

ACE Advocacy group refresh

FAQs - August 2022

Why are you changing the structure?

This is a key moment for the policy and advocacy activity of ACE. Member companies face multiple challenges in adapting to a post-pandemic world. Our policy and advocacy is no different, and we too must adapt our approach. Providing a structure for strong and clear engagement with external stakeholders, our five new advocacy groups ensure the policy asks of today will unlock tomorrow's opportunities for our members.

These changes will also ensure we have the flexibility to support the organisational goals within our three-year Blueprint.

How will this improve ACEs engagement?

The five groups – Transport and Mobility, Procurement & Pipeline, Climate Change, Places, and People – will assist ACE in the creation of proactive and impactful advocacy strategies which not only set out common positions but offer clear asks. Each group will define positions for the industry, influence the development of new and existing legislation at a political and policymaking level, as well input to our overall policy direction.

Through the groups, we will monitor and influence the work of the UK Government, Parliament, and other institutions at a political level, including the English regions and devolved nations through our Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland committees. Our new groups will also promote the economic, social, and environmental contribution of ACE members and the wider sector, whilst representing the interests of membership to UK political stakeholders – where the decisions made can impact on ACE members in their day-to-day.

Finally, and crucially for the success of your business and other ACE members, these new groups will provide support and information on how to prepare for legislation changes related to industry affairs.

What does this mean for the current groups?

What were our Future of Consultancy groups and Voice of Consultancy groups will now be encompassed in our five new advocacy groups announced today. There will be no changes to our work in the regions and nations, with our committees continuing to welcome members and engage with key stakeholders. ACE will continue to support members through operational groups such as the HR, Health and Safety, and Legal and Commercial forums.

Both the SME Forum and Large Consultancy Group will see their responsibilities and influence strengthened, with both turning into new ACE Advisory Councils. Both will have a key role as an interface between the ACE Board, and the activities of the Advocacy Groups. These Advisory Councils will also deal with broader policy issues outside the scope of the Advocacy Groups.

Why has the Net Zero group changed its name?

The Government's Net Zero strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet Net Zero target by 2050. But we recognise that as part of the implementation phase, this debate is far more than just our progress to Net Zero.

The new Climate Change Advocacy Group, bringing together ACE and EIC members, will ensure we bring together other important components into our discussions, including biodiversity net gain, green finance, and sustainability.

Who are the Chairs of these new groups?

We have announced the following individuals and member companies will support us in taking forward the new ACE Advocacy Groups:

- Climate Change – Sarah Prichard (BuroHappold)
- Procurement – Neil Humphreys (Waterman Group)
- Places – Peter Hogg (Arcadis)
- Transport and Mobility – Tim Chapman (Arup)
- People – Lara Potter (Arcadis).

A full list of vice chairs will be shared in due course.

We're interested in joining one of the advocacy groups, what do we do?

Of course, we'd love to have you or a colleague at any of groups. Please get in touch with the [membership team](#) to find out more.

I'm interested in joining an Advisory Council, how can I get involved?

We're still working out the final details of how the Advisory Councils will work, your potential involvement will depend on the size of your organisation, and the level of representation from each member company.

Both the Large Consultancy Advisory Council and SME Advisory Council will provide members with a safe space to discuss the business challenges which are unique to organisations of similar sizes.

Get in touch with the [policy team](#) to find out more.

How will Regional Groups take forward this new structure?

Our committees in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as the two English regional groups ACE currently operates in the Midlands and North West, will drive forward the new ACE three-year Blueprint locally.

To ensure a consistent approach, each regional committee will have the opportunity to take forward the themes outlined in the Blueprint, and work with key stakeholders to achieve positive change. ACE will continue to work with members across the UK.

Why hasn't the website been updated yet?

It's going to take a few days to update the website with new information and reorganise existing content. Please bear with us while we make the changes. We will also be adding the upcoming meeting dates for the rest of the year.

I'd like to discuss this further with ACE

Either the [membership team](#) or [Guto Davies](#) are on hand to answer any further queries you might have around the changes. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.