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The AECB is a small charity: a network of individuals and companies with a common aim of promoting sustainable building. It brings together builders, architects, designers, manufacturers, students, educators, housing associations and local authorities, to develop, share and promote best practice in environmentally sustainable building.

The AECB was invited by Caplor Horizons to have one to one discussions with Lord Tyler to explore the role of advocacy, how the AECB's existing approach could be strengthened and improved and how the AECB's extensive and expert knowledge might be more clearly communicated to influence Government strategic thinking and policy development.

As part of the very interesting discussions Paul provided valuable insight into how the AECB could achieve better results through understanding the various governmental processes (barriers and opportunities). Subsequently we made changes that we feel has resulted in a more effective approach to AECB lobbying activity.

To be given access to Paul's expertise and his flexible approach to providing support is very much appreciated: it has given us a much clearer understanding of how and where to focus our energy for both informing (and hopefully improving policy) and also for generally being more effective at advocacy on behalf of our membership and of course in the wider public interest.

Later, the CEO was invited to attend a Caplor House Practitioner event. This focused on learning and development. During the workshop, we were part of a small group session where we were invited to discuss complex issues relating to the organisational 'health' of the AECB with a selection of Caplor Horizons Advisors - using the Caplor House Model as a tool for exploring organisational issues and potential directions for improvement. This event gave a unique perspective on some of the challenges faced by the AECB during difficult times for the organisation itself and the sector as a whole. Insights gained were very useful in instigating new, and guiding ongoing changes already set in motion within the organisation. As a result the practises of the AECB have been improved – we feel that we are now understand how to operate in a more collaborative way with external partners and more efficiently and effectively within the organisation.

The contribution of Caplor Horizons has been extremely helpful to the AECB in a variety of ways that the AECB would not have otherwise had access to. The manner in which the Advisors share their experience and knowledge so generously for the good of others is also a great inspiration.

Andrew Simmonds
CEO, AECB