

Members vote on CILIP governance

Martyn Wade, Chair of CILIP Council and Barbara Band, CILIP President, outline the governance review and the choice members have at the AGM.

For the past two years we have been reviewing the way CILIP's governance works. For any charity and professional body to be successful it must be governed well, and have the right structures and procedures in place. Good governance will ensure that CILIP is sustainable and relevant to members and potential members.

The aims of changing our governance are to balance the needs of a professional body with being a charity, to ensure effective member input into policy, to make sure the organisation is financially accountable, and is led by people with the right skills to make the best decisions for the organisation and the members.

A project board examined CILIP's current governance model, how other professional bodies are governed, CILIP's charity requirements and charity law obligations. The project board was chaired by Immediate Past President Phil Bradley and included external experts from the British Library and Museums Association. The project board took professional and legal advice before making their recommendations to Council.

CILIP's current governing documents are the Royal Charter, Bye Laws and General Regulations; which set out Council's structure; the role and the Office of the President; and associated panels and committees.

There are a number of issues with our governance that Council believe should be addressed. At the moment there is no active part of our governance that feeds in members' policy priorities. There is confusion between the role of the Chair of Council and the President. There is a lack of clarity about the role of the Office of the President - which includes the President, Vice President and Past President - none of whom have a vote at Council meetings.

Council carefully considered recommendations from the project board and asked for views from members, Regional Member Networks, Special Interest Groups and Devolved Nations. Members of Council and Senior Management Team attended over twenty meetings to present the proposals, and take comments and feed back to Council. An article in May's Update sought member views, which also went on the CILIP website, was included in the weekly news email and was promoted on social media.

We would like to thank all members that took the time to submit their views about the proposals, and the Devolved Nations and Member Networks who provided feedback.

At our July meeting members of Council considered the comments and feedback carefully. While the feedback broadly supported the proposed governance changes, a number of specific points were raised and Council made amendments to the proposals as a result. In particular Council are keen to ensure that Member Networks have an important role in setting policy priorities, that Trustees elected by the membership will always be the majority in meetings, and that the President should always be an elected trustee and CILIP member.

Council took a vote and decided by a majority of eleven to one to present the amended proposals to members for vote at the AGM.

The Trustee who abstained on this decision, Tom Roper, then took the decision to resign from Council citing the difference of views from the other members of Council on these issues. While members of Council are saddened by Tom's resignation we fully respect his decision.

Following Tom's decision Council have seen further feedback and comments about the governance review, mostly through blogs, email lists and social media. Council have taken these views into consideration.

At the AGM members will have a choice between adopting the new model of governance (figure 1) or keeping the current model (figure 2).

If the new model is adopted then at the AGM members will have their say on options relating to the way elections and appointments to the new Board work. Members will be asked to approve:

- A Board comprising eight elected Board Members and four appointed Board Members (the appointed Members not necessarily being Individual Members of CILIP).
- The President also being chair of the Board who will be appointed by the Board from those Board Members who have been elected by the membership.

A two-thirds majority vote is required at the AGM to change CILIP's Bye Laws.

FIGURE 1: NEW MODEL

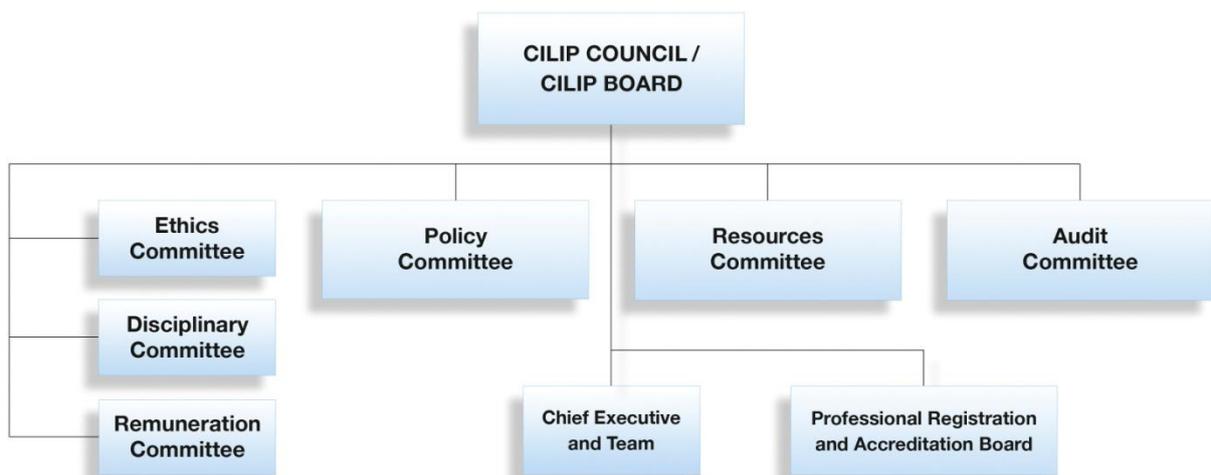


FIGURE 2: CURRENT MODEL

