

IEMA Policy and Practice governance review – initial scoping document

The following sets out the basis, initial aims and scope of IEMA's Policy and Practice governance review. Following the formation of a member led steering group, a Terms of Reference, project plan and agreed programme of deliverables will be established.

Basis for the governance review

IEMA is a recognised authority and voice for environment and sustainability professionals. In this capacity the organisation is engaged in a range of practice, policy and advocacy work on behalf of its expert membership to effect positive change in government and industry.

Underpinning this activity are a range of member boards, committees and working groups. Over time the number of these different groups has grown. They are constituted in different ways, with different remits; some have terms of reference, some do not. Our volunteers are central to the work we do, and we are extremely grateful to our members for the time they give for this important work. However, the current situation risks the clarity of IEMA's work and calls into question the accountability of certain activities to the wider membership.

As the membership continues to grow it is critical that the right governance and operational structures are established to ensure that IEMA's policy and practice work continues to serve all its members in the most transparent and accountable way.

Initial aims

The aim of the review is to examine current governance processes that sit around the development of policy and practice content to establish their ongoing fitness for purpose and to make recommendations on how these might be reformed to improve their effectiveness for all members.

This will ultimately lead to better governance structures and accountability for these activities.

It should be noted that IEMA has applied to the Privy Council to become a chartered body, following overwhelming member support for our draft Charter and Byelaws. Although the application has yet to be determined, we remain committed to this way forward. The outcomes of this current governance review can be implemented in IEMA's current form or through the proposed Royal Charter.

Scope

The scope of the review will cover all member groups that produce or input on content and outputs under the IEMA umbrella. In addition, it will consider other opportunities for creating formal member groups and structures for IEMA activities not currently covered by the existing governance arrangements.

This includes, but is not restricted to policy & practice groups, regional & international committees, corporate member groups and the various ways in which each of these interacts with the Board and other central parts of the IEMA hierarchy, such as the Strategic Advisory Council (SAC). It follows that the role of the Board and SAC in the governance of IEMA's policy and practice work will also be in

scope. Separately, a review of Board governance will take place following the granting of chartership.

Next steps

The review will be completed in 2021. The immediate next step is to recruit a member led steering group to guide the delivery of the work. The steering group will reflect a diverse cross-section of the membership.

We are inviting short expressions of interest until Friday, 5th March 2021. These should be sent to policy@iema.net after which point, we will move quickly to establish a steering group.