

## Open Letter – Candidates and political parties in Wales

The forthcoming Senedd/Welsh Parliament Election on Thursday 6 May takes place at a crucial time, as we emerge from the pandemic and need to deliver economic growth that is socially inclusive and compatible with net zero.

ACE Wales members are the engineering consultancies large and small who design and engineer every piece of social and economic infrastructure in Wales: schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, and transport schemes, to name but a few. Throughout this pandemic, ACE Wales members and the wider construction industry have helped keep the Welsh economy moving.

Whoever is elected on Thursday we want to work with the next administration to make sure that our built environment is fit for purpose: resilient to existing climate change; ready for net zero and adding value and a sense of place to our communities. In particular we would urge the next administration to:

### Invest in projects that:

- Support the Welsh economy.
- Deliver placemaking for our public spaces.
- Regenerate our public sector assets by refurbishing, refitting and long-term asset management planning and maintenance.

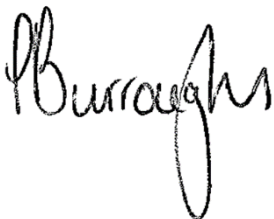
### Deliver net zero:

- Decarbonise construction projects by better design and by exploiting the benefits of digital systems and solutions.
- Plan for hydrogen production, distribution, and usage.
- Co-ordinate and simplify the legislative platform on which entrepreneurs may deliver integrated solutions quickly.

### Secure procurement reform:

- Adopt a value based tender assessment.
- Set clear social value deliverables.
- Share risks intelligently to reduce cost and the Professional Indemnity insurance burden.

The coming decade will be decisive in addressing these challenges, in particular net zero. We look forward to working with the next administration to ensure we meet these challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Burroughs', written in a cursive style.

**Piers Burroughs BEng MSc PhD CEng FICE MCIHT**

ACE Wales Chair.

& Chief Executive, Burroughs