

Annual Review 2021–22: Nick Maclean FRICS, Interim Chair of Governing Council statement

In the past year, the world has continued to grapple with the effects of the pandemic while facing new threats to stability emanating from turbulent markets and geopolitics.

Policymakers, clients and citizens demand more from their built spaces, and in many jurisdictions sustainability and societal equity are taking their rightful equal place alongside commercial viability as core considerations for real estate investment, construction and management.

For RICS professionals, this evolving context has added fresh nuance and urgency to questions posed by the spread of COVID-19, which itself accelerated dynamics that have long been driving change across the built and natural environment.

As extreme climate events around the world become ever more common, progress at gatherings like COP26 demonstrated widespread concern amongst political and professional leaders.

But more needs to be done to convert awareness into action to safeguard the environment and our future as a species.

With this in mind, RICS professionals are playing a leading role in delivering practical solutions on the issues that matter most to people around the world.

Supported by respected standards and learning resources that are always evolving to keep in step with the latest thinking, from data ethics to climate resilience, RICS professionals continue to offer actionable insight and advice, providing a foundation for confident markets and flourishing societies.

For RICS itself, which exists to support professionals and enhance their work to public advantage, a lengthy and painstaking process of external examination and scrutiny came to a head in June when Lord Michael Bichard published his Independent Review commissioned in December 2021.

Informed by extensive stakeholder consultation, the Review's proposals were far-reaching, aiming to clarify RICS' purpose and make proposals on its governing structure, culture and future strategy.

RICS' Governing Council has strongly endorsed the recommendations, and in implementing them is working at pace to change RICS into an institution that works effectively and sustainably, in which both members and the public at large continue to have confidence.

I am grateful for the positive engagement of members throughout this at times challenging process.

I am also delighted at the lead members are taking in overseeing and implementing these reforms.

Whether participating in member-led steering groups or taking an active role to convene and coordinate activity amongst fellow professionals in their regions in collaboration with RICS staff, members are bringing all their insight, expertise and passion to refocusing RICS to become the institution that they and the public demand and deserve.

I have no doubt that this profound but essential transformation will ensure RICS can sustainably deliver its public interest obligations, restore trust amongst members and inspire the next generation of professionals to play their part in delivering a more sustainable and resilient future.

From a year that has seen great progress in equipping RICS and its members to face the future prepared and resilient, I look forward to seeing continued progress in delivering confidence for all the communities we serve in the years ahead.