

# Minutes of the third Meeting of the Construction Sector Group



6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## **Present**

Robert Watt (Chair, DPER), Sarah Ingle (ACEI), David Howard (BMF), Tom Parlon (CIF), Pat Lucey (CIF), Shane Dempsey (CIF), Jeanette Mair (CIF), Caroline Spillane (Engineers Ireland), Patricia King (ICTU), Orla Purcell (IPI), Kathryn Meghan (RIAI), Áine Myler (SCSI), David Hegarty (DBEI), Matt Collins (DCCA), Hubert Loftus (DES), Phil O'Flaherty (DES), Maria Graham (DHPLG), Dominic Mullaney (DTTS), David O'Brien (OGP), Jim Curran (HSE), Ronnie Downes (DPER), Ed Hearne (DPER), Fionn Jenkinson (DPER), Margaret O'Donnell (DPER), Christina Mohan (DPER), Paul Cotter (D/Finance).

## **1. Minutes of Meeting held on November 28<sup>th</sup>**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

## **2. Update of the Q1 2019 Investment Tracker (IPPO)**

DPER presented on the ongoing work in relation to the Investment Tracker and the project mapping tool that is currently in development. Overall, the consensus of the group was that the map will prove beneficial and will serve as a good communication tool.

### **Action Points**

- The update of the Q1 Investment Tracker and the mapping tool will be accelerated if possible.
- Industry bodies will continue to disseminate to their members.

## **3. Feedback on the Construction Sector Performance and Prospects Draft Report (all)**

The *Build* report was welcomed by the CSG as a valuable source of evidence that will likely be referenced by the sector. Members made a number of constructive suggestions relating to regional statistics, health and safety performance and compliance issues.

### **Action Points**

- CSG members to provide any other observations to DPER on the Build report.
- CIF to revert with data relating to health and safety trends.

## **4. Update on Apprenticeships Policy (DES)**

The presentation by DES detailed the shortages in construction employment, provided an update on construction education and training supply, apprenticeship intake in construction-related trades, and outlined the ways in which construction skills shortages are being addressed. A discussion followed in relation to a variety of issues, including making access to apprenticeships more attractive and accessible, encouraging greater female participation, and looking at certification and skill level and the requirements workers need to have.

## **Action Points**

- DES to continue to engage with the sector, particularly in relation to the accessibility of apprenticeships.
- Industry to continue to promote apprenticeships as an attractive option for school leavers.

## **5. Stimulating Productivity Growth in the Construction Sector**

### *ToR for productivity strategy (IPPO)*

DPER propose to commission a piece of research to provide a detailed evidence base on productivity in the construction sector and assist in developing recommendations to drive growth. The project will be led by the IPPO and DBEI and is scheduled to be carried out over Q1-Q3.

### *BIM roadmap and key actions to be progressed (Engineers Ireland)*

Engineers Ireland gave a presentation on stimulating productivity growth in the construction sector with a particular focus on the need for a specialised Construction Centre of Excellence to be established that will drive the digital transformation of the sector. Industry funding for the centre was deemed a necessity alongside any potential Government funding.

### *Industry proposals to improve productivity (CIF)*

Based on research that they have conducted, CIF gave a comprehensive presentation that highlighted the industry's productivity challenge and potential approaches to help improve overall construction productivity. The presentation also pointed to the measures that CIF have commenced, including the establishment of a construction related Research Forum. CIF noted that their report on productivity is due to be published in March.

## **Action Points**

- DPER to draft and publish RFT (taking input from CSG members).
- DBEI and DPER to discuss options for scoping a Construction Centre of Excellence including, scope, objectives, home department etc.
- Productivity and Growth Sub-Group to be convened to take these issues forward.
- CIF to update the CSG on the work of their Research Forum.

## **6. Update on waste management (DCCAIE)**

DCCAIE are continuing to monitor construction waste generation and outlets (in conjunction with industry). Development of contingency landfill being explored by DCCAIE.

## **8. AOB**

- A document providing further detail on the 2019 work programme will be circulated.
- The Growth and Productivity Sub-Group and the Value for Money and Sustainability Sub-Group will be convened shortly.
- The next meeting should include a focus on issues around procurement and the medium-term strategy.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 10am.