

Minutes of the fifth Meeting of the Construction Sector Group

16th July 2019



Present

Robert Watt (Chair, DPER), David Howard (BMF), Tom Parlon (CIF), Pat Lucey (CIF), Shane Dempsey (CIF), Caroline Spillane (Engineers Ireland), Sarah Ingle (ACEI) Patricia King (ICTU), Kathryn Meghan (RIAI), Patrick King (SCSI), Micheál Mahon (SCSI), Kevin Daly (DBEI), Alan Power (DBEI), Matt Collins (DCCAE), Valerie Kirwan (DES), Sarah Neary (DHPLG), John Shaw (DoT), Jim Curran (HSE), David O'Brien (OGP), Ciaran O'Connor (OPW), Owen Joyce (D/Finance), Ed Hearne (DPER), Fionn Jenkinson (DPER), Gearoid O'Keeffe (DPER), Paddy Howard (DPER), Áine Griffin (DPER), Leah Geraghty (DPER), William Hynes (Future Analytics), Maria Rochford (Future Analytics), Avril Behan (TUD), Robert Costello (KPMG).

1. Minutes of Meeting held on May 14th

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. EGSFN Skills for the Construction Sector

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation gave a presentation on the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs work on skills for the construction sector, identifying four broad areas including: Skills Supply; Aligning skills with enterprise needs; Export diversification; Productivity and Innovation. Emphasis was placed on marketing construction as an attractive career option.

Action Points

- DES, in liaison with DBEI and SOLAS, are to produce a briefing note in advance of a presentation at the next meeting of the CSG on trends in participation, expenditure and actions underway to deliver skills capacity for the construction sector. This will build on the presentation given by DES to the group in February 2019.

3. Productivity and Innovation

KPMG and Future Analytics gave an overview and update on their work assessing productivity in the construction sector to inform a detailed action plan for improving productivity. The assessment will include benchmarking the Irish construction sector against construction sectors in six other countries including the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Belgium, the Netherlands, Australia and Denmark. The planned consultation approach was outlined, including an online survey, written submissions, focus groups and workshops.

Action Points

- All members of the CSG to encourage their members to complete the online survey and engage with the written submissions.

- A short guidance piece to inform the written submissions to be circulated.

4. Building Careers in Design Engineering Construction

CIF outlined the omnibus research findings which proved construction is not being pushed as a viable career option in schools and that there is low levels of awareness of modern careers in the construction sector. CIF presented three proposals including 'adopt a school' which they would roll out in 10-12 schools in year 1. The second proposal is to sponsor a competition for school students and have shortlisted candidates make a presentation at Ireland Skills Live. Lastly they proposed significant digital media campaigning targeted at secondary school students. It was also agreed that greater collaboration is needed in this area.

Action Points

- Initiative to be further developed with a launch possibly including a Government Minister.

5. Build Digital Project

The IPPO provided a summary of progress and outlined their proposal for Build Digital Project including objective, themes and functions. Development of this will be carried out through a competitive challenge based approach. It was agreed to proceed on the basis outlined by the IPPO.

Action Points

- IPPO to progress with the competitive challenge based approach.

6. Update on Waste Management

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment updated the group on C&D waste management and progress of the Construction Waste Resource Group. The work of the group is focused on the four themes of: Capacity & Projections; Best Practices on Site; Enforcement & Waste Flows; and, Regulatory Processes. The production of an annual C&D report was also identified as a major focus. It was suggested that some of the data could be incorporated into the 2020 Build report. A long term C&D Waste strategy was also outlined.

Action Points

- This issue is to be kept on the agenda with an update at a future meeting.

7. AOB

- DHPLG gave an update on the ongoing work related to the Brexit impact on notified bodies & construction products.
- OGP gave an update on their ongoing consultations. This issue is to be included on the agenda of the next meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 17th at 10am