

Cross-Party Group on Construction

17.45 on 30 November 2021

Minute of Meeting

Present

MSPs

Monica Lennon MSP
Paul McLennan MSP

Invited guests

Will Arnold, Institute of Structural Engineers
Dr Faye Wade, University of Edinburgh

Non-MSP Group Members Present

Ann-Marie Waugh Glass and Glazing Federation
Rebecca Pasmore Association of Environmental Clerks of Works
Alan Wilson SELECT
Fiona Hodgson SNIPEF
Andrew Leslie Association for Project Safety
Peter Reekie Scottish Futures Trust
Anne Galbraith SECTT
Euan Ryan RICS
Grahame Barn CECA Scotland
Jonathan McAveety CECA Scotland
Michael Lennox CITB
William Crowe Institution of Structural Engineers
Gordon Nelson Federation of Master Builders
Wendy Gillings Federation of Master Builders

Others present

Graham Jackson Thorntons Law LLP
Elaine Ellise Skills Development Scotland
Stuart Tennant University of the West of Scotland
Brett Amphlett, Builders Merchant Federation

Apologies

Alexander Burnett MSP
Stephen Young
Stephen Slessor
Jonathan Gaskell
Barri Millar
Maureen Douglas
Hector MacAulay
John Kane
Chris Pateman
Hew Edgar CIOB

1. Welcome, introduction, and apologies from Monica Lennon MSP.

Monica Lennon (ML) MSP welcome everyone to the meeting and noted that the meeting will be recorded. ML acknowledged that the later start of 6pm impacted on MSP attendance tonight and in her introduction, ML noted:

- That The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee agreed to accord recognition of the Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Construction for session 6 of the Scottish Parliament. ML thanked her team and the CPG's secretary Gordon Nelson (GN) for working together to make this happen.
- The aim of this Cross-Party Group is to help ensure that Scotland has a world-class construction industry, delivering best value for all clients, a safe and productive environment across its projects and sites: and a proper career path with high calibre employment prospects for the people that make and shape the construction industry in Scotland.
- The CPG will be the forum for MSPs, construction industry stakeholders and other interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing the sector and to inform the development of better policy.
- The construction industry plays a key role in how we live, work, learn and play. The knowledge and skills put into practice by the people in our industry, will be central to enabling Scotland to deliver on its climate change targets.

With COP 26 in Glasgow concluding earlier this month, the timing was right for this CPG to focus on the challenge and opportunity for the construction industry in addressing climate change as the topic for our first official meeting.

2. Matters Arising

ML confirmed that the notes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021 were distributed prior to this meeting. There were no comments or clarifications

The notes were proposed by William Crowe and seconded by Grahame Barn.

3. The challenge and opportunity for the construction industry in de-carbonising our built environment.

ML welcomed Will Arnold (WA) and Dr Faye Wade (FW) for taking the time to present to the CPG this evening. WA is Head of Climate Action, at the Institution of Structural Engineers. FW is Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh.

i. Presentation from Will Arnold, Head of Climate Action from the Institution of Structural Engineers on 'Structures and the climate emergency'

ii. Presentation from Dr Faye Wade, Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh on 'Building on our Strengths: a market transformation approach to energy retrofit in UK homes.'

(Both presentations are attached with the minutes).

A question-and-answer session followed both presentations. Questions covered: the building regulations and the resources of building control, a licence to trade for contractors operating in the home improvements marketplace, the quality of training provision and level 3 apprenticeship qualifications in Scotland versus the rest of the UK, certification schemes, the role of trade federations in monitoring their members, the skills needed for whole house retrofit, how to embed green skills/sustainability across different trades within the industry.

ML thanked the speakers and noted that this CPG wants to continue to have influence and if CPG members wanted to follow up on any issues with Parliamentary questions or in writing to the Scottish Government then please consult with either ML's team or the CPG secretary GN.

4. Any other business

No item were raised.

5. Date of Next Meeting.

ML noted that as things stand, we are hoping to have an in-person meeting in the Scottish Parliament on for 22 February 2022 at 5.45pm. This is a provisional date,

GN will confirm this, and future meeting dates planned for May and September in the new year.

DRAFT