

04.03.21 **CLC WELCOMES SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY IN 'RECOVERY BUDGET'**

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has welcomed the Chancellor's Budget as a further step in the recovery of the UK economy as it emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CLC has worked closely with the UK Government in recent months to identify opportunities to boost economic activity by harnessing the capability of the construction and infrastructure sector.

It has welcomed the response from the Chancellor to some of its key recommendations including:

- creation of a National Infrastructure Bank to back projects including regeneration of communities;
- the extension and growth of incentives for apprenticeships, with support for traineeships;
- the extension of the stamp duty holiday

Coupled with previously announced increases in support for Building Safety, this demonstrates that the Government is listening to industry and targeting support that delivers better outcomes.

The CLC also welcomes the extension to furlough, super-deductions for investment, and the creation of 8 new freeports.

CLC chairman Andy Mitchell CBE said: "*The Budget comes a year on from the start of the Covid-19 crisis.*

We were delighted by the way that the industry came together for the first time to prepare a single, cohesive set of recommendations to Government.

At the Budget we saw that the Government has responded strongly to this unified voice. We look forward to working to make sure the success of the initiative announced today."

This ongoing work will include engagement with the Government to develop one of the CLC's other Budget recommendations relating to a commitment to a National Retrofit Strategy.

End