

CONSTRUCTION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday 19 January 2017, 14:00 – 16:30
Conference Centre
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

MINUTES – CLC/N07/2017/M07

Attendees:

- Lord Prior (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)
- Andrew Wolstenholme, (Crossrail) – co-chair
- Ann Bentley, (Rider Levett Bucknall)
- David Cash, (BDP)
- Mike Chaldecott, (Saint Gobain)
- Isabel Dedring, (Arup)
- Tony Meggs, (Infrastructure and Projects Authority)
- Brian Morrisroe, (AJ Morrisroe & Sons)
- Mike Putnam, (Skanska UK)
- Simon Rawlinson, (Arcadis)
- Stephen Stone, (Crest Nicholson)
- Robin Webb, (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)

Present by invitation:

- Robin Walker, (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union)
- Paula Crofts, (Department for Education – CITB Review)
- Tony Ellender, (Balfour Beatty)
- James Gray, (Crossrail)
- Niall Mackenzie, (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)
- Paul Morrell, (CITB Review)

Apologies:

- Leo Quinn, (Balfour Beatty)

Secretariat:

- Tony Mulcahy, Peter Payne (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)

1) Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Robin Walker to the CLC.

2) Brexit

2.1 It was explained that currently DExEU are:

- Working across Government to coordinate the approach to the Brexit negotiations and working to get a detailed understanding of the interests of UK businesses and sectors to inform those negotiations;
- Committed to best possible exit deal, giving UK companies maximum freedom to trade with and operate in the EU and also them with the UK;
- Investing in infrastructure is a key government priority throughout the exiting period and there will be a balanced approach by investing in economic infrastructure;
- DExEU has been engaging with amongst others the CIOB, RTPI, RICS and RIBA who had questions about the mutual recognition of professional qualification. DExEU had already heard about priorities around the EU exit - investment, procurement, skills, research & innovation and standards & regulations but looking to hearing from the CLC for their priorities in negotiations to mitigate risk and to take what opportunities they can to support construction.
- Within DExEU Robin Walker broadly has responsibility for services and David Jones has responsibility for goods so the construction remit is shared.

2.3 Matters considered relevant to construction around Brexit:

- Certainty - around long term investments and decisions;
- Clarity - HMG are not trying to shape EU institutions to our requirements but are going to make bilateral agreements with the EU to bring powers back to the UK;
- Immigration mandate – agree there is a continued need to attract skills and talent. Opportunities are in the domestic skills agenda, upscaling and supporting the UK workforce and an immigration policy that works with the grain of the economy. DExEU are keen to hear the CLC's ideas around that area.

2.4 Timings for the exit are:

- End March 2017 - Article 50 presented to the EU;
- 2 year withdrawal negotiation period starts;
- Final negotiation put to Parliament;
- Great Repeal Bill – seeks to replicate all that exists now into UK law.

Action: Ann Bentley was invited to produce a paper on procurement/regulation and Brexit issues and Leo Quinn/David Cash to produce a paper on Skills and Brexit issues for feedback to Robin Walker on behalf of the CLC.

3) CLC Response to Farmer Review

3.1 BEIS provided a précis of the current position. The paper circulated sets out where the Government currently is in developing a response. The next step is for the paper to be sent to the Minister with any comments the CLC may have on the paper taken into account.

3.2 Envisage publication of the Government's response in February. Around the same time it was suggested that the CLC could also put out its own story - around what the CLC workstreams are doing and not responding to each individual recommendation.

Action: Comments on the circulated paper from the CLC to Robin Webb as soon as possible.

4) Updates from Workstream Leads

4.1 The Chair welcomed Lord Prior and the CLC introduced themselves. Views were exchanged on the current state of the UK construction industry.

4.2 Time didn't allow full workstream updates but the leads had met earlier this month to go over their workstream priorities. They have produced some top level bullet points which were listed in the paper. A further meeting is planned for February at BEIS.

5) Review of CITB

5.1 Paul Morrell went through the review's purpose and goals. The aspiration is to get a report that presents an action plan to the CITB and government rather than a *'this is what's wrong with the CITB'* report.

Action: Review team to get back to the CLC, possibly at the next meeting, allowing the CLC to feed back to the review about whether they buy into the conclusions the review is reaching. Alternatively the CLC should provide their ideas to the review on the things that CITB should be doing.

6) Any Other Business

4.3 A CLC response to the Industrial Strategy and a construction sector deal was discussed.

Action: Comms and other WS leads to think about the structure and response (including the need for data supporting investment) of the CLC to the IS.

6.2 A first draft of what the external comms strategy would look like was circulated.

Action: Any comments/changes to Simon ASAP.

6.3 Ann tabled a CECA/BuildUK document regarding prequalification and PAS91.

Action: Any comments to Ann in the next couple of weeks.

6.4 The next CLC meeting date: Thursday 23 March 2017, 14:00–16:30, BEIS Conference Centre.

CLC Secretariat January 2017