



SPACES is now in its third year. The Board have reflected that there have been some notable successes over the last three years:

- The Yearbook has been updated to reflect the new Society and the circulation has been enhanced to ensure that key contacts across the Public Sector receive a printed copy.
- SPACES now produce the Yearbook electronically. This significantly eases the distribution of the publication and is a major way for us all to collectively share the good news around what we do and what we stand for.
- The Civic Building of the Year (CBOY) Awards have remained a key strength and combined with the Annual Presidents Dinner remain a core attribute and credit to the Society. With the introduction of the Young Visionary Award, which proved hugely popular last year, and the introduction of an external Expert Panel, the Awards are gathering kudos and an enhanced profile.
- The Annual Study Days held in Winchester (2016) and Manchester University (2017 and 2018) have received excellent feedback and have been well attended. Much of the feedback has been around the unique character and quality of the event.
- An electronic monthly newsletter is distributed to keep members updated on events and society business.
- An improved website has been developed with online payments and booking for events
- SPACES has received recognition in the industry that a multidiscipline society that focuses on outcomes, and not professions, provides a unique insight and valuable contribution to better (public sector) building delivery and maintenance.
- SPACES members sit on the IET Wiring Regulations panel, the CIBSE main Technical committee, ESFA stakeholders group for the CDC survey programme, BB100 working group and the ESFA Mathematical Condition Degradation Model Group. We are influencing our industry.

The Board have also reflected on the challenges that remain. Most notably:

- Much of the work of the Society is delivered by a small number of Members and its manager. This puts an unsustainable pressure on those actively involved. Example challenges include unallocated Board places (which are required to be filled at the AGM in September this year), lack of regional hub coordinators, Head of Profession for Contracting, Head of Publicity and Marketing and general volunteers to help with events and activities, and to support the society business and the SPACES manager.
- Retaining and growing involvement from Local Authorities is increasingly more difficult as more and more of the delivery function is outsourced to the Private Sector. Keeping a strong Local Authority active Membership is critical to SPACES (for private sector sponsorship to continue, local authority members are needed at hub meetings, supporting local and national events and be active in the society). We are investigating free membership for Local Authority and the Public Sector.
- Sponsorship and marketing is a key activity for SPACES, we are struggling to find the right Membership support to move this forward. We have lost a key sponsor this year and sponsorship is critical to SPACES moving forward. This is a critical role than needs filling.
- Regional activity in the Central and the Eastern regions remains strong, but with the changes in Local Government and current lack of active Member engagement it is proving challenging to re-establish activity in other regions.



- Investment is required to enhance the website to add further functionality and self-service features which have been planned but require significant funding.

The Board wish to seek the views of the Members on three possible routes we might take going forward and encourage all those with an interest to express their views by email to the SPACES Manager prior to the AGM on 14th September, in London.

Possible Options Going Forward

1. Status Quo

Option one would be to propose to continue as we are, but for the reasons set out above the Board currently believe this is not a sustainable position. For this to work we would need to see more Members stepping forward to fill vacant positions and to actively take key agenda items forward. We would very much see further Local Authority engagement as key to this option succeeding.

2. Reduce the Core Activities that demand the Commitment of Active Members

The Board recognise this would require a radical reduction to the activities which are the most successful aspects of the Society. This would mean ending the Yearbook and Awards, or the Study Day, or the Presidents Dinner or curtailing a combination of these activities. The Society would then move forward focusing attention on the regional activity, in those regions that remain successful.

3. Winding-Up of the Society

The third option if we don't get any volunteers to share the workload would be to consider the option to wind-up the Society. We would need to explore how this could best be achieved and hopefully offer support to the regional activity where that remains successful.

Option 3 is obviously the least desirable. Option 2 would see the loss of the industry voice as the society would be less significant. Option 1 would be the preferred option but is only possible if the members can provide more support to the Societies activities. The board have reviewed other options and we would be pleased to consider other options from members.

Your feedback is required

Please submit your feedback on the options set out in this paper to Fiona at manager@thespaces.org.uk ahead of the AGM on 14th September 2018.

If you would like to be more involved or would simply like an informal chat to find out more then please ring one of the board members. We understand that everyone is busy but the reality is we cannot continue to operate with so few people. Some of the help needed is just a few hours a year.

By being more involved with SPACES you will get opportunities to widen your knowledge and experience (not just in your own field), increase the size and quality of your network and have a greater understanding of our industry, also looks good on your CV!