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CONSTRUCTION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW DEPUTY CO-CHAIR AND INDUSTRY SPONSORS

The CEO of one of the UK's largest construction and infrastructure contractors has been chosen as the new Deputy Co-Chair of the Construction Leadership Council.

Following an open recruitment process, and the recommendation of an independent industry panel, CLC Co-Chairs Minister Chris McDonald MP (Minister for Industry) and Mark Reynolds CBE (Executive Chairman, Mace Construct) have approved the appointment of Stuart Togwell (CEO, Kier Group plc) as the CLC's new Deputy Co-Chair.

At the same time, the CLC has announced the appointment of two new industry sponsors: Lilly Gallafent, Chief Operating Officer of Cast Consulting, will be Industry Sponsor for the Digitalisation of Planning and Building Control systems; and Paul Beeston, Partner – Head of Industry and Service Insight at Rider Levett Bucknall, will be the Industry Sponsor for Business Model Reform.

As CEO of Kier Group plc, Stuart has extensive knowledge and experience of the construction sector, leading one of the UK's most prominent construction and infrastructure contractors. Through Kier Group's work with SMEs, (comprising over 80% of their supply chain) including partnering with SMEs to deliver regional frameworks, and championing sustainability, he is also well positioned to understand and engage with the key challenges facing firms in the supply chain.

Stuart will have responsibility for the CLC's delivery of three of its five priorities: Net Zero, Biodiversity and Circular Economy (supported by Industry Sponsor Matt Palmer, CEO of the Lower Thames Crossing); Business Model Reform (supported by new Industry Sponsor Paul Beeston) and the Digitalisation of Planning and Building Control systems (supported by new Industry Sponsor Lilly Gallafent).

Stuart, Lilly and Paul will all become members of the CLC Board and work closely with Minister McDonald and Mark Reynolds to ensure the construction sector continues to be a key part of supporting the government's growth mission, including delivery of its infrastructure commitments.

The CLC would like to again thank Richard Robinson (Regional President, AMEA, AtkinsRealis) for his contribution to the CLC as the previous Deputy Co-Chair.

Chris McDonald MP, Industry Minister and CLC Co-Chair, said:

"Stuart Togwell brings a wealth of experience from across the construction and infrastructure sector, and I'm pleased to welcome him to this role. His leadership will be key as we work with industry to deliver the homes, infrastructure and growth our country needs, while improving productivity, safety and sustainability.

"Through the Construction Leadership Council, we're working with industry to boost recruitment and build a more modern, productive and low carbon construction sector for the future."

Mark Reynolds CBE, Executive Chairman, Mace Construct and CLC Co-Chair, said:

"The CLC's biennial report, published earlier this year, laid out our priorities for the next two years and set a clear path forward for a transformed industry. Stuart, Lilly and Paul are going to make a huge contribution to that journey and I am thrilled to have them join us on the CLC Board.

"I would like to thank everyone who applied for these roles, and to our board members and industry panellists who supported the recruitment process. The depth of expertise and experience in the candidates we interviewed was exemplary and this was a very difficult decision."

Stuart Togwell, CEO of Kier Group plc, said:

"The construction and infrastructure industry is the backbone of the UK, with what we deliver supporting, enabling, protecting and bolstering communities across the country."

"With nearly 40 years' experience in this fantastic sector as well as leading one of the UK's largest contractors, I am delighted to be joining the CLC and being a voice for the industry as well as bringing together all parts of it together to find solutions for some of the most pressing issues."

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Notes to Editor

About the Construction Leadership Council

The CLC is a collaboration between government and industry. Its mission is to provide sector leadership to the construction industry. The expanded CLC has twelve workstreams that operate collaboratively to address the biggest issues facing the sector. Workstreams include skills and inclusion, building safety, Net Zero and business models.

The CLC is co-chaired by Minister of State at the Department for Business and Trade and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Chris McDonald MP and Mark Reynolds CBE, Executive Chairman, Mace Construct.