

UK Green Building Council appoints Simon McWhirter as Chief Executive

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The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) announces change of leadership with the appointment of Simon McWhirter as its new Chief Executive.

The Board of Trustees of the UKGBC confirmed that, having led the organisation through a significant period of change, Smith Mordak, has concluded their tenure at UKGBC. Smith brought a wealth of industry knowledge, deep technical expertise, first-hand insights of creating sustainable places, and as a passionate campaigner for action on the environmental crises and to engender an equitable society. During the last two years, we have valued the expertise and energy that they have brought to the UKGBC as the organisation continues to evolve. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.

Simon, who previously served as Deputy Chief Executive, will formally take on the role of Chief Executive.

With a background spanning sustainability advocacy, communications, finance, political engagement, and property development, Simon brings a unique blend of experience and passion to the role. Over the last few years, he has played a pivotal role in leading UKGBC's policy, public affairs, and member engagement strategies, nationally and internationally.

Regarding the appointment, Judith Everett, Chair of UKGBC said: "Simon brings strong relationships across the built environment sector, government and our partners, attuned to the nature and climate crises we face. His sector experience across domestic and international networks, and – supported by UKGBC's passionate and capable team – makes him well-placed to lead this next phase. As well as knowing the sector well, he has been involved with UKGBC from its inception 18 years ago – most recently leading our

political, communications, membership and international work. The Trustees felt he was the right person to lead the organisation.”

Commenting on his appointment, Simon McWhirter, new Chief Executive said: “Having been involved with UKGBC since its formation, I’m pleased to be taking on the role of Chief Executive at such a crucial time. With the current backdrop of political and economic upheaval, UKGBC is exceptionally well positioned to help bring clarity, certainty and a wealth of positive solutions for decision-makers across government and industry – about how we design, deliver and indeed revel in buildings and places that are not just radically more sustainable – but radically better places to live, work and play. I want to express my thanks to Smith for their sterling work over the past couple of years, and the support for me over that time; and their leadership helped set the stage for me and the team to really shift the dial about how we can really use the UK’s built environment as a positive lever for change in combatting the climate and nature crises.”

The Board of Trustees look forward to drawing on Simon’s leadership and vision, in this new chapter in UKGBC’s work to drive systemic transformation in the built environment.