LI Election 2025 - Candidate Statement

President-Elect:
Saira Ali FLI

All candidates are required to provide a candidate statement of no more than 250 words that must address the 2 questions below

1. Please summarise your skills and experience relevant to the role for which you are standing
2. Why are you standing for this position and what would you hope to achieve as a President and Chair of Council

Candidate Statement:

For nearly three decades, I've transformed landscapes into places of connection, resilience, and belonging. My work- from award-winning urban regeneration to climate-conscious design, has always centred on creating positive change for people, places, and nature.

As a Fellow of the Landscape Institute, with experience in both private practice and local government, I bring a broad perspective and a deep belief in the power of our profession to shape a healthier, fairer, climate-resilient future. I will serve the whole Institute, every voice matters.

The guiding principles of my Leadership will be:
Ambitious Vision - A Strong Compass: I bring a bold, future-focused vision. Our profession must lead on climate, health, and equity - with confidence and innovation. I'll champion our role in biodiversity, nature-led legislation, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Humility - Bottom-Up Leadership: I believe in servant leadership, built on listening, respect, and fairness. I'll create space for all voices and grow the next generation through a national mentoring programme.

Resilience - Personal and Professional Strength: I understand the pressures members face. I'll champion a profession that is financially, emotionally, and structurally resilient, supporting fairer fees, SMEs, and planning resourcing.

Curiosity - A Commitment to Learn and Adapt: I'll foster curiosity, collaboration, and stronger skills in communication and engagement.

Together, we will:
- Empower members with skills, recognition, and membership
- Lead on climate through nature-based, net-zero design
- Advance inclusion and next-generation talent
- Raise our profile in government, industry, and public life

Let's shape the future, together.

Current membership of any other organisations:

Royal Society of Arts- Fellowship pending
Environment Agency appointed Independent Member
Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
Professional review Group Panel
University of Sheffield Department of Landscape Architecture
National Trusts Advisory Group