CLC Connect

November 2025

Bi-Monthly update

In this issue we hear from Mark Reynolds, Executive Chairman, Mace Group.

Short Term Priorities and Actions

Priority progress

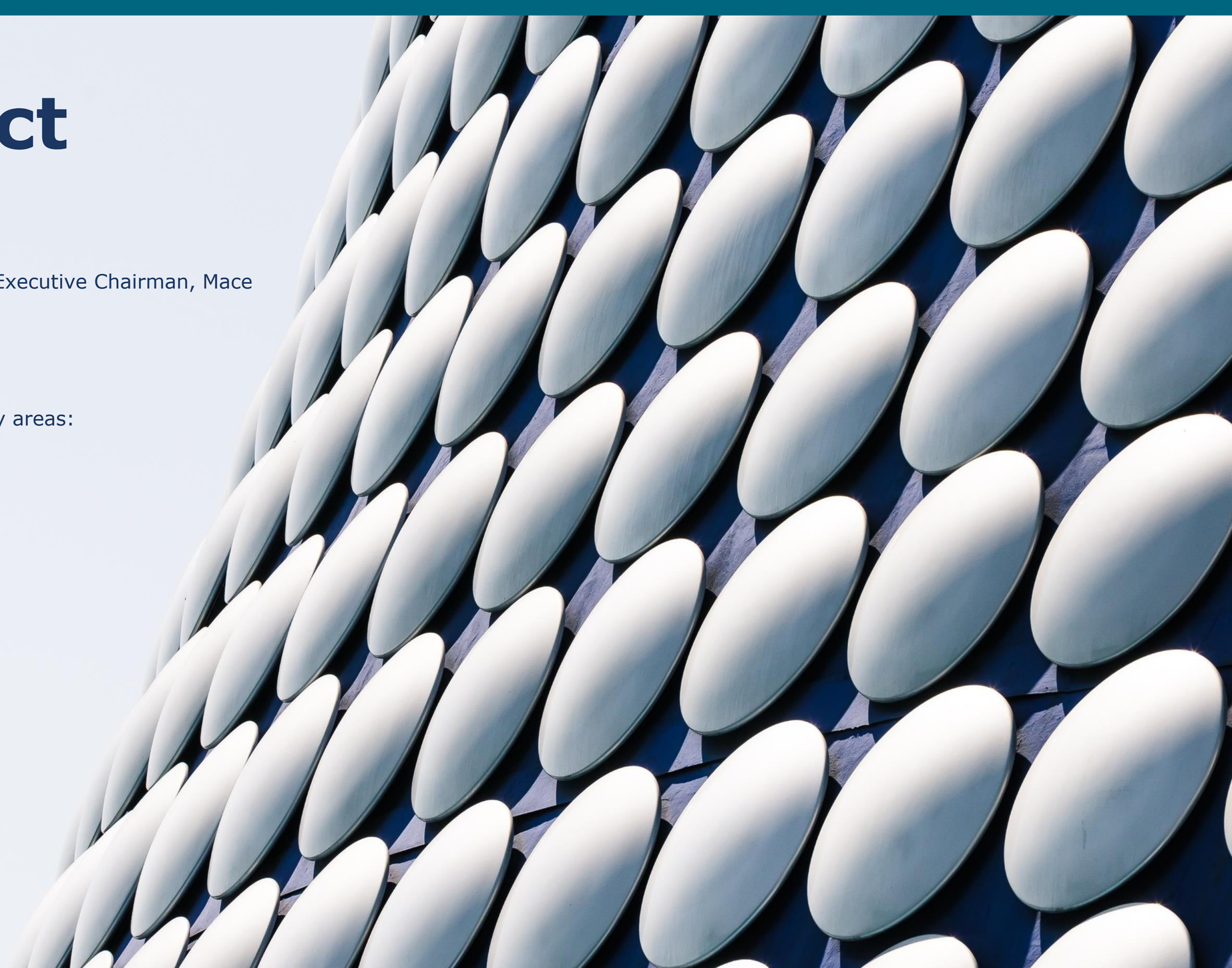
Get the latest updates from our four priority areas:

Net Zero + Biodiversity

Next Generation Delivery

Building Safety

People + Skills



Construction Leadership Council

Department for Business & Trade

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

Construction is a busy and fast changing industry. From new government policies and private sector initiatives to adopt emerging technologies 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

Enjoy and thank you for reading.

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Bi-Monthly Update

Mark Reynolds

Mark Reynolds, Executive Chairman, Mace Group

Welcome to the final edition of the CLC newsletter for 2025. As we approach the end of the year I think it's important to reflect on what we've achieved in the last twelve months and the challenges and opportunities we face in 2026.

You'll hopefully see from the pages that follow that we've made real progress on a number of fronts. On skills and people, building safety, next generation delivery and net zero, the industry has made tangible steps forward this year; supported by positive interventions from Government through the infrastructure strategy, the planning and infrastructure bill and the establishment of NISTA.

When I look back at the work the CLC has done in 2025; I see some very positive things: the establishment of the Construction Skills Mission Board and the allocation of £625m of Government funding to support skills investment; meaningful progress on the performance of the building safety regulator and the number of projects waiting for Gateway 2 approval; engagement with NISTA that led to the publication of an excellent new pipeline tool; the first health, safety and wellbeing strategy issued by the CLC and fresh focus from industry leadership on keeping people safe and well; continued development of the Information Management Initiative; wider adoption of the five client carbon commitments; and finally a proper consultation on the future of retentions and late payment regulations.

However, we need to reflect that there are serious challenges to overcome in the year ahead. Confidence is low, parts of the industry are particularly distressed such as RMI, housebuilding, merchants and manufacturers. Unless we can unblock delivery of new build housing the industry ecosystem will feel the impact. However, with continued dialogue and by working closely with Government and regulators I am optimistic that we'll see increased activity next year, particularly

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Mark Reynolds

Mark Reynolds, Executive Chairman, Mace Group

if the Chancellor's Budget includes some positive measures – and when we do we will need to work together to ensure the industry is capable of scaling up construction at pace.

Earlier in November we had a positive meeting of the CLC Board, Council and the new Construction Minister Chris McDonald – it is clear from that conversation and others that Government recognise the scale of the challenges we face and is keen to work closely with us on solutions. We'll hopefully see the fruit of that in the Budget; and we'll be working with Chris over the next few months to explore and challenge the regulatory and tax burden that the industry faces.

Early next year we'll be launching the CLC's bi-annual strategy setting and review document; which will chart a course for the next few years of development and engagement between industry and Government. We'll also be announcing some changes to our governance in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, as the year draws to a close, I wish you an enjoyable December and a bright start to 2026!

Bi-Monthly Update

Short Term Priorities and Actions

- **Movement of People group -** The CLC will be organising to support the latest migration system review conducted by the Migration Advisory Committee. This review looks at the potential inclusion of 25 construction occupations in the future iteration of the 'Temporary Shortage List', which will be the only way to access overseas workers whose qualification levels are at RQF3-5. The Group will be supporting DBT's response to the MAC as well as advising industry bodies how best to respond.
- **Material's Supply Chain Group** – October's meeting of the MSCG noted that the third quarter of 2025 has shown flat or declining sales of building materials compared to 2024, with no significant recovery expected before 2026.

  Product availability is generally good. There is increasing concern about the overall state with many businesses facing short term financial difficulties and decreased confidence.
- **Think Beyond Engineering** – The power of construction to transform communities and change lives - we really do make a difference - as beautifully demonstrated in this short film from AtkinsRéalis.

CLC Priority Progress

Net Zero and Biodiversity

- The Construct Zero team have been out and about virtually over the past few weeks to talking to key stakeholders about the Performance Framework refresh. This is to bring the Framework into line with the Committee for Climate Change's 7th Carbon Budget and will see the programme's priorities refreshed accordingly. Thank you to all of those who have engaged and do keep an eye out in the New Year for the new Framework.

  The team also delivered a successful and well attended in person event in London last month, bringing together our many business champions and partners, including hearing from Natasha Boulding one of the Earth Shot prize's previous finalists. This was a great example of how a local business has delivered and is scaling up the impact of net zero on the ground.

  Attendees also heard from senior industry leaders and government on the decarbonisation challenges facing the sector and how we can work together to overcome them.

  Congratulations to our award winners on the day.

- **Construct Zero Business Champions** - Construct Zero is today delighted to announce that a further nine organisations have become Construct Zero Business Champions - bringing the total number of Business Champions and Partners to 300 - providing real life, tangible evidence of the steps they are taking to respond to the Net Zero Carbon challenge and support the wider Construct Zero programme. We look forward to working with them.

Akzo Nobel

EH Smith Builders Merchants

Flannery Plant Hire

Grafton Group plc

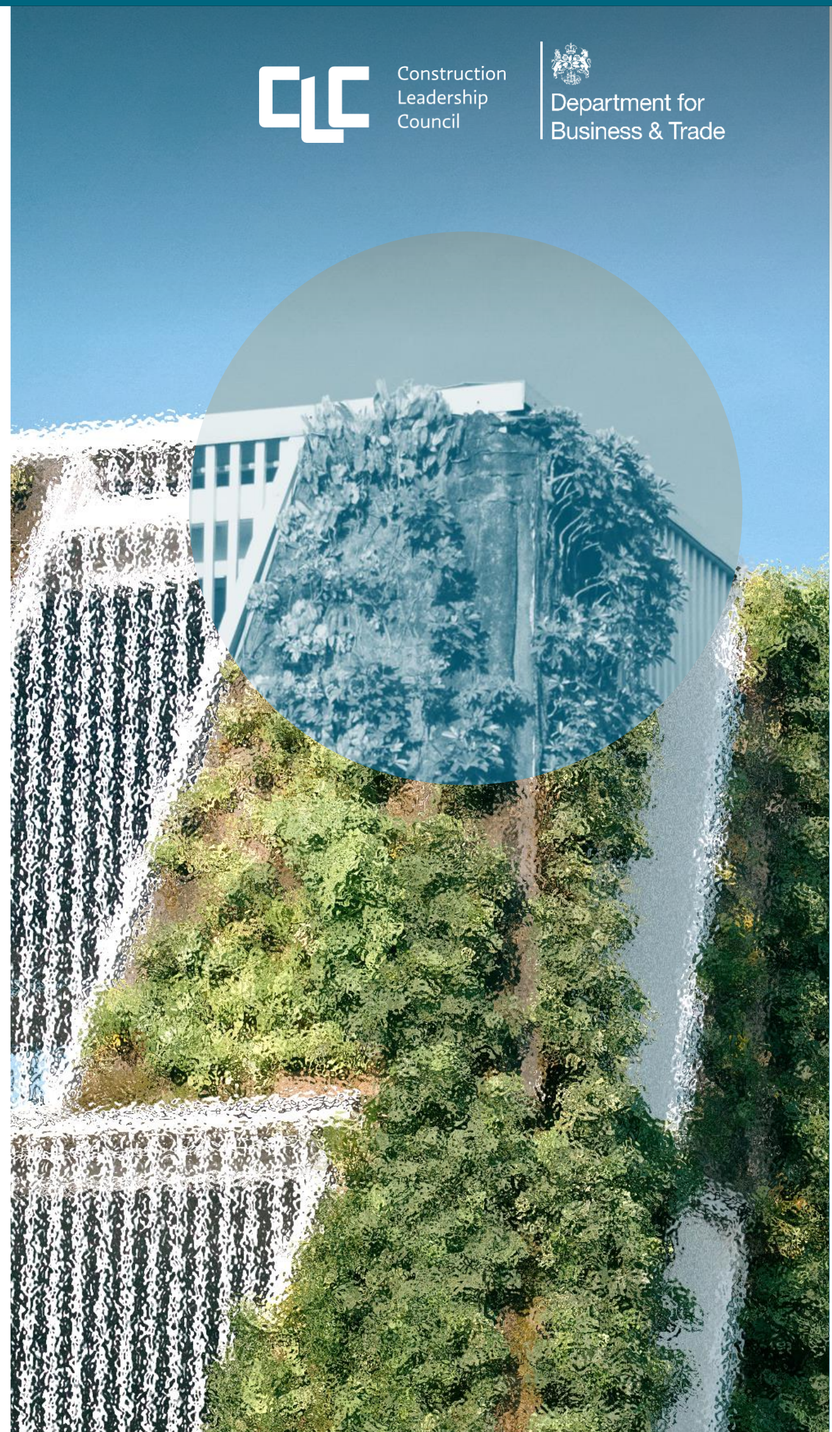
Neilcott Construction Limited

Peak Cluster

Peel Ports

Seddon

Spring Design Consultancy



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CLC Priority Progress

Next Generation Delivery

- **CLC Digital Digitising in the Built Environment** - On November 20th, the CLC hosted an in-person event at Autodesk's Birmingham facility exploring how digitalisation can transform planning and building control processes across the built environment. The session brought together government, industry, and academia to discuss challenges, share insights, and shape future policy and innovation. With keynote presentations, interactive discussions, and roundtables focused on practical solutions, the event kick-started a collaborative community to drive productivity, sustainability, and safety through digital integration.
- **Driving Digital Innovation in Planning and Building Control Systems** - We're working with MHCLG to promote the Planning Data Platform, now in BETA, which aims to standardise and open up planning data for better efficiency and transparency. In partnership with BridgeAI, there are exciting funding opportunities available for construction and infrastructure through Innovate UK Business Connect. Additionally, the AI Skills Hub, launched in July and funded by BridgeAI, offers a mix of free and paid training resources to help upskill the sector in AI and digital technologies.
- **nima Virtual Conference highlights commitment to Information Management**

  The 4th wearenima Virtual Conference on November 6th attracted over 340 participants to its new immersive platform, marking the first anniversary of the Information Management Initiative (IMI). It addressed both the need to change (why) and how the built and natural environment sector should change, with keynotes focussing on the critical role of information management in tackling industry challenges and driving transformation.

  AtkinsRéalis were recognised as exemplary IMI signatories, sharing their methodology for adopting IM principles and demonstrating progress through achieving the BSI Kitemark for ISO 19650. The event also explored themes such as whole-life value of information, education, and commercial drivers for change. For more details, read the full conference report on nima or see Construction Management's coverage.

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CLC Priority Progress

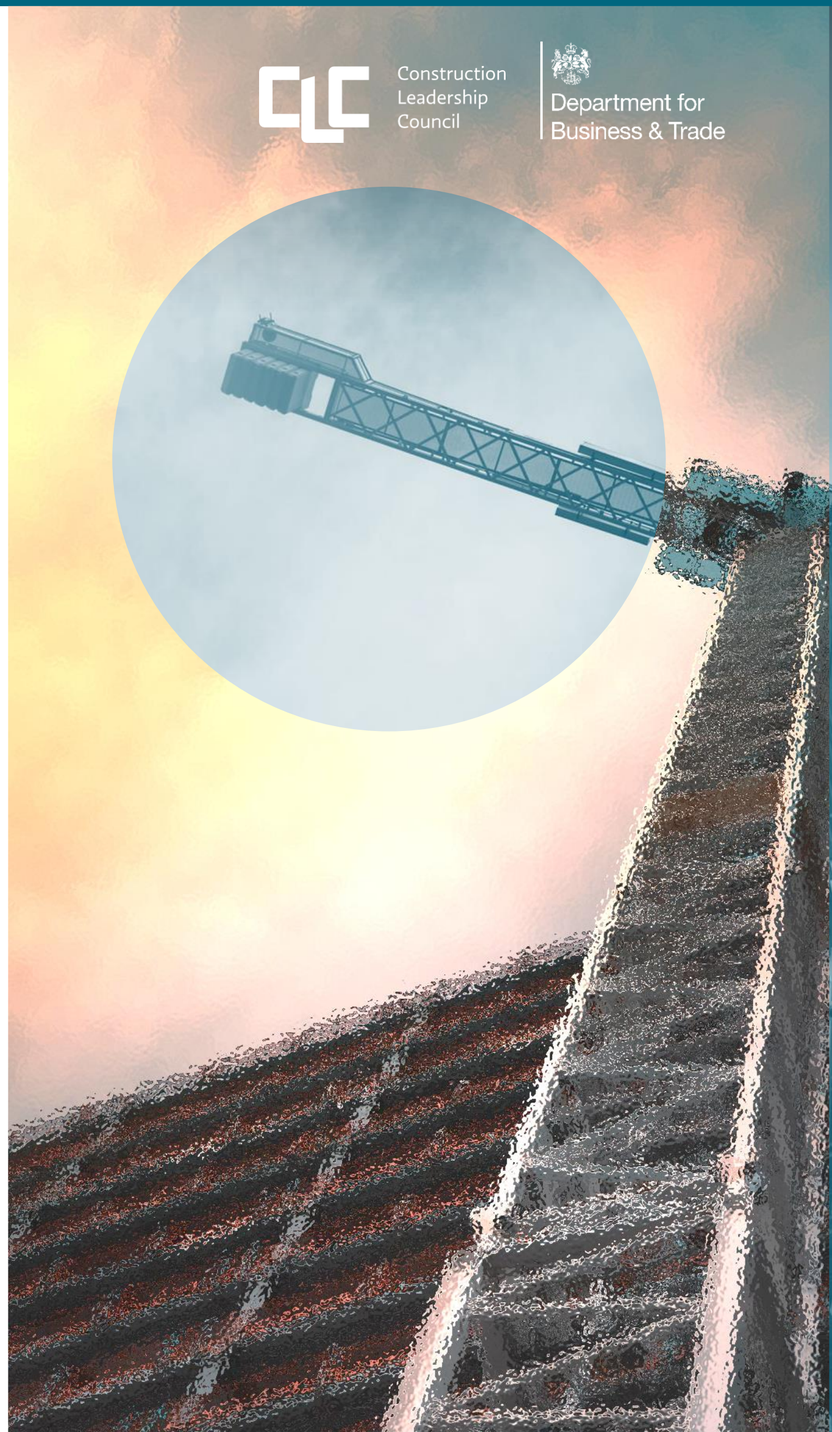
Building Safety

- **Building Safety Regulator (BSR) Data** – The BSR has released its latest data set for Building Control Approval Applications.
- **HMG report on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry -** Phase 2 recommendations – The second progress report has been published.
- **Building Safety Webinar** - The CLC and the Building Safety Regulator hosted a joint webinar in early September on Building Control Approval applications. The webinar recording is now available.
- **Construction Products (Amendment) Regulations 2025** - These Regulations make minor technical amendments to ensure continuity of the current policy which enables 'CE' marked construction products to be sold in Great Britain. The Statutory Instrument and supporting Explanatory Memorandum can be found here. The Regulations come into force on 8 January 2026.
- **BSR Functions** - MHCLG has published draft regulations to move the functions of the Building Safety Regulator out of the Health and Safety Executive, into an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by MHCLG.
- **Assent Building Control** - Health and Safety Executive has published information for project owners following winding-up orders made against Assent Building Control Compliance Ltd, LB Building Control Ltd and Oculus Building Consultancy Ltd.
- **CLC Guidance Notes -** The CLC Building Safety team continue to develop the suite of industry guidance notes. Further Gateway 2 and 3 guidance will be issued in the New Year.

CLC Priority Progress

People and Skills

- On Monday, 20 October, the Construction Skills Mission Board convened to review progress on workforce development initiatives. A key focus was a pilot programme led in collaboration with Steve Rotheram, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, aimed at strengthening connections between employers, training providers, and local stakeholders. The initiative seeks to tackle evidence-based skills challenges across the region through place-based coordination.
- The Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper sets out a major reform agenda to align education and training with employer needs, close skills gaps, and boost economic growth. It introduces new V Levels to replace many existing Level 3 qualifications, streamlines funding to support high-quality, job-focused provision, and strengthens employer involvement in curriculum design.
- DESNZ published its Clean Energy Jobs Plan setting out how over 400,000 new jobs could be created to achieve the government's clean energy mission. New initiatives to accomplish their aims include the creation of five new Technical Excellence Colleges, harnessing the transferrable skills of veterans, tailored schemes for ex-offenders, school leavers, and the unemployed, and upskilling existing workers, such as those in the oil and gas industry.



CLC Priority Progress

Building & Places Workstream

The Group will lead CLC work on commercial and public sector buildings and placemaking:

- Liaise with the CLC infrastructure client workstream;
- Co-ordinate effort across the industry;
- Focus on implementation and feedback within place-making, commissioning and asset management disciplines;
- Directly influence other areas of importance across CLC and Government.

Areas of Focus

The group will have three strategic goals:

- **Place** – to help progress and streamline the placemaking and regeneration agenda at Government, national, regional and local level ensuring communities continue to grow and thrive.
- **Commissioning** – give clear direction & guidance to clients and commissioning organisations on effective commissioning and procurement practices, supported by examples of good practice.
- **Assets** – give asset owners tools and techniques to help them manage their asset portfolios efficiently and effectively. Adopting the principles of Playbooks and measuring progress. Identifying good examples to share utilising members' links to specific areas of good practice in action.

This implementation group will harness the network of organisations including Government, client, advisors, industry partners, bodies and associations to help improve construction from a client perspective. We believe clients set the culture, standards and outcomes the industry needs to perform against, so this implementation group is critical to not only the success of CLC, but wider industry ambitions.

2026 Objectives & Actions

Read our plans for 2026, if you want to get more involved, please contact markr@scape.co.uk or gren.tipper@cclg.co.uk

CLC Connect

November 2025

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

For more information about the Construction Leadership Council, please visit Construction Leadership Council.

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