

SUMMARY OF THE IOP COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT WILLS HALL CONFERENCE CENTRE, BRISTOL
ON 29 FEBRUARY 2024

The meeting of Council was held in Bristol and, on the day prior to the meeting, Council had held an all-day strategy session at IOP Publishing's offices. This gave trustees an opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of the publishing business and to meet IOP Publishing colleagues.

After the formal business of apologies, declarations of interest and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Council discussed the implementation of the new strategy, noting that it had been received very well and noting steps to be undertaken in 2024, being the transitional year for the strategy, to ensure its long-term success.

Each of the Executive Team then gave updates on their key strategic areas of focus, being skills, science, society, members, a sustainable IOP (which included financial updates), and publishing.

Council reviewed a draft ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) framework which it approved in principle, noting that this would be submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee to develop a series of key performance indicators, and that it would then be reported back to Council.

Council received and noted an overview of the unaudited year end results for the IOP for the year ending 31 December 2023, noting that these results would be used in the preparation of the 2023 Annual Report and Accounts.

As the meeting was being held in a University of Bristol facility, over lunch Council met with a number of members from the University of Bristol Physics and Engineering Departments and there was a broad ranging discussion on a number of topics of mutual interest including financial sustainability, skills-based teaching and widening participation.

Council then received an update on the Physics Inclusion Award which was to be the successor to the Juno award. Whilst the Juno award had been gender focussed, the new award would still address gender but would also look at a number of other characteristics. Following a successful pilot with a number of universities, Council approved the Physics Inclusion Award criteria and assessment framework and noted progress with the Athena Swan Award alignment.

Council then reviewed and approved a number of matters presented to it. These included the annual Health and Safety Report, the annual Modern Slavery Statement, the appointment of a new Chair to the Audit & Risk Committee, a new Trustee Social Media Policy, updates to the Scheme of Delegation, and progress on the application for registration as a charity in the Republic of Ireland.

Council also noted a number of matters including subsidiary board appointments, reports on the IOP programmes, reports from various Council committees, and key policy developments.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE

IOP President

April 2024