
Cross-Party Group Minutes

Meeting Minutes

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| Cross Party Group Title: | Cross Party Group on Construction |
| Date of Meeting: | 25 th Jan 2021 |
| Location: | Microsoft Teams |

In attendance:

| Name: | Title: |
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| Aaron Hill, Community Housing Cymru | |
| Alex Rawlin, CITB | |
| Andrew Carpenter, | |
| Cat Griffiths-Williams, CEW | |
| Dave Kleft | |
| Sharon Davies, Welsh Government | |
| Tom Davies, | |
| Ed Evans, CECA | |
| Gareth Davies, | |
| Gareth Davies, CITB | |
| Keely Howlett, Welsh Government | |
| Leigh Hughes, Bouygues UK | |

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| <p>Ifan Glyn, FMB</p> <p>Jeff Beck,</p> <p>Jim McKirdle,</p> <p>Sion Jones, Senedd Member support</p> <p>Keith Jones, ICE</p> <p>Ken Evans,</p> <p>Mark Harris, HBF</p> <p>Michelle Morgan-Loughan, SEC group</p> <p>Nicholas Blundell,</p> <p>Nitesh Patel, Senedd Member Support</p> <p>Paul Maliphant,</p> <p>Peter Davies,</p> <p>Rob Davies, CITB</p> <p>Robert Williams, WRW</p> <p>Roisin Willmott, RTPI</p> <p>Rudi Klein, SEC group</p> <p>Sam Rees, RICS</p> <p>Joyce Watson MS</p> <p>Mike Hedges MS</p> <p>Donna Griffiths, Bouygues UK</p> | |
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Apologies:

| Name: | Title: |
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Summary of Meeting:

Joyce Watson MS welcomed attendees to this second meeting of the reinvigorated Construction Cross Party Group.

At the AGM, Joyce Watson was elected as Chair of the CPG unopposed, with Mike Hedges as Vice Chair, and CITB elected to continue providing secretariat to the meeting.

Joyce reminded the group that they had previously agreed to make procurement and decarbonisation the priorities for the CPG and stated that decarbonisation, and the CITB Net Zero research, would be the main item for the next meeting, before the Senedd elections. She added that this meeting would focus on the impact of the Coronavirus crisis on the construction sector in Wales, and actions we can all take to help with recovery.

2. State of the sector– Leigh Hughes, Bouygues UK

Leigh gave a presentation summarising the impact of Covid on the construction sector in Wales, including on output (down by 18-25%), employment (down by 11-15%) and the use of UK government and Welsh Government financial support schemes.

He also provided information (from the Construction Skills Network report) on what forecasts are saying about economic recovery scenarios, output and employment. He also raised concerns about Welsh Parliamentary elections creating procurement delays, and the likelihood of shifting political focus in and around the election period.

3. Welsh Government Construction forum – Ed Evans (CECA) and Cat Griffiths-Williams (CEW)

Following the previous meeting, where the construction sector and the Wales Construction Federation Alliance in particular, were calling for Welsh Government to establish a formal engagement mechanism between Welsh Government and the construction sector, this has now been established. The Welsh Government have established a 'Wales Construction Forum', chaired by the Deputy Minister for Economy, Lee Waters, MS. Ed Evans from CECA and Cat Griffiths-Williams from Construction Excellence Wales, provided an update the structure and purpose of the group and the progress it has made in the last 6 months.

4. Sector manifesto asks

a. Pipeline – Ed Evans (CECA)

b. Skills – Alex Rawlin (CITB)

c. Planning – Mark Harris (HBF) and David Harding (MPA)

d. Procurement – Michelle Morgan-Loughman (ECA) and Rudi Klein

e. Payment – Michelle Morgan-Loughman (ECA) and Rudi Klein

f. Decarbonisation – Ifan Glyn (FMB)

Short presentations were given on each of the priorities.

5. Discussion and next steps

The key areas of discussion were -

- Design and construction outcomes being hampered by social distancing
- Wales specific issues around the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and tackling Net Zero holistically
- Looking more broadly than social homes when we talk about retrofit
- The need for certainty on pipelines from Welsh Government – particularly on retrofit
- The need for action on procurement rules from Welsh Government

6. Any other business

The next meeting will take place before the Senedd Election and focus on decarbonisation.

