

DIA NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020

On Friday 18th December the DIA had a meeting with Dundee City Council Building Standards Management Team for a catch up after this most challenging of circumstance and working conditions this year.

Through their involvement with LABSS their comments and feedback relate to all 4 of the local authorities that the Chapter covers.

Across the board the number of Applications being submitted has increased to 2018 levels which has added to pressures to targets of turning around the applications within certain timescales. Delivery of timescales has been affected by an increase in unauthorised work which has taken time away from processing valid applications.

Chapter members are encouraged to contact Building Standards for Pre Application advice and agree any Staged Applications if required.

It is acknowledged that there may be various pressures to submit Warrant Applications but we would encourage Chapter members to ensure competent and complete Applications wherever possible. Good open communications between Chapter members and Building Standards will help improve the service provided and hopefully mitigate 11th hour demands and pressures.

Chapter members will be aware of the various enquiries and reviews that have been going on for the past couple of years. There have been various papers published by the Scottish Government and members are encouraged to digest these.

One of the outcomes has been the setting up of the Building Standards Futures Board in 2019. The RIAS is represented on this board along with LABSS. The Board's remit is to strategically advise and direct a broad programme of work aimed at improving the performance, expertise, resilience and sustainability of the Scottish building standards framework and services across Scotland. There are currently 7 Work Streams that are being taken forward and information on this can be found here,

<https://www.gov.scot/groups/building-standards-futures-board/>

New Regulations will be coming into force on 01 March '21 with changes to Section 2 Fire that will have implications across the board for flatted and social housing developments. There will also be new requirements to install interlinked fire and heat alarms to any dwelling with Warrantable works being carried out,

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>

Information on the Technical Handbook can be found here,

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/building-standards/monitoring-improving-building-regulations/>

Here at the DIA, we are keen to liaise with our Chapter Members and the local authority teams, if any members have any comments regarding the service that they are receiving and suggestions of improving their service delivery please contact me via president@dia-architects.com and we will pass your comments on to LABSS and the relevant local authority.

As the final Newsletter of 2020, the DIA would like to wish our members a Merry Christmas and safe and peaceful New Year.