

## **CROSS-PARTY GROUP FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT/ BRIEF NOTES**

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP

The meeting was well attended with 21 in attendance (details attached) and members were welcomed to the meeting by the Convenor.

### **Matters Arising**

The notes from the meeting on 5 June 2013 were approved as an accurate account of the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr Watt (Treasurer) gave the Treasurer's Report (attached).

### **Skills Subgroup**

Mr Don reported the next meeting of the Skills Subgroup would take place on 2 October and the post-16 review of the vocational education system, support for construction apprenticeships and the forthcoming Procurement Reform Bill would be covered.

The last meeting had taken place on 18 June and a presentation given from Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland on current and planned policy for skills and training.

Mr Don reported that CITB-ConstructionSkills Scotland – "Opportunities in Public Sector Procurement" event would take place at 6.00pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October in the Scottish Parliament.

CITB had organised the event to highlight the opportunities represented within the forthcoming Procurement Reform Bill and how it could be used to encourage the promotion of training and employment opportunities.

CITB-ConstructionSkills provided guidance to public bodies procuring construction projects to embed training and apprenticeship opportunities within their contracts which had been adopted by a number of local authorities.

### **Retrofit Scotland**

Mr Don welcomed Dr David Kelly and Mr John Currie from Retrofit Scotland which was part of Scotland's 2020 Climate Group.

Dr Kelly and Mr Currie outlined details of Retrofit Scotland's activities (attached).

They highlighted the refurbishment of existing buildings and the need for property owners to identify work which would have a positive impact on carbon emissions for their building.

Mr McKenzie highlighted the significant level of funding required to meet the targets within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act and the need to engage with key stakeholders to take a holistic approach to reduce carbon emissions.

He was also concerned that the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) calculations were not the most effective measure and better methodology was required.

Prof. Buchan was concerned that numerous bodies were working on the issue but there was limited interaction between them and therefore not maximising the benefits of their activities.

Mr Don was aware of certain examples of collaborative working in the area but this was not replicated across all sectors.

Mr Currie said that Retrofit Scotland was pulling together information from bodies across Scotland and collating the information.

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Prof Buchan felt that a greater emphasis should be placed on whole life costing when determining carbon saving actions.

Mr Don felt it would be beneficial if clear guidance was given for property owners on how to reduce their carbon emissions.

Mr Stirrat said there was a significant number of traditional buildings in Scotland which were harder to treat and asked what property owner should undertake to reduce the carbon emissions.

Mr Currie said there was a need to look after the long-term sustainability of the buildings and ensure appropriate measures were taken and fitted correctly to reduce the carbon emissions.

Ms Thiam asked what skills needed to be taught to ensure that any retrofit actions were fitted correctly.

Dr Kelly said that new skills were not required but the application of them sometimes needed to be reconsidered.

Mr McKinney said that the primary step to making a property carbon efficient was to ensure that it was wind and watertight and asked the presenters if they knew why this was not included in the Low Carbon Behaviours Framework. Dr Kelly and Mr Currie agreed with the need to keep buildings free from disrepair and did not know why it had not been included.

Prof Buchan said that it was the property owner's responsibility to looking after their property.

Mr Canavan reported that he had reviewed buildings energy performance and suggested annual energy consumption in kilowatt-hours (kWh) divided by number of square meters of walled floor area was a good way of determining the fuel efficiency of buildings.

Mr Watt asked how Retrofit Scotland planned to engage with industry to improve energy efficiency measures.

Dr Kelly said that Retrofit Scotland had taken the issues forward and wanted to engage with the whole industry but was restricted in its activities due to limited resources. Retrofit Scotland required additional resources to allow it to actively take issues forward and engage with all key stakeholders.

Mr Johnston asked if the government should review how it encouraged property owners to take up the funding available for carbon saving measures in existing buildings.

Dr Kelly felt that there was a need to continue to raise awareness to property owners and it would be a gradual change over a sustained period of time to have the necessary effect.

### **AOCB**

None

### **Date of Next Meeting**

TBA

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### **Attendance**

N Don MSP

A Johnstone MSP

M McCulloch MSP

M McKenzie MSP

G Barn – FMB

R Buchan - RICS

R Burgon - SNIPEF

D Canavan – RIAS

A Close – FMB

J Currie – Edinburgh Napier University

R Groom – CITB

D Kelly – BRE Scotland

K Martin – City of Glasgow College

S McCluskey – GMG Contractors Ltd

J McKinney – NSCC

I Morrison – Forth Valley College

B Reid – I Struct E

C Stirrat – Fife Housing Association

S Thiam - ICE

A Watt – CECA Scotland

A Waugh - GGF

### **Apologies**

R Simpson MSP

J Downie - FPDC

B Dyer - B&ES

P Ford - CITB

A Galbraith - SECTT

G Jackson - Thorntons Law LLP

N McGuinness - SELECT

T McManus - BEST (Scotland)

E Monaghan - MacTaggart & Mickel Homes

R Pettigrew - B&ES

I Robertson - NSCC

J Sheridan - MPA Scotland

A Wilson - SNIPEF

S Young - CECA Scotland