

CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT,
EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP

Notes of the meeting held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 28th January Committee Room 3 Scottish Parliament

1. Welcome

Monica Lennon (ML) MSP Convenor of the Cross-Party group welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Sandra White MSP, Barri Millar: Association for Project Safety, Chris Pateman: Engineered Panels in Construction and David Petrie: Homes for Scotland.

2. Matters Arising

The notes from the meeting held on 29th October 2019 had been previously circulated. Gordon Nelson (GN) confirmed that he picked up a contact at the Association for Consultancy & Engineering but was still seeking help to identify contacts from the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board and the Considerate Contractors Scheme.

Michael Lennox (MLX) from the CITB said that he had a contact at the Considerate Contractors Scheme and asked GN to follow up.

There were no clarifications or corrections from the notes and they were proposed by Stephen Young (SY) and seconded by Alexander Burnett (AB) MSP.

ML added that, also circulated prior to today's meeting is the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair, Work Derek Mackay MSP. The letter responds to the questions raised to the Cabinet Secretary at the CPG meeting on 29th October. ML asked if everyone was happy with the letter, there were no objections.

3. Innovation and Future Skills.

ML confirmed that innovation and future skills is the theme of today's meeting. ML welcomed Stephen Good (SG) CEO of the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC), Hannah Gibson (HG) from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Graeme OKane (GK) from Tarmac as our guest presenters.

The three presentations are attached separately.

Hannah Gibson from the CITB: digital leadership – giving leaders the skills to drive digital transformation.

key points

- CITB have invested £7 million in digital skills

- Managers and employees in the construction industry don't need to know too much about digital skills to reap their benefits
- Leaders need to have digital awareness and knowledge in order to drive digital transformation.

Stephen Good from the CSIC: the role of innovation in uncovering solutions to some of the industry's pressing challenges around climate change and value-based procurement.

Key points:

- Innovation is change that unlocks new value.
- The construction industry is the second least 'digitised' industry- there's a huge opportunity to learn from other industries.
- The construction industry will be a major part of the solution to addressing and reducing Scotland's and the UK's carbon emissions.

Graeme OKane from Tarmac: An example of the ways we can reduce our carbon footprint, through innovative material production and better product selection for the roads of Scotland.

Key points:

- Proper material selection and specification is vital to improve the durability of our roads.
- GK noted the benefits of using warm mix asphalt.
- Tarmac's project to use old tyres in building roads. In this project there are about 750 tyres in a kilometre of road.

ML thanked the three speakers and asked if the CSIC were able to support the Tarmac product innovation programme. SY and Grahame Barn (GB) asked about the barriers preventing the adoption of warm mix asphalt. Perceived cost and procurement being noted as reasons by GK and SG.

Graham Simpson (GS) MSP asked about the view of SEPA regarding the use of tyres in making roads.

Stuart Tennant (ST) noted that a report examining the construction industry is typically produced every 30 months and that the supply chain behaves the way it does because of the pressures and structures in place. Thin margins and a lack of trust within the construction industry, behaviours (client and contractors across the supply chain), poor payment terms and the issue that no-one is auditing them, being key issues raised by various attendees.

Pamela Wilson (PW) and Fiona Hodgson (FH) noted that the introduction of reverse charge VAT is a threat to the cashflow and the viability of SME firms.

The industry's image problem doesn't seem to be putting off candidates from applying for roles (mainly apprenticeships) in the industry. Elaine Ellis (EE) noting that the demand for jobs in the industry exceeds the supply of jobs: more visible vacancies are needed.

There were other comments and questions about how the CSIC and CITB could identify the non-adopters of digital technology.

5. Any Other Business

GN noted the presence of four of FMB Scotland's board members and that Sandra White MSP has asked for cladding to be raised at the meeting. Alan Wilson (AW) noted and encouraged everyone to complete the Scottish Government's consultation into retentions which is open until 25th March.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the CPG would write with a response to the consultation. AW agreed to draft a letter and forward it to the Secretary.

SY suggested the budget and infrastructure projects as a topic for the next meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting.

ML noted that this will be in late April, with precise date to be confirmed.

MSP Attendees: Monica Lennon MSP, Alexander Burnett MSP, Graham Simpson MSP

Non-MSP Attendees

Forename	Surname	Company/Representing	CPG Members Noted
Asim	Afzal	CIOB	CPG Member
Bill	Alexander	Association of Commercial Attorneys (ACA).	
Grahame	Barn	Civil Engineering Contractors' Association-Scotland	CPG Member
Theresa	Brown	Young Wilson & Cunningham Ltd -FMB Scotland Board Member	
Paula	Coopland	Mineral Products Association	CPG Member
William	Crowe	Institution of Structural Engineers (ISE)	CPG Member
Elaine	Ellis	Skills Development Scotland	
Ryan	Fair	George Fair Joiners & Contractors Ltd-FMB Scotland Board Member	
Anne	Galbraith	Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)	CPG Member
Hannah	Gibson	CITB	CPG Member
Robert	Girvan	CITB	CPG Member
Stephen	Good	CSIC	
Cara	Hilton	Civil Engineering Contractors' Association-Scotland	CPG Member
Michael	Lennox	CITB	CPG Member
John	McKinney	Scottish Contractors Group	CPG Member
Gordon	Nelson	FMB	CPG Member
Graeme	OKane	Tarmac	
Alastair	Raitt	HM Raitt & Sons and FMB Scotland Board Member	
Lindsay	Sinclair	FMB	CPG Member

Stephen	Slessor	Morrison Construction	
Ross	Taylor	Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP	
Stuart	Tennant	University of the West of Scotland	
Allan	Thomson	Central Training Services Limited	
Pam	Wilson	Kevin Wilson Joiners and FMB Scotland Board Member	
Alan	Wilson	SELECT- Scotland's Electrical Trade Association	CPG Member
Stephen	Young	Institution of Structural Engineers (ISE)	CPG Member

Secretary: Gordon Nelson

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