

# CLC Connect

December 2024

## **Bi-Monthly update**

In this issue we hear from Richard Robinson, AtkinsRéalis, President UK and Ireland, CLC Deputy Co-chair

## **Short Term Priorities and Actions**

Recent events and actions

## **Priority progress**

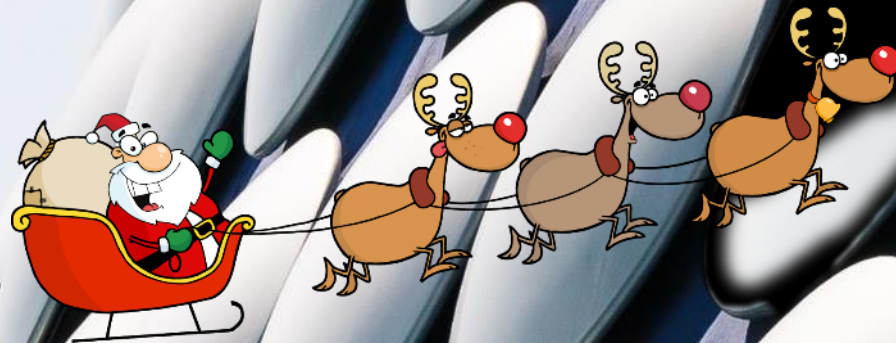
Get the latest updates from our four priority areas:

[Net Zero + Biodiversity](#)

[Next Generation Delivery](#)

[Building Safety](#)

[People + Skills](#)



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**Welcome to CLC Connect, the Construction Leadership Council's Bi-Monthly newsletter which keeps you up to date with all things CLC.**

Construction is a busy and fast changing industry. From new government policies and game-changing private sector initiatives to emerging technologies and innovative ways of working, there's a lot going on as we strive to grow, improve productivity, attract and retain talent, and successfully transition to Net Zero.

CLC Connect will keep you informed, celebrate success, and help bring us closer together.

We're keen to hear your feedback and story ideas so please get in touch via:

[construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

Enjoy and thank you for reading.



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# Bi-Monthly Update

## Richard Robinson

President, AtkinsRéalis, President UK and Ireland

CLC Deputy Co-chair

As we close out 2024, we can reflect on a year of change, challenges, opportunities and progress that reaffirmed the construction sector's critical role at a local, regional and national level.

Infrastructure delivery sits at the heart of Government's growth mission, and we sit at the heart of the UK's work to design, construct, operate and maintain the built environment – the social and economic infrastructure needed to ensure that every part of our country is better off.

If we look briefly at each of our strategic priorities, it's clear that the CLC - working closely with its partners and the government – has continued to drive collaborative change throughout the year.

In **Building Safety**: the sector has continued its journey of reform and accountability in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Key achievements include the publication of the [Golden Thread guidance](#) for higher-risk buildings and interim industry response to the independent review of the construction product testing regime. We continue to engage with MHCLG in response to the recommendations set out in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry final report and the Building Safety Workstream continue to meet weekly with the

Building Safety Regulator to address priority issues for building control applications.

The **Net Zero** agenda has advanced significantly through the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero initiative. The updates to the [Performance Framework](#) this year have demonstrated the sector's measurable progress in reducing emissions, whilst continuing to hold the industry accountable for achieving the UK's net-zero targets.

Innovation has also taken centre stage, highlighted by the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero [Electric Vehicles report](#), which showcases how new technologies can accelerate the sector's transition to sustainable practices.

The **Next Generation Delivery**: In November, the CLC and nima launched the '[Information Management Initiative](#)' (IMI), a refreshed UK approach to information management which will enhance collaboration, efficiency, safety and sustainability to meet the evolving needs of society, business, and the environment.

Organisations committed to industry transformation are encouraged to [sign up](#) as founding supporters or sponsors to help drive this vital initiative forward.





# Bi-Monthly Update (Continued)

## Richard Robinson

President, AtkinsRéalis, President UK and Ireland  
CLC Deputy Co-chair

The **People and Skills**: CLC has been providing support to Skills England who this year published a critical assessment of national and regional needs (aligning them with training and qualifications), ensuring the workforce is equipped to meet future demands. By focusing on priority sectors (e.g. digital technologies, green construction, and housebuilding) this is helping to bridge gaps in workforce readiness and contributing to long-term economic growth. Supporting apprenticeships, technical qualifications, and the new Growth and Skills Levy, this workstream underscores the importance of investing in people as the foundation of a resilient industry.

### Collaboration with Government

A hallmark of 2024 has been the strengthened partnership between the CLC and Government. From the Autumn Budget's reaffirmation of infrastructure as a catalyst for growth to the need for streamlining planning systems, the CLC's engagement in shaping this work emphasises the importance of our shared vision for progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah Jones MP, the Minister of State for Industry, and Co-Chair of the CLC for her active support and

engagement in tackling these industry challenges. It is only through continued collaboration between government, industry, and stakeholders that we can deliver on the ambitions for sustainable growth and a resilient economy.

### Looking Ahead

The achievements of 2024 give us confidence in what we can accomplish together. There is much more to do as we continue to shape a new era of delivery in the Built Environment – an era that will enable the UK to deliver critical infrastructure more efficiently, safely and productively while transitioning to net zero.

To everyone who has contributed to the CLC's work this year—your dedication has been the driving force behind our success. Let us carry this momentum forward, building an industry that is innovative, inclusive, and impactful for generations to come

Many thanks,

Richard Robinson





# Bi-Monthly Update

## Short Term Priorities and Actions

### Materials Supply Chain Group

Continues to [update](#) the industry on the current pinch points in the supply chain.

### Electric Vehicles in Construction

Take-up of electric vehicles in the construction sector remains low. Led by Balfour Beatty the [CLC's report](#) recommendations seek to influence relevant government policy and provide advice to businesses on reducing blockers.

### Information Management Initiative

The Construction Leadership Council, with nima, has launched an [Information Management Initiative](#) with the aim of progressively transforming information management practices across the built and natural environment sector.

### CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero and Earthshot

CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero [congratulates](#) one of its Business Partners, Earthshot, on their highly successful week in South Africa.

### Skills

The Construction Leadership Council has issued a [letter to Skills England](#) outlining the importance of the construction industry as a critical growth sector and the need for an effective skills system that meets the needs of the construction industry.



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# CLC Priority Progress

## Net Zero and Biodiversity

### CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero

- Round 17 of the CO<sub>2</sub>nstruct Zero Business Champion programme closed and all the applications received have now been assessed by members of the CO<sub>2</sub>nstruct Zero Programme Board. Announcements will be made in January.
- The Construct Zero [Electric Vehicles Report](#) was published in partnership with Balfour Beatty at London Build on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### The Green Construction Board

- **Adaptation and resilience work** – GCB is continuing its work on adaptation and resilience, looking at climate risks to building fabric, which is Action 4 in the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3). This work will also bring together the domestic and international aspects of climate adaptation and resilience following an internal reorganisation withing DBT.

- **Biodiversity Roadmap** – The Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain working group is driving forward the implementation of the Biodiversity Roadmap, working to help industries meet the statutory 10% biodiversity net gain target, and help them aim beyond the target by embedding environmental net gain in the sector.
- **GCB Terms of Reference** – The revision of the GCB's Terms of Reference is nearing completion. Discussion on the TORs had involved looking at the GCB's priorities for 2025 as well as the role of the GCB going forward.
- **National Retrofit Hub** - The NRH submitted its [EPC reform report](#) to government after significant industry input, ahead of the MHCLG's publication of the EPC consultation. Many of the NRH's recommended improvements appear in the consultation document.



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# CLC Priority Progress

## Next Generation Delivery

### Business Models and Fair Practices

- **Standard Appointment Terms** – The CLC has published a statement on the ongoing practice within the construction sector, of industry-approved forms of contract being amended by clients and their solicitors to introduce terms that are onerous and/or difficult to insure. It is the view of the CLC, that standard form building and engineering contracts and professional services contracts issued by contract-producing bodies, should be used by clients with no amendments, except where necessary in the context of project-specific risks and relationships. The statement can be found [here](#).
- **Business Models and Fair Practices** – The website page has been recently updated [here](#).
- **New Fair Payment Code** - launched by the Office of the Small Business Commissioner (SBC) on behalf of the Department for Business and Trade. The new [Fair Payment Code](#) replaces the Prompt Payment Code and introduces a gold, silver, and bronze system to reward best payment practices and help smaller firms identify reliable and trusted partners.

### Data & Digital

#### **Horizon 1**

- The **Information Management Initiative (IMI)** was launched during **nima's third Virtual Conference in November**, generating global interest and engagement attracting participants from the UK, USA, India, China, the Middle East and Europe. The event achieved over **2,000 visits** to the virtual platform, with **400+ attendees** tuning in live. The IMI is building significant momentum, with numerous founding sponsors and supporters already on board.
- **Call to Action** - Organisations are encouraged to join the IMI to align with effective IM practices, supporting industry innovation and sustainability. If you're interested, please follow this [link](#).

#### **Horizon 2**

- The latest episode in the **CLC Digital Connect podcast series** explores the critical role of **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** in building diverse teams and driving equality to achieve pace and scale within the construction industry.
- Check it out [here](#). The next instalment is January 2025.



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# CLC Priority Progress

## Next Generation Delivery (continued)

### Horizon 3

- The CLC is leading efforts to ensure the sector has the voice, support, and resilience required to achieve the UK's vision for the built environment. A key initiative in this effort is the development of a "Three Horizon View" by the CLC's Data & Digital team. This aims to help organisations across the sector harnessing technology to realise the vision.
- With the help of a dedicated group of experts spanning various technology domains, the initiative is set to provide actionable insights into the steps needed for transformative growth. Over the coming months, the CLC will engage with tech leaders and experts to align these efforts with the UK's industrial strategy.
- For those interested in contributing the CLC welcomes involvement from tech and construction professionals committed to driving industry change.

### Industrialised Construction

The focus of the group has returned to what we mean by industrialised construction and identifying barriers to entry. To support in exploring barriers in IC, we have set up three task groups, as follows:

- **Demand** - To develop a guide that outlines principles of pipeline and demand aggregation,

understanding what the market requires against what HMG can provide and illustrating standards for information disclosure at different stages.

- A key objective is to provide clarity whilst also supporting an enhanced exchange of data and pipeline insights.
- **Systems** - To develop a framework on how to guide design and construction teams in selecting the most suitable prefabricated system technologies through referencing design, geometric and performance criteria, defined at the design and construction stage.
- A key objective will be to upskill designers on the characteristics and benefits of prefabricated systems and to bridge the gap between specifiers and product suppliers as early in the design process as possible.
- **Manufacturing** - To look at how we can increase supply chain resilience, considering failures in the manufacturing industry for this market, as well as increase client/investor confidence.
- A key objective is to develop a common maturity assessment framework for offsite manufacturers to identify areas for support and areas for additional guidance.



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# CLC Priority Progress

## Building Safety

### Building Safety Update

- **Building Control Approval for Higher-Risk Building Work** – The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) and CLC continue to meet regularly to address priority areas and maximise communication to the industry on building control approval for HRB work. The BSR Building Control [microsite](#) provides up to date information including FAQ and additional resources. Most [recent information](#) includes an article on Gateway 1 – land use planning matters related to fire safety and key points to consider for Gateway 2 – applications.
- **Remediation Acceleration Plan** – The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published the [Remediation Acceleration Plan](#).
- **Consultation on introducing permitted insurance fees for landlords, freeholders and property managing agents** – A consultation has been launched on proposals to prevent freeholders, property managing agents and landlords from imposing on leaseholders opaque and excessive charges related to building insurance. The [consultation](#) closes on 24 February 2025.

- **The Industry Competence Steering Group (ICSG)** - Has announced a comprehensive restructure to enhance competence and safety standards across the built environment. ICSG has now transitioned to become a formal working group of the Industry Competence Committee under the BSR, signalling a strategic shift towards more rigorous industry-wide competence frameworks.  
The new structure includes sector-led groups, key topic groups, and working groups. They currently bring together contributions from over 60 professional and trade bodies and 1,500 individuals in the built environment, with membership of the sector led groups still growing. The announcement is [here](#).
- **Industry Consultative Group (ICG)** – Formerly the Industry Response Group, members of the CLC now regularly meet senior government officials and regulators to engage more effectively on Building Safety. The forum will be a key vehicle to encourage collaborative working, share technical information and shape policy.

Building  
Safety



# CLC Priority Progress

## People and Skills

- Leading bodies from across UK construction and the built environment have joined forces to drive towards a more inclusive sector.
- The CLC is working with specialist sector equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) umbrella organisations to deliver a strategic and consolidated approach to achieve its vision of an inclusive, representative, welcoming built environment sector that is a career of choice for all as the best way to contribute to a stronger economy and sustainable future.
- The EDI Steering Group will define a way forward to deliver this vision, with a specific goal of bringing the sector together for a 'one voice' approach towards strategic and consolidated action. Members include B.E. Inclusive, Building People, Construction Inclusion Coalition, Construction Industry Council's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, D&I Forum – Construction and Infrastructure and the Supply Chain Sustainability School's Fairness, Inclusion & Respect programme.
- One of the first actions of the group is to establish a wider Community of EDI Practitioners to communicate progress and to facilitate consultation via quarterly online meetings. The objectives will be to promote best practice,

ensure a more consistent approach, influence government, reduce duplication of effort, and identify opportunities for collaborative working, with the goal of addressing under-representation and removing barriers to access, recruitment, retention and progression by raising the industry's standards of EDI knowledge, behaviours and practice.

- The aim will ultimately be to develop and promote an inclusive culture and enable an increase in the number of people from diverse and under-represented backgrounds entering and sustaining in construction and built environment careers.
- Organisations are now invited to join the Community, membership of which is open to EDI practitioners of any company or organisation in the construction and built environment sector. The first meeting of the Community will be online at 2pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Full details will be circulated to interested parties ahead of the session. To express interest, please book your place [here](#).
- The CLC has issued a [letter to Skills England](#) outlining the importance of the construction industry as a critical growth sector and the need for an effective skills system that meets the needs of the construction industry.



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Thank you for reading this issue of CLC Connect. If you would like to provide feedback then please email [construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

For more information about the Construction Leadership Council, please visit [Construction Leadership Council](https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.org.uk).



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