

## **CONSTRUCTION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HAS KEY ROLE IN THE ACCELERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF OFF-SITE MANUFACTURE IN UK CONSTRUCTION**

### Response to the Report – 23rd July 2018

- The CLC welcomes the publication of the Report by the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee into off-site manufacture for construction.
- The report supports the CLC's vision of a partnership between Government and the Construction Sector that will accelerate the drive towards smart construction.
- The Select Committee sets out ambitious recommendations to accelerate the adoption of off-site manufacture including the need for clear leadership from both clients and industry.
- The CLC is already playing its part in providing leadership through workstreams focused on Innovation in Buildings and new skills for industry. With the launch of the Construction Sector Deal, the CLC and industry will have access to further resources to accelerate adoption through innovation and collaboration.

The CLC welcomes the publication last week of the [Report by the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee into off-site manufacture for construction](#). Off-site manufacture is a key strategic component of the CLC's vision for a transformation of the construction sector driven by a focus on digital, manufacturing and whole-life performance – as set out in the [Construction Sector Deal](#).

The report, 'off-site manufacture – building for change' presents a strong case for the wider adoption of offsite methods of construction backed up by evidence and case studies that demonstrate the benefits of offsite construction, through improved productivity and greater sustainability. The Select Committee have quite rightly focused on the barriers to adoption, making important recommendations with respect to the application of the Government's presumption for off-site manufacture, the leverage of government investment into the housing sector and opportunities for industry-wide initiatives to drive wider adoption.

The CLC welcomes in particular recommendations to *encourage the adoption* of off-site *manufacture for low-rise residential* which is well-aligned to the CLC's established Innovation in Buildings workstream. This initiative, led by Mike Chaldecott of St-Gobain UK and supported by over 40 industry representatives, has made significant progress in setting out a road-map for the commercialisation of smart construction and proposing new commercial models to support demand creation, investment and volume surety – detailed in a [2017 report](#) focused on the residential market and the need to produce more homes. We also acknowledge the important role that government has in creating a steady and dependable pipeline of projects against which the supply chain can invest.

The Select Committee also focuses on the skills needed for offsite, highlighting the role that the CLC and other industry bodies have in designing and implementing appropriate training, making

best use of Apprenticeship Levy funding. The CLC is already making significant progress in this space by working with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to help accelerate the development of apprenticeship standards whilst working to ensure that demands for conventional construction skills also be met. Details of this further programme of work can be found in the [Skills Workstream 2018 Strategy and Action Plan](#).

The focus of much of the report addresses barriers to the adoption of new construction technologies and techniques – an area which CLC has addressed by supporting demand creation. The recent release of the CLC report, [Procuring for Value](#), which sets out the component parts of the business models needed to support innovation, will trigger further workstreams necessary to close gaps in business practice which hold back adoption.

CLC also supports the Select Committee’s recommendations on measurement and in particular the development of a common industry KPI system. CLC has been progressing the development of KPIs with the Building Research Establishment (BRE). These KPIs are ready for adoption and CLC is looking for [organisations to trial and share KPI performance](#).

‘Off-site manufacture – building for change’ sets out clear roles for industry and government and highlights how the CLC’s leadership of the implementation of the Sector Deal will contribute to the adoption of smart construction across all parts of the country. Combined with other sector initiatives, including the Infrastructure Client Group’s Project 13, [Transforming Infrastructure Performance \(TIP\)](#), [Transport Infrastructure Efficiency Strategy \(TIES\)](#), and the Government’s commitment to a presumption for off-site manufacture, the House of Lords report will provide further momentum for a wider industry change.

**Commenting on the report, Andrew Wolstenholme, chair of the CLC said:**

“Off-site construction is at the heart of the CLC’s vision of a transformed construction sector enabled by Digital, Manufacturing and Performance. The CLC’s work on off-site construction will continue to focus on creating volume in demand and encouraging investment. The report does the industry a great service by emphasising the powerful business case for the adoption of off-site methods and by highlighting the levers available to government to encourage and accelerate adoption.

Through my involvement in Crossrail, I know how much contribution off-site methods can make to improving productivity and performance. I also know that the industry can achieve a great deal when it pools expertise and resources to drive innovation.

CLC will have a significant role in helping clients and industry to come together to drive the adoption of off-site construction. Whether this is through technical innovation, the development of skills or the development of new business models, the CLC is ready to play its part in building for change.”

Following publication of the sector deal, the CLC continues to engage with industry with respect to opportunities for direct involvement in the programme – whether through CLC-led initiatives and through the work of partner organisations.

Visit [www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk](http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk) to download a full copy of CLC reports in Intelligent Buildings, Skills and Procure for Value and other related material

**End**