

16 FEBRUARY 2026**PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN****Council****UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

(Paper by Dawn Ohlson. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting, please contact Dawn by emailing President@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To note an update from the President.

2. Timing

Council meeting, 5 March 2026.

3. For Note**4. Update**

- 4.1. As we move through an incredibly busy period for the Institution, I wanted to share some reflections on recent engagements and milestones that continue to shape our direction for the year ahead.
- 4.2. As President, and importantly as Chair of the Board of Trustees, a central part of my role is ensuring that our governance remains strong, strategic, and aligned with our charitable purpose. The breadth of activity over the past months has reinforced just how vibrant and interconnected our global community truly is.
- 4.3. A key responsibility of the President is Chairing the Board of Trustees, ensuring we make informed, forward-looking decisions that safeguard the charity, support our long-term strategy, and reflect the needs of members and society. Since I last gave an update at Council in October the Board of Trustees has had two regular meetings as well as a special meeting to review and approve proposals for change to our Governance Structure that you will now discuss at this Council meeting.
- 4.4. I take the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees incredibly seriously and this is a time-consuming part of my role as President. I meet regularly with Ed and colleagues in the governance team to steer agenda items for the Board. At each Board meeting Ed provides an operational report highlighting issues that the Board should be aware of, as well as progress against targets. Items in the meetings so far this session have covered Fundraising Strategy, a new strategic KPI, updates on Projects, the approach to industry sectors and technologies, updates to the IET Strategy (which will be covered in this Council meeting), the IET plan and budget, as well as routine reports from committees that report to the Board. If you are interested you can read the minutes and any open papers on the [IET website](#).
- 4.5. One of the most rewarding moments has been celebrating the achievements of our peers at the Achievement Awards and presenting Honorary Fellowships to Dawn

Bonfield, David Parr and Nicolas Hamilton. These events remind us of the outstanding contributions engineers and technologists make every day, and they help strengthen the recognition and visibility of our profession.

- 4.6. The Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards (YWE) has once again stood out as a highlight of the IET year, an evening filled with energy, talent, and the powerful stories of remarkable professionals.
- 4.7. I had the pleasure of speaking on the E&T podcast, a new experience for me and one which I enjoyed. More recently I joined a session with Primary Engineer, championing STEM engagement and the importance of inspiring the next generation.
- 4.8. It is a privilege to represent the IET internationally, both by hosting visiting delegations in the UK and travelling to meet our members and volunteers further afield. In recent months I was able to host a visit from the Malaysia Board of Technologists to Savoy Place.
- 4.9. Past President Warren East, and Deputy President Simon Harrison also took part in a series of meetings and events with the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, building on long-standing relationships.
- 4.10. These global connections continue to highlight the IET's unique role in convening the engineering community and shaping international dialogue.
- 4.11. As I write this update, I am preparing to visit our Local Networks in India and Sri Lanka where I am looking forward to meeting with volunteers, members and partners in the region.
- 4.12. Every week, thousands of Members (and some non-Members) choose to give their time, energy, and expertise to something bigger than themselves, and it is their generosity that powers our mission and brings our strategy to life. Our volunteers really are the heartbeat of the IET, and my Presidency marks the IET's Year of Volunteering.
- 4.13. It was very important to me to host an Insight Hour call with volunteers in the Autumn, a valuable opportunity to listen and share, ensuring that the voices of our volunteers help to guide our priorities.
- 4.14. We know our volunteers are ready to hear more about our recent organisational changes, the progress we've made so far, and our direction for the year ahead and so I recently took the opportunity to record a video message for volunteers which has been released in the last couple of weeks, if you haven't seen it yet please do reach out and we will provide you with a link.

5. Risk

No risks have been identified with this paper.

6. Resources

No resource implications have been identified as a result of this paper.