORTER**

Julie **WOOD**

Richard **BAYFIELD**

Trustees

Lewis **BARLOW**

Edward **BINGHAM**

Ohis **ILALOKHOIN** (elected directly by the membership this year)

Paula **MCMAHON** (elected directly by the membership this year)

Professor Priti **PARIKH**

Lucy **REW**

Jonathan **SPRUCE** (re-elected directly by membership this year)

Liz **WAUGH**

Scrutineers Report – election of members to the Trustee Board and Council

780 The President announced that the votes in the ballot had been counted by Civica Election Services (CES), acting as independent scrutineer. Scrutineers appointed by the Trustee Board from among the Corporate Members were Adrian Coy and Richard Coackley who had certified that the votes had been accurately recorded and counted.

781 The President then announced the results of the ballot reported by the Scrutineers. The new incumbents would take office from 5 November 2024:

General members of the Council

Anisa **KOCI**

Stuart **ALLEN**

Carlos **DE FREITAS**

Antonios **PALATIANOS**

Simon **WANKLYN**

Regional members of the Council

ICE East Midlands:	Gráinne MURRAY
ICE West Midlands:	Rhiannon EVANS
ICENorthern Ireland:	Chris CAVES
ICE North West:	John BRIDGEMAN
ICE South West:	David CLEGG

Graduate member

Ruth **MARSDEN**

Voting Returns 2024

783 The President invited questions from those in attendance. The DG&S read out one question that had been received in advance of the meeting:

Question: This question related to the cancellation of the second phase of the UK's High-Speed Rail Two (HS2) project and was in two parts:

Firstly, assuming that the ICE was using its resources to be alert to the likelihood of the cancellation of HS2 beyond Birmingham, what communications were sent to the UK Government in an attempt to prevent that cancellation? Historically, similar threats have been made to projects which have ultimately proven to be very successful (e.g. The Channel Tunnel, HS1, Crossrail/Elizabeth Line, and the like).

Secondly, also acting in the interests of its members, what communications did the ICE send Government following the news of HS2's cancellation in order to alert Government to the cancellation's wide-reaching negative impact on the civil engineering sector and in an attempt to secure a reversal of the cancellation?"

Answer: The ICE was not aware in advance of the cancellation of HS2 Phase 2 in October 2023.

We put out a press comment in March 2023 following the announcement of delays to HS2, warning that cancelling would cost more in the long run.

This messaging was embedded in our engagement with policymakers.

We then put out a comment following the cancellation of Phase 2 in October 2023, stressing that the stop/start approach to infrastructure investment does not benefit the public or deliver good outcomes

And this year we started our policy programme on the cancellation of HS2's northern leg, publishing an initial briefing paper and holding a panel debate in April 2024, to ensure that policymakers and practitioners learn lessons from the cancellation.

This programme has seen us engage with government and opposition.

The DG&S read out a second question that had been received online during the meeting and asked the Deputy DG and Director Membership to respond:

Question: The Member wanted to know about the MRA change between ICE and Engineers Australia. There wasn't a notification on termination of the same. Will there be any development on this?

Answer: The mutual recognition agreement (MRA) was between ourselves and Engineers Australia on professional qualifications. The MRA lasted for five years and actually expired in 2019 but was kept going through informal arrangements with Engineers Australia. The MRA allowed our qualification to be seen in Australia as being able to practice and vice versa. The issue arose with Engineers Australia because of our change in policy in recognising Bachelor's Degrees. We had set our professional qualification degree at Master's level as part of the Washington Accord. Engineers in Australia have kept BEng as the entry level to the profession. As we are not allowing direct access to Bachelor's holders from Australia, Engineers Australia felt that they would no longer recognise our qualifications for direct access. The MRA had already expired and Engineers Australia were not willing to renew it. In terms of direct access to their market through mutual recognition, that ceased. However, since then we have become a registering body within Australia in our own right. As states introduce restrictions and you have to be registered in order to practice, we have become a registering body in both Queensland and Victoria. We are now looking at New South Wales and as each state introduces this regulation we will become a registering body within those states. So our members can still practice there and can still operate there in a professional capacity but the automatic entry to their market ceased two years ago.

784 The President thanked all those who attended, and the meeting closed at 18:32.

Annex A

Address to the Annual General Meeting 2024 By the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Welcome, everyone.

It's a pleasure to join you all, in person and online, at the 2024 annual general meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Thank you for being here.

2023 was a stark reminder of the threat the climate and nature emergencies pose.

Globally, it was the warmest year since records began. Climate-related emergencies are getting more frequent and more severe. It's a clear signal to the civil engineering and infrastructure professions that time is slipping away, and the work we do in the coming years will be crucial for humanity's future. We know trillions of dollars are going to be spent on infrastructure over the coming years and therefore really important to understand why we are building, where we are building and how we are building.

Last November, I shared my presidential vision for a construction industry that restores and rejuvenates nature to build a low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive world.

Nature can heal us. It can inspire us. Nature can be our biggest ally and it can help us tackle the biggest challenge of our times.

Imagine waking up every day to the sounds of nature.

Imagine living in a home that's well-ventilated, shaded, and insulated. It runs off renewable energy and circular water. There's a garden or a blue-green roof or balcony where you grow much of your food.

You're part of a strong community that's prepared for any disaster, buys only what it needs, and shares or resells what you need at the click of a button.

You have everything you need – health, work, retail, social hubs, technology hubs – within 15 minutes' travel. When you need to travel long-distance, you're one click away from an affordable return journey. For the occasional car travel, you have ready access to electric charging points.

Globally, you imagine we're on track to meet our net zero targets. We've doubled our biodiversity, our flora and fauna.

Our town centres are smog free and full of thriving blue and green spaces where people from all backgrounds and abilities coexist in health and happiness.

This is the world the ICE envisions. The world our organisations are striving for. The world we could all thrive in. In the last seven months, I've been urging the industry to reimagine our world so that nature renewal isn't a 'nice to have', but a fundamental part of our practice.

We need to re-think how to plan and design the built environment. To start practising regenerative design which goes beyond sustainable design.

Civil and infrastructure engineers are essential to tackling the climate and nature emergencies. To making not just resilient infrastructure, but sustainable infrastructure. Systems that mitigate further climate damage and actively restore and rejuvenate nature. It is no longer good enough to just work in harmony with nature, we have taken so much away, now we have to give back and be nature-positive, to be restorative and to revive nature. Civil and infrastructure engineers are absolutely essential to tackling the climate and nature emergencies because what we do impacts land use, impacts water and impacts air and all those impact health and well being. To making not just resilient infrastructure, but sustainable and regenerative infrastructure. Systems that mitigate climate damage and actively restore and rejuvenate nature.

And all of this amid the volatility of today's global economy and society. Economic turmoil, massive demographic change, and rising conflict. The less we have resources and we are in a resource constrained world, the more we have to see how we get multi-benefits out of a multi-funded infrastructure.

The ICE represents nearly 100,000 members worldwide. For these professionals to face the challenges ahead, they need a membership body that supports, that inspires, that leads.

That navigates uncertainty with confidence and always strives to deliver the very best for people and the planet.

I'm proud to say that last year, our Institution continued to grow as a strong, relevant, global voice for positive change.

Despite the challenges of increased demand and reduced reviewer availability, we've continued to support the aspirations of members on their journey to professional qualification.

We saw registrant numbers grow across all grades in 2023. This includes record numbers of student applications, record numbers of graduates, and record numbers on ICE training agreements.

We have a healthy pipeline of applicants and have grown qualified members for the ninth year running – the only one of 39 professional engineering institutions to do so. We should rightly be proud of ourselves.

Not only that, but last year also welcomed our first Chartered Infrastructure Engineer – the ICE's first new protected title in a century.

It's truly significant that we've qualified a member in a discipline other than civil engineering. This shift recognises the growing synergy between different infrastructure disciplines, and the importance of including the many individuals

who work in our field. When we talk about breaking silos, this is a classic example because it's about people who work in the whole built environment and we have started to qualify them. It is a huge success.

Supporting and empowering the next generation of civil and infrastructure engineers is so important. I'm thrilled to see our membership grow, and excited to see the ICE welcome more engineers and technicians from across the industry.

In line with this, the ICE is always improving the professional support and development available to our members.

Last year, the ICE moved our Knowledge Hub to a new platform to deliver a richer member experience, including 70 bespoke, multimedia learning modules.

The future leaders mentoring programme is now in its third year and performing strongly. And now, we've launched a new platform to match coaches and mentors with graduates seeking support during the early stages of their career journey.

Our ambassador outreach continues to engage young people with the value of engineering.

Last year, there were 259 STEM ambassador visits to schools. The Inspire Platform had over 3,000 visits from school children. And we were delighted that CityZen won the Gold Award for best learning game at the Learning Technology Awards 2023.

At the government level, the ICE's policy work is continuing to strengthen our status as a leading international voice in infrastructure.

Throughout 2023, we consulted with global infrastructure bodies to update our Enabling Better Infrastructure guidance for policymakers.

The new guidance is now live and we're speaking to officials from governments across the world about how they can plan and prioritise infrastructure pipelines to deliver the very best for society.

We partnered with the UN Environment Programme last May to deliver a symposium on how policy tools, like EBI, can deliver more sustainable infrastructure.

And work such as our policy roundtables, our support of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Infrastructure, and our close ties with the National Infrastructure Commission, has made sure the ICE is a leading voice in infrastructure policy discussions here in the UK. I am sure you must have seen so many blogs, whenever Government is thinking about some policy, we are really ahead of what is coming up so that is excellent.

The ICE further built its international presence on the practice front, too.

We've strengthened ties with 15 international organisations to support the spread and adoption of PAS 2080 as the global standard for managing carbon in infrastructure.

The ICE now has formal observer status at COP events. And last year, I was honoured to be the first ICE president to address the blue zone at COP 28.

My presidential theme, 'Making connections for a nature- and people-positive world', has chimed with members and cross-sector colleagues alike. And also from those who are not engineers. I have not found one person who does not want nature and people at the heart of things which gives a message that this is what communities want and what everyone wants.

I've spoken to members and industry leaders all over the world. Just last week, Séan and I were in Delhi and Bangalore and we received an overwhelming welcome. The pride in ICE and what it does was palpable. They said "how can we help ICE?". Equally they are ready to become members, technicians and fellows.. I think we have a huge potential in India. I am sure another President's visit in the next few years will discover more untapped potential. This is a wake-up call; sometimes we assume that there may be no growth but when you visit and engage with members across the world, you get to know the aspirations. ICE is so well-respected. The engineering profession like medicine, is a very well-respected profession in India. So the ICE is held in high esteem.

I've been humbled by the many messages of support and I just feel blessed. Even now, I keep receiving messages asking what can people do to change mindsets which is huge for me. Even if there are just two or three teams that think differently and work on projects differently, I feel that is a success and quite humbling.

As engineers and technicians, we can no longer ~~afford to~~ default to 'grey'. One of our greatest challenges is raising our profile as a nature-positive sector. I think my Future Leaders this morning showed that gap in the industry. It's not that people are not willing to do things, it's just that our processes and financial structures are not geared up for what we are trying to achieve. How do you connect the financial sector to the built environment sector? My Future Leaders are trying to address just that and will be seeking your help. Overall, I feel we are on the right path but we just need to scale up. I am confident that, if we work together, we can do so.

This calls for an image shift. A mindset shift. But I'm confident that we're moving in the right direction.

In short, the ICE has met and surpassed the challenges we faced. This would not have happened without the support of the staff, the members and our partners.

Thanks to judicious leadership from our Trustees and Council, ensuring we focus our efforts squarely where we can make the most impact, we're going from success to success.

There are many I'd like to thank for this.

The Trustee Board and Council.

My predecessor Keith Howells, who led the Institution through 2023.

Our director general and secretary, Dr Janet Young, and our amazing staff team.

And above all, the members all over the world who give their time to make the ICE the strong, supportive, successful membership body it is.

Our cohort of reviewers and mentors, without whom it would be impossible to safeguard the future of our profession.

Our STEM ambassadors, Early Careers Network, regional networks, Knowledge Networks, membership panels, President's Future Leaders, and many, many more.

Every effort is integral to our mission, and I thank all of you for the part you've played in our collective success.

I think there is so much more we can do together, we are on the right track and we just need to have the right intentions which, for me, is quite simple. Putting people from all walks of life, all abilities, all geographies at the heart of infrastructure and nature. And let us not forget the voiceless species who can't be in meeting rooms and without them, there is no wildlife, there is no life. I think we all know that. As long as we have those two integral considerations when designing and planning infrastructure we are not going to go wrong.

I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the years to come. A huge thanks. I am left with three or four months and I am sure they will fly. I can't thank you all enough for giving me this honour of being your President for this year. Let's see what we can achieve together in the future. Even when I am no longer the President, I will not stop, I will continue this theme throughout my life at ICE and as long as I live.

Thank you.

