

NEW CHAIR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Andrew Wolstenholme will be taking over as the industry Chair of the Construction Leadership Council following the meeting on 21 October.

The council was created in 2013 to work between industry and government to identify and deliver actions to improve efficiency, skills and growth in UK construction.

The incumbent Chair, David Higgins, oversaw a recent renewal of the Council – reducing its size from its previous 30 members to 13, in response to calls from the sector to make it more effective and business-focused. Members have been drawn from leading construction firms such as Laing O’Rourke, Bouygues UK and Crest Nicholson.

The role of the council is to identify and deliver priority actions to help achieve this transformation. This includes a number of specific work streams to deliver improvements to working practices in the industry:

- skills
- supply chain / business models
- innovation
- sustainable
- trade
- communications

The council meets 4 times a year and Andrew will be joined by the Government Chair, Minister Nick Boles. As Industry Chair, Andrew brings the experience of managing Europe’s largest civil construction project Crossrail and the on-time delivery of Heathrow’s Terminal 5 as well as a long standing career in engineering and infrastructure starting in the Royal Engineers.

David Higgins said:

“When I took on the industry chair role of the Council I was clear with Ministers that I thought it too large to be effective. Having reached the point where we have created a smaller, more clearly industry led Council, it is a good time to hand over the baton.”

Nick Boles said:

“The new Construction Leadership Council will bring together key industry leaders to deliver effective change. As chairman Andrew brings the unrivalled experience of managing Europe’s largest infrastructure project and construction roles across the world.

“He will take over from Sir David, who has provided invaluable leadership for the construction industry at a key time of recovery and growth.”

Andrew Wolstenholme said:

“I am delighted to be taking over as the co-chair of the Construction Leadership Council at a time when building new infrastructure is at the heart of the government’s plans to foster sustainable economic growth across the UK. The Council will continue to build upon what has already been achieved under David’s chairmanship and will focus on leading the construction industry to be more

productive, innovative, skilled and internationally exportable. Construction can be the next great British success story, on a par with the automotive and aerospace sectors, with the Council, government and industry working together at the forefront of this effort.”