

CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

1.00pm Thursday 9th May 2024

Committee Room 6, Scottish Parliament

Minutes of Meeting

Present

MSPs

Monica Lennon MSP

Invited guests

Richard Park,	Hub North
Angelina Robertson,	Hub West
Paul McGirk,	Hub South East

Non-MSP Group Members Present

Cameron MacIver,	The Association of Environmental Clerks of Works
Alan Wilson,	SELECT
Robert Toomey,	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Gordon Nelson,	FMB and CPG Secretary
Graeme Watson,	AECOM
John Nelson,	AECOM
Karen Stevenson,	Scottish Futures Trust
Richard Campbell,	Institute of Structural Engineers (ISE)
Elliot Robertson,	Robertson Group
Chris Pateman,	Engineered Panels in Construction (EPIC)

Others Present

Mixar Krayem,	
Robert Sutherland,	McLaughlin & Harvey
Stevie Dillon,	Unite the Union

Apologies

Ben Macpherson,	MSP
Gordon MacDonald,	MSP
Alexander Burnett,	MSP
Grahame Barn,	CECA Scotland
Fiona Hodgson,	SNIPEF
Stephanie Lowe,	SNIPEF
William Crowe,	Institute of Structural Engineers (ISE)
Fiona Harper,	Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)
Stuart Tennant,	University of the West of Scotland
Brett Amphlett	Builders Merchant Federation
Jocelyn Fleming	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
John Kane,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Lauren Pennycook,	Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
Elizabeth Halliday,	Morgan Sindall
Euan Bell,	Morgan Sindall
Graham Jackson,	Thorntons Law
Lillian McDowall,	SCAPE Scotland

1. Welcome and apologies

The Convener Monica Lennon MSP (ML) welcomed delegates and noted that those present may remember that our meeting in January had to be moved online at the last minute, owing to the havoc caused by storms Isha and Jocelyn.

No such storms this time, but some could describe the last two weeks of Scottish politics as being as dramatic as many a storm: with the collapse of the Bute House agreement, the resignation of Humza Yousaf and the confirmation of John Swinney as Scotland's New First Minister. ML noted that as a result of this, our meeting would be compressed as she will need to be away by 13.50 to get to the Chamber.

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

ML noted that during recent meetings of this CPG we have discussed 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.

ML added that although Ben Macpherson MSP has sent his apologies today, he is keen to join our Cross-Party Group: this can be confirmed at the next meeting.

2. Matters arising. Notes from the last official meeting of the CPG held on 24 January 2024.

The notes were circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no comments or clarifications. The notes were proposed by Chris Pateman (EPIC) and Alan Wilson (SELECT).

3. Presentation from Richard Park, CEO of Hub North Scotland, Angeline Robertson, Hub West and Paul McGirk, Hub South East

ML welcomed Richard Park (RP) Angelina Robertson (AR) and Paul McGirk (PM) who will co-present today on the Hub Programme. ML adding that the Scotland-wide Hub initiative, led by the Scottish Futures Trust, reflects a national approach to the delivery of new community infrastructure.

The idea behind the Hub initiative, set up in 2010, was to establish five public-private partnership development companies across Scotland to work regionally with local authorities, NHS Boards, emergency services and a number of other public bodies.

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

- That the Hub programme, across the five territories in Scotland promotes best practice and partnership working

and inclusive economic growth: aligned with Scotland's National Performance Framework.

- Today's session gave an overview of the hub programme's policy outcomes in Place, Net Zero and Housing.
- SME involvement across the hub programme: circa £2Bn has been spent on and through the supply chain.
- On housing, the hub programme achieved Scotland's largest Passivhaus housing development to date (in Dalmarnock).
- That there has been recent capital and revenue budget challenges within and across public sector contracting authorities.
- A new innovation is the Hub Institutional Funding Model (HIFM) to fund public sector assets which include new build and retrofit works.

Following the presentation, there were questions and points raised from Robbie Toomey (RT), Alan Wilson (AW) Stevie Dillon (SD) on embodied carbon, payments through the supply chain and how workers voices could be heard.

RP confirmed that Scotland's National Investment Bank (SNIB) are collaborating with the Hub programme. Richard Campbell (RC) from the ISE asked about the process for SME's (be they consultants, designers or contractors) in joining each Hub. AR confirming that PQQ's are used.

With the Convener, ML having to leave early, the Secretary Gordon Nelson (GN) chaired the final part of the meeting. There were questions from Elliot Robertson (ER) on how institutional investors can be attracted to invest in housing. PM confirming that the Hub companies had a key role to play here.

4. Any other business

i. Treasurer's update

As the treasurer Grahame Barn wasn't present today, GN confirmed that the group's balance as at 29 February is £1.989.87.

ii. New CPG Secretary

GN reminded the group that he will be standing down at our 2024 AGM this autumn. Non-MSP members are encouraged to consider putting themselves to replace GN, who can explain the key duties of the Secretary.

iii. New member applications

All five hub companies have expressed an interest in joining the CPG. Mixar Krayem also wants to join the CPG as an individual. There were no objections from CPG members present. All 6 new members were confirmed.

5. Date of the next meeting

To be advised and we will hold the 2024 AGM immediately after the meeting, most likely in late September or early October.

GN thanked our presenters and closed the meeting.

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