

9 March 2026

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Board of Trustees

VOLUNTEER FESTIVAL

(Note by Christopher Knibb. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting, please contact Christopher Knibb on +44 (0)1438 767226, or by email cknibb@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To provide the Board with an update on plans for the Volunteer Conference 2026.

2. Timing

Board of Trustees meeting, 19 March 2026.

3. For Note

To note plans for the 2026 Volunteer Conference.

4. Background

4.1 The IET relies on volunteers to carry out many activities and deliver its strategy.

4.2 At her President's Address, Dawn Ohlson announced there would be a Volunteer Conference in 2026.

4.3 We now wish to update the Board on the plans for a three-day festival which will be held in September (18-20).

4.5 This year's conference will be a moment to re-engage and re-energise our volunteer community. Not just to recognise the value of the work that volunteers do, but to give something back to them – a reset in making volunteering a value-added exercise for time poor individuals. As well as ensuring volunteers feel valued and recognised for what they do and bring to the IET, we also want to give something back to ensure they are clear on the direction of the IET, confident the IET will grow and that the IET has a plan for volunteering.

4.5 Each of the days will have a different theme, with Day 1 focussing on inspiring volunteers about the future of engineering; Day 2 helping to develop their ability to be better volunteers and support them in their role as volunteers; and Day 3: Recognise the contribution of volunteers and celebrate in person, using a 'hub and spoke' model (further details can be found in Appendix 1).

4.6 The Festival is one workstream within the Volunteer Transformation programme and is being designed to complement and enhance the programme's aims and objectives.

4.6 Trustees are invited to review the slide deck that was presented to the Volunteer Engagement Board last month.

5. Risk

The Festival is designed to re-invigorate our volunteer committee, celebrate individual's achievements and support them in their roles. Failure to host would impact this. Additionally, the Volunteer Net Promotor Score is a measure of volunteer satisfaction and whether they would recommend the IET as a place to volunteer. It is hoped the Festival, together with the wider transformation programme, will see an increase in the score for 2026, compared to 2025.

6. Resources

There are no additional resource requirements related to this paper as additional activities have been incorporated into the Projects budget for 2026.