

CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

1.00pm Wednesday 24th January 2024

Meeting held online via MS Teams

Minutes of Meeting

Present

MSPs

Monica Lennon MSP
Gordon MacDonald MSP

Invited guests

Morag Anderson, Scottish Government

Non-MSP Group Members Present

Grahame Barn,	CECA Scotland
Chris Stewart,	Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)
William Crowe,	Institute of Structural Engineers (ISE)
Elaine Ellis,	Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
Richard Campbell,	Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF)
Gordon Brown,	Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Ben Westland,	Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
John McKinney,	Scottish Contractors Group
Peter Reekie,	Scottish Futures Trust
Alan Wilson,	SELECT
Robert Toomey,	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Ross Taylor,	Gillespie Macandrew
John Kane,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Helen Allison,	Skills Development Scotland
Gordon Nelson,	FMB Scotland
Lauren Pennycook,	Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
Chris Pateman,	EPIC (Engineered Panels in Construction Limited)
Elizabeth Halliday,	Morgan Sindall
Ann-Marie Waugh,	Glass & Glazing Federation

Others present

Graham Jackson,	Thorntons Law LLP
Stephen Slessor,	Ross Engineering
Graham Porteous,	Scottish Government
Rwayda Al-Hamd	Abertay University
Scott Wilson,	Robertson Group
Graham Jackson,	Thorntons Law
Lillian McDowall,	Scape Scotland

Apologies

Grahame Simpson,	MSP
Cameron MacIver,	The Association of Environmental Clerks of Works
Fiona Hodgson,	SNIPEF
Colin Tennant,	Historic Environment Scotland
John Nelson	Turner & Townsend
Jonathan Gaskell	DWF LLP
Andrew Leslie	The Association for Project Safety
Jocelyne Fleming,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Anne Galbraith	Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)
Ian Rogers,	Scottish Decorators Federation
Brett Amphlett	Builders Merchant Federation

1. Welcome and apologies

The Convener Monica Lennon MSP (ML) welcomed delegates to the first meeting of our Cross-Party Group on Construction in 2024. ML thanked everyone for joining us online: with the weather leading to a change of format from our planned in-person meeting in the Scottish Parliament.

The Secretary Gordon Nelson (GN) confirmed he would note all of the apologies received in the minutes.

ML noted that since our CPG was formally awarded recognition by The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for session 6 of the Scottish Parliament, we have met online and in person to hear insights on and discuss a range of topics including:

- The materials and supply chain challenges impacting the construction industry.
- Scotland's apprenticeship system: and current training provision for the construction industry.
- The challenge and opportunity for the industry in de-carbonising our built environment.
- Scottish Water shared insights and tangible examples on how they are reducing or removing carbon from the construction process.

2. Matters arising. Notes from the last official meeting of the CPG held on 25th October 2023

The notes were circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no comments or clarifications. The notes were proposed by John Kane and seconded by Gordon MacDonald MSP.

3. Presentation from Peter Reekie (CEO of the Scottish Futures Trust) and Morag Angus (Chief Surveyor at the Scottish Government) who on the Scottish Construction Accord and the Transformation Action Plan and Programme.

ML welcomed Peter Reekie (PR) and Morag Angus (MA) who will co-present today on the Transformation Action Plan. The Transformation Action Plan Launch event having taken place this morning at Napier University.

The presentation is attached separately. Some key points from the presentation being

- The breadth and depth of Scotland's Construction sector. 6% of the economy, GVA of £10 billion, 1 in 11 of Scotland's workforce engaged in construction and related industries.

- The launch of the Scottish Construction Accord in October 2022, the accord having defined outcomes across 4 key areas: for business and the economy, for current and future workforce, for customers and users, for the environment & communities.
- The Construction Leadership Forum (CLF) will continue to have a key role to provide a route for industry to engage with the Scottish Government on key challenges and short-term issues such as cladding remediation. This core work of the CLF will continue in parallel to the industry transformation as set out in the Transformation Action Plan (TAP).
- The TAP published today marks a key change in the approach where the Scottish Government is now working much more closely with industry. Over the last 18 months there has been extensive engagement and collaboration across the sector which has shaped the TAP.
- The TAP is a live document and some of the priorities will change over time. There are clear governance arrangements with the TAP Board and 11 working groups.
- The working groups are: Communications, Construction Procurement, Data & Insights, Digital, Fair Work, Modern Methods of Construction, Net Zero, Pipeline, Quality, Skills, Supply chain. Across the working groups there are 59 private sector organisations and 47 public sector organisations involved.
- The working groups are in the process of developing their key indicators for change against which progress can be measured.

Following the presentation, there were questions and points raised from Chris Pateman, Chris Stewart (CS), Alan Wilson, Willie Crowe, Steve Slessor and Elizabeth Halliday (EH). Mapping what has been delivered by the TAP, promoting and communicating effectively about the TAP, budget constraints, Modern Methods of Construction and supporting SME's through the transitions, being the key areas.

EH noted the long time it takes for the certification process for new products and process to complete, with the K-Briq being one example.

ML noted the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill and asked those present to feedback their views. CS noting that often new policies aren't cross-referenced and nor do they feed off each other.

4. Any other business

i. Invitation

ML was pleased to note that all CPG members have been invited by the Passivhaus Trust to an event sponsored by ML's colleague Alex Rowley MSP at 6pm on Wednesday 28 February in the Scottish Parliament.

There will be a food & drink reception on arrival, followed by presentations, films, and a Q&A session on the proposed Scottish equivalent to Passivhaus policy.

The event will explore:

- What is currently underway in Scotland
- Passivhaus policies from across the globe
- Next steps for the Passivhaus equivalent policy.

Please note that this is an invitation-only event and numbers are limited. So please RSVP to Chayley Collis.

CPG members who are keen to attend must contact Chayley directly on:

chayley@passivhaustrust.org.uk

ii. New member application

ML noted that Scape Scotland have applied to join our CPG. There were no objections from CPG members present. ML confirmed Scape Scotland as new members and welcomed Lillian McDowall from Scape Scotland who was present today.

iii. Stewart Milne

ML noted the recent news of the collapse of the Stewart Milne group, with over 200 redundancies. The Cabinet Secretary Neil Gray briefed

MSPs about this. ML will circulate the information she received to GN and asked if there was anything the CPG could do.

5. Date of the next meeting

Post meeting note, this is confirmed for **Thursday 9 May at 1:00pm** in the Scottish Parliament.

GN and ML asked all CPG members to forward their ideas for future topics for the CPG to discuss.

ML closed the meeting.

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