

# Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Construction Sector Group 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021



## Conference Call

### Present

David Moloney (Chair), PJ Rudden (Chair of Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group), Sarah Ingle (ACEI), Tom Parlon (CIF), Frank Kelly (CIF), Declan McGee (Enterprise Ireland), Kathryn Meghen (RIAI), Orla Purcell (IPI), Patrick King (SCSI), Alan Power (DETE), David O'Brien (OGP), Sarah Neary (DHLGH), Owen Joyce (DFINANCE), Gerard McGuinness (DFINANCE), Maria O'Brien (DHEALTH), John Coppinger (DTRANS), Kevin Meaney (DPER), Fionn Jenkinson (DPER), Rinku Phulphagar (DPER), Christina Mohan (DPER), Kevin James (SCSI), Paul Sheridan (CIF), Shirley Coulter (SCSI), Pranash Ramanundh (RIAI), Deirdre Collins (DPER), Ross McNamara (DFHERIS), Peter Smyth (HSE), Robert Deegan (DECC), Ronnie Downes (DPER), Maria Graham (Housing), David McHugh (RPS Group), Neil Kerrigan (EI), Sarah Miley (DFHERIS), Valerie Kirwan (Education), David Howard (BMF), Damien Owens (Engineers Ireland), Hubert Loftus (Education), Geraldine Larkin (NSAI), Declan Donoghue (DPER), Shane Dempsey (CIF), Tim O'Connor (Enterprise), Paul Lemass (Housing), Eileen Hearne (Department of Taoiseach)

### 1. Minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Action 1 and 2 of last meeting was progressed.

### 2. Standing Item: Update from Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group (Chair of Group)

The chair provided an update on the 7 innovation actions contained in the Building Innovation Report. The chair highlighted that the Innovation Subgroup is on track, with the exception of Acton 5 which requires more scale in terms of building the digital skillnet. Additionally, as part of the next steps, the chair highlighted that the structure of the group and its actions would be further developed over the coming period subject to incorporation of "Housing for All" requirements.

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and Society for Chartered Surveyors (SCSI) welcomed the Building Information Modelling (BIM) developments however stated that there should be caution taken in outlining minimum BIM standards which could impact current and future projects. The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) welcomed the Build digital innovative and stated that, over the next year, the construction industry will start to see a considered and phased set of BIM requirements issued with public works contracts.

### 3. Industry Measures on Climate Action (Industry)

Each industry member gave a one slide presentation detailing the actions they are taking to support the Government's climate action agenda. These measures ranged from the publication of climate commitments and policies, to the provision of training and webinars for members. There were also a number of policy recommendations made including the need for a comprehensive approach to the national retrofit programme.

### 4. Housing for All (DHLGH)

DHLGH gave an overview of the new Housing for All strategy and elements of particular relevance for the construction sector group including labour, costs, technology and standards.

It was suggested by DHLGH that they would lead a new action within the Sub-Group focusing on assessing the cost of residential construction and how it might be reduced through innovation and productivity measures. The chair stated that the details of this suggested action would need to be drafted up by DHLGH and provided to the CSG Secretariat for consideration prior to agreeing final inclusion.

#### **5. Standing Item: Update on Project Ireland 2040 (NIO)**

The National Investment Office (NIO) in DPER provided an overview of the recently published NDP. The NIO also shared the Building Innovation tracker with the CSG members, prior to this meeting. The NIO stated that follow up calls will be made shortly to individual leaders of actions.

#### **5. AOB**

A discussion focused on visibility of departmental breakdown of NDP investment. The NIO noted the significant detail already provided in the published Investment Tracker and that quarterly updates of the investment tracker and map are planned for the future.

The chair stated that the topics for next year's CSG will be discussed with members following the meeting.

#### **Action Points**

1. BMF outlined that certain sectors had developed Roadmaps to achieve decarbonisation and these will be shared with the CSG secretariat.
2. RIAI highlighted details of the RIAI 2030 climate challenge which is being launched next week. The policy document will be circulated with the CSG secretariat and with the CSG members.
3. ACEI stated that the Executive Board has asked the member firms to commit to net zero by 2050. This pledge will be shared with the CSG secretariat and wider CSG.
4. DHLGH to draft up the details of their proposed new action within the Innovation Sub-Group and provide it to the CSG Secretariat for consideration prior to agreeing final inclusion.

**The next CSG meeting is to be held at 2:30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**