



Council Report

11 October 2024





CEO Report

Hello and a warm welcome to the October 2024 Council Report.

45 years ago, CIBSE moved from its central London location in Cadogan Square and headed south to the 'up and coming' area of Balham. Shortly afterwards, the Engineering Centre was opened and, over the years, countless CIBSE members have crossed the threshold for their interviews, meetings, training, CPD and a variety of other events. As you know, we sold our Balham office back in June of this year, decommissioned the Engineering Centre shortly afterwards and have remained in Delta House, on a peppercorn rent, whilst we completed on the second stage of our relocation – namely to find a premises that would accommodate our growth, provide better facilities for meetings, training and our members, be considerably more accessible than Balham and reflect the fact that we are a dynamic, modern and highly influential global Institution.

Therefore, I am delighted to tell you that, at 3.30pm on Friday 6 September, CIBSE completed the freehold purchase of [91-94 Saffron Hill](#). It is a modern and highly attractive building that is about 3 minutes' walk from Farringdon Station and the Elizabeth Line.

It is a very exciting space for CIBSE. At 17,000 sqf, it is much larger than our previous home and gives us exceptional facilities, not only to accommodate the staff necessary for our growing ambition but also giving us space for training rooms, meeting rooms, a members lounge and a 100-seat theatre for our events.

We are on track for the staff to move in at the beginning of December this year followed in 2025 by various works on some of the other floors - to get the theatre, members lounge etc prepared. I look forward to being able to welcome you to our new Head Office next year.

Following on from a review in our Membership activity, there has been a proactive strategy to address the unpaid membership and ensure that only active members are counted when considering our membership size. This has resulted in an understandable slight decline in membership, with CIBSE's total consolidating from 22,926 in January to 21,879 by October, reflecting an anticipated 4.5% drop. By removing members who had not renewed their subscriptions, we have taken an important step to maintain the organisation's financial health, long-term sustainability and reinforce our dedication to excellence and professionalism within the sector.

Following numerous requests from the industry to provide an alternative to the academic route, in August, we proudly introduced the [Experience Route to Membership](#). This new pathway provides a simplified, more affordable route to CIBSE membership and professional registration, placing equal emphasis on practical experience and academic qualifications. Tailored for engineering professionals with 2-5 years of experience who may not hold an accredited degree or recognised qualification, the

Experience Route is ideal for those looking to fast-track their career and gain professional recognition based on their practical skills and expertise.

This quarter has seen a range of developments across our societies. SoPHE launched an e-newsletter, hosted key events and expanded its reach. SFE introduced its first e-newsletter, announced the 2024 awards shortlist and sponsored SheCanEngineer. While SDE formed a steering committee, held a networking event and is launching new membership grades.

CIBSE Regions are already actively preparing for 2025, with a focus on enhancing their programmes and securing grant funding. Notable activities include a joint event on AI in Construction by CIBSE South West and ongoing outreach in CIBSE Merseyside and North Wales, where academic collaborations and support for local students are expanding.

In Hong Kong, CIBSE hosted a two-day symposium in Kunming with a focus on achieving carbon neutrality, showcasing a strong commitment to sustainable building practices. Meanwhile, CIBSE UAE is gearing up for its awards ceremony and a high-profile visit from CIBSE's President and CEO in October, which will include a trip to Saudi Arabia to discuss the Building Performance Reimagined initiative.

CIBSE ANZ has been active with various training courses, including online formats to reach remote areas and held a seminar series on net-zero buildings that provided attendees with extensive resources. New awards categories for young engineers and their mentors have been introduced, with the awards function scheduled for October in Sydney.

In Ireland, the CIBSE Workshare Exchange Programme continues to be a big success, enhancing collaboration between consulting engineers and contractors. The region is also planning to launch new awards and an autumn webinar series, with a major event featuring CIBSE President Fiona Cousins scheduled for February 2025 in Dublin.

The YEN Global Committee is spearheading a project to boost the involvement of Young Engineers in CIBSE's governance, aiming to have a Young Engineer on each committee or panel by April 2025. This initiative is crucial for maintaining CIBSE's relevance and preparing for future leadership. Recently, the Knowledge Management Committee were delighted to welcome a Young Engineer onto the group and there are also ongoing activities to place a representative on the Education, Training and Membership Committee. The YEN Gala 2024 will be held on 15 November 2024 in Belfast, with related activities including a conference, STEM outreach and technical site visits from 14 - 17 November 2024. Additionally, the committee has produced a YEN-focused edition of the CIBSE Journal for October 2024.

CIBSE remains dedicated to providing essential knowledge resources with recent publications including *Commissioning Code A: Air Distribution Systems* and *Retrofit Revisit: 10 Case Studies*. Upcoming releases from CIBSE Knowledge include the web version of the *Embodied Carbon Calculator*, *Commissioning Code W: Water Distribution Systems*, *Guide K: Electricity in Buildings*, and region-specific methodologies for embodied carbon in building services, including *TM65NA* for North America and *TM65UAE* for the UAE.

CIBSE's training programmes have demonstrated notable success, with an increase in revenue over budget for the first seven months of the year. On demand training has particularly excelled, showing a 21% increase over budget, while corporate training offerings also saw a 9% increase.

CIBSE's events are vital for industry engagement and advancement, offering key opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking. Recent examples include featured insights from David Partridge at the [CIBSE Decarbonisation Conference](#) in June and the forthcoming *UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard*, with discussions on retrofit, future heat solutions and net zero strategies, led by Julie Godefroy. The upcoming [CIBSE Building Performance Reimagined conference](#) will explore future visions in building performance, featuring expert talks and interactive sessions. The highlights of the CIBSE Awards season swiftly follow with our [CIBSE Young Engineers Awards](#) and *Presidents Awards*

Dinner on 10 and 11 October respectively, celebrating emerging talent and recognising and thanking some of the most outstanding contributors within our industry.

Recently, there have been significant strides in amplifying CIBSE's voice and profile, with the main achievements of the quarter including national media exposure. Zoe De Grussa, CIBSE's Research Manager, was featured on BBC London News, discussing strategies for staying cool during heatwaves. Zoe also appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'You and Yours,' programme, discussing insulation, shading and window management.

To follow the coverage: [BBC News highlights CIBSE's expertise on managing overheating in homes, BBC Radio 4, You and Yours Programme 07-08-2024 \(Overheating homes story - CIBSE\).mp3](#) and read her August [CIBSE Journal article](#) for more insights.

Additionally, Dr Anastasia Mylona, CIBSE's Technical Director, discussed her concerns about public awareness of overheating risks in an interview with The Times in September. The article can be found [HERE](#). This media exposure reflects the successful collaboration between our Technical and Communications teams. In early September, CIBSE also made headlines on trade media with a [public statement](#) reaffirming its commitment to building safety following the Phase 2 Grenfell Tower Inquiry Report release.

For the first time, CIBSE published a [pre-election manifesto](#) this year, outlining industry priorities and ways to support government net zero targets. All the above indicate CIBSE's ongoing initiatives to position our organisation as the leading voice in the industry and beyond.

Finally, the nominations process to be considered as a CIBSE Board Trustee or an Elected Council Member has now opened. This is your chance to play an active role in shaping the future of the building services industry. By putting yourself forward, you can bring fresh ideas, drive positive change and contribute to the continued success of our organisation. Whether you're an established professional or an emerging leader, your voice matters. CIBSE thrives on diverse perspectives and your skills and passion could help guide us toward an even brighter, more sustainable future. If you are ready to make a meaningful impact, simply complete the [online nomination form](#) by 14 October 2024.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our volunteers and members for their vital contributions to CIBSE. Their ongoing, enthusiastic and dedicated support is deeply and always appreciated.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Council Meeting on 11th October followed by the President's Awards Dinner in the evening, where we celebrate the fantastic achievements of our exceptional volunteers and thank them for their contribution.

Best, Ruth

Ruth Carter
CIBSE Chief Executive Officer