

CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT,
EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP**

**3.15pm Friday 20th November 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Convener, Monica Lennon (ML) MSP noted apologies were covered at the AGM which preceded this meeting.

2. Matters arising

Notes of the virtual meeting held on 11th September 2020. No comments or clarifications received. Meeting notes proposed by Stephen Slessor (SS) and seconded by Grahame Barn (GB).

Steven Dillon (SD) suggested that apprentices and graduates should be able to join the CPG as members. GB noted that anyone is welcome to attend CPG meetings but members pay a subscription in some years. All welcomed greater involvement from all those connected to the construction industry. During the meeting, the Secretary shared the Scottish Parliaments' framework for the operation of CPG's.

3. Draft Infrastructure Investment Plan and Construction Recovery Plan

ML noted that we had invited the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson MSP to present to the group. He was unable to join us but Rachel Gwyon from the Scottish Government, kindly agreed to present to us today in his place.

ML also welcomed Peter Reekie (PR), CEO of the Scottish Futures Trust.

Rachel presented on the Draft Infrastructure Investment Plan. The presentation is attached separately. Key points included:

- National Infrastructure Mission – our £33 billion Scottish Government investment programme.
- £24 bn of infrastructure investment is itemised in the Draft Plan now – providing a robust pipeline of work.
- This means good, green jobs, a stimulus to supply chains and market confidence.

- A new common investment hierarchy is proposed that will support the coherence of our whole infrastructure programme.
- We are already investing over £450 million in maintenance in 2020-21 and will work towards doubling this level over the next 5 years, addressing backlogs. This is expected to benefit Scotland based SME's.

PR delivered a verbal presentation on the Construction Recovery Plan which was published on 6th October. Key points:

- The Construction Leadership Forum (CLF): a new collaborative partnership between the Scottish Government and the Construction Industry developed the re-start plan in May 2020. This saw the gradual re-opening of the industry from early June.
- The CLF published a draft recovery plan in August, with feedback from industry leading to the recovery plan being published in October. This is intended to help the industry to rebuild better. The immediate need is for its clients across the public, private and domestic sectors to continue to buy construction industry products and services
- The plan works towards maximising support for employers and employees and establishing new ways of working to manage infection control, health and safety and shared learning opportunities.
- There are immediate, short, medium and longer term initiatives in it. The recovery plan will be flexible and able to respond to industry needs and economic conditions going forward.
- There are five themes areas for action, each with a sub-group to develop progress. These are: Pipeline and commercials, skills and workforce, supply chain resilience and capability, transformation and industry data and insight.

A Q & A session and discussion followed both presentations. Local authority budget deficits, the NHS and healthcare facilities being key areas. PR noting that an executive group has been set up to monitor progress on the implementation of the recovery plan.

John McKinney (JM) noting that the skills shortages in the industry need to be addressed if Scotland is going to de-carbonise its building stock. PR added that as expenditure shifts towards enhancing existing assets, the growing pipeline of work will give industry more confidence to invest in and train new workers.

Elliot Robertson (ER) asked if the £5 billion city region and regional growth deals in the infrastructure investment plan will be new spend. ML expressed concerns about the future of office spaces in town centres and the impact on local economies across Scotland.

4. Any other business

No items.

5. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed but will be in late January or early February 2021.

ML thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the discussion and closed the meeting.

List of attendees at the virtual meeting on 20th November.

MSP attendees: Monica Lennon MSP, Alexander Burnett MSP

Non-MSP attendees

Forename	Surname	Company/Representing	CPG Members Noted
Stephen	Slessor	Morrison Construction	
Grahame	Barn	CECA Scotland & CPG Treasurer	CPG Member
Cara	Hilton	CECA Scotland	CPG Member
Gordon	Nelson	FMB & CPG Secretary	CPG Member
Hector	Macaulay	Balfour Beatty	
Iain	McCaskey	Building Engineering Services Association	CPG Member
John	Kane		
John	McKinney	Scottish Contractors Group	CPG Member
John	Gaskell	DWF LLP	
Michael	Lennox	CITB	CPG Member
Peter	Reekie	Scottish Futures Trust	CPG Member – joined on 20/11/20
Rebecca	Passmore	The Association of Environmental Clerks of Works	CPG Member – joined on 20/11/20
Elaine	Ellis	Skills Development Scotland	
Kirsty	Louise- Hunt	Monica Lennon MSP	
Barri	Millar	Church of Scotland	CPG Member – joined on 20/11/20
Anne	Marie- Vaugh	Glass and Glazing Federation	CPG Member
Arthur	McIvor	Energy and Utility Skills	CPG Member – joined on 20/11/20
Asim	Afzal	Band K	
Elliot	Robertson	Robertson Construction	
Fiona	Hodgson	SNIPeF	CPG Member
Gareth	Lonie	Association for Consultancy & Engineering	CPG Member
Gemma	Gourlay		
Rita	Singh	Kingspan	
Robert	Ogg		CPG Member & Speaker
Stephen	Dillon	Unite the Union	CPG Member
Rachel	Gwyon	Scottish Government	Speaker
William	Crowe	Institution of Structural Engineers	CPG Member

Secretary: Gordon Nelson

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