

Minutes of Green Construction Board held on 8th September 2016

Attendance

GCB Members

Mike Putnam (Chair)	Skanska UK
Lynne Sullivan	Sustainable by Design
Tim Chapman	Arup
Peter Hunt	Lighting Industry Association
Louise Clarke	Berkeley Group
Julie Hirigoyen	UKGBC
Susie Tomson	PCSG
Rob Lambe	Willmott Dixon
Chris Newsome	Anglian Water
David Hancock	Cabinet Office
Robin Webb	BIS
Jane Manning (Secretariat)	BIS

Apologies

Mark Robinson	Carillion
Robert Pearce	Haskoll Architects & Designers
Munish Datta	Marks & Spencer
Louise Ellison	Hammerson
Mark Bew	BIM Team
John Sinfield	Knauf Insulation
Bob Ledsome	DCLG

1. Welcome and introductions

Mike Putnam (Chair) welcomed everyone and noted apologies made from members unable to attend the meeting.

2. Update of the CLC meeting held on 6 September

Robin Webb (RW) spoke about the new government and the ensuing ministerial changes that have taken place. RW cautioned against members assuming that it would be BAU for BIS. The new SOS, Greg Clark, is aware of the work that BIS is doing and is supportive but it is too early to tell which areas of work will be designated as being key though Brexit is a priority issue.

Mike Putnam (MP) gave the board a readout of the CLC meeting held on 6 September. The refreshed leadership council is now led by Andrew Wolstenholme. The council is in the process of summarising a high level strategy for the CLC to build momentum for the high level conference on 23 November. Furthermore, the new PM's renewed focus on Industrial Strategy is welcomed and much needed for the Construction Sector.

3. A discussion on Brexit and what it means for the construction sector

A discussion on how Brexit could impact on green construction issues was held. Points made were:

- UK GBC is running a series of workshops and the messages coming back so far are that industry is keen for the UK to remain in a leadership position on green issues.

- There is current EU investment money in the UK but there is a worry about what will happen when the money runs out. R&D is at risk.
- GCB consider that it is important for UK to continue to lead on Green/Sustainability. UK must not allow dilution of Sustainability on list of priorities.
- Clarity needed on what the merging of BIS and DECC means in terms of green issues.
- Young people feel that they have had a rocky start to their careers and the confusion is further compounded by Brexit.
- The merging of energy and industrial strategy is seen as a positive.
- There is a worry about the words 'climate change' being dropped from the narrative.
- Clarity needed from SoS on how Industrial Strategy will be run and whether there will be a mention of the circular economy.
- Domestic policy has to be sufficiently mapped out on green construction.
- UK needs to come to a conclusion on COP21 (Paris) and hopefully become a full signatory.

4. **Green Innovation and how it features in the GCB's two year plan**

This agenda item was driven by the lack of an explicit reference to innovation in the GCB's delivery plan. Some points made:

- Innovation ought to include a whole life perspective.
- PAS 2080 is means by which clients, suppliers in the supply chain can identify how to reduce carbon.
- Major leadership needs to be demonstrated by client groups and the Infrastructure Client Group is an excellent example.
- Green Innovation represents a significant opportunity for the sector.
- Data and digitalisation are important opportunities.
- Offsite Construction is also an opportunity.

5. **A progress report by project leads**

Updates were provided by members present whose project bids had won a share of a £30,000 sponsorship award from BEIS

Rob Lambe - Sustainable Building Training Guide

Julie Hirigoyen – 'Embodied Carbon' & 'Infrastructure Carbon Target Setting Review'

Top 20 Tips – not discussed in absence of Robert Pearce.

Chris Newsome – Reduce Carbon Reduce Cost in Infrastructure e-Learning Module

6. **A discussion on the strategy paper being drawn up for the CLC**

MP wants a joined up plan to be drawn up which will look at whether the current simplified strategy grid needs amending to, perhaps, include issues such as sustainability, change, leadership, culture; Low Carbon = Low Cost; Skills; SMART Data etc. MP asked for volunteers to draw up this plan and the following people responded:

Lynne Sullivan

David Riley
Louise Clarke
Rob Lambe

7. AOB

Louise Clarke to give the board an update on Ecobuild at the next meeting.