



GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2013

Message from Peter Hansford, Government Chief Construction Adviser

At the Government Construction Summit on 2 July we launched the Industrial Strategy for Construction, *Construction 2025*. This marks the beginning of a programme of work that will bring together various initiatives, with the overall aim of delivering growth and efficiency in the industry.



Publication follows six months' work by Government and industry in partnership. It sets out an ambitious vision for the industry in 2025, and identifies the five key areas where co-ordinated action will help deliver our ambitions - namely:

- **People** - an industry known for its talented and diverse workforce;
- **Smart** - an industry that is efficient and technologically advanced;
- **Sustainable** - one that leads the world in low-carbon and green construction exports; provides a clear view of future work opportunities; and with improved client capability and efficient procurement;
- **Growth** – our sector driving growth across the entire economy, and with a strong and resilient supply chain; and
- **Leadership** - an industry with clear leadership from a Construction Leadership Council.

Actions will be identified by the Construction Leadership Council, and a supporting Delivery Group, as the transformation programme progresses. Everyone will need to play their part in

transforming this industry, and I am looking forward to working with the Council, with industry bodies, and with all of you in the exciting task of making this strategy happen.

Launch of Construction 2025

The launch event for Construction 2025 had a high profile ministerial presence from the Cabinet Office, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and HM Treasury, demonstrating the importance that Government places on the initiatives this strategy contains. Embracing innovation, increasing sustainability and driving up exports are central to this new strategic partnership to encourage long-term growth in UK construction.



Launching Construction 2025, Business and Energy Minister Michael Fallon unveiled the industrial strategy for construction which sets out how Government and industry will ensure the UK continues to thrive in the face of increasing global competition. The strategy includes an action plan of 10 joint commitments to ensure industry is best placed to achieve its ambitions by 2025. Highlights include reducing growth barriers for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized firms (SMEs), through better access to finance and the promotion of fairer payment practices.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/construction-2025-strategy>



In supporting the strategy set out in Construction 2025, the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, Lord Deighton called for government, industry and innovators to work together to ensure the UK is seen as the best place to invest, and to deliver much-needed infrastructure.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/industry-and-government-need-to-work-together-to-deliver-infrastructure-says-deighton>



Highlighting commitments made in Construction 2025 on the initiatives implemented by the [Government Construction Strategy](#), the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Chloe Smith, emphasised the Government's commitment to continue to promote efficiency and reform in public sector construction, alongside innovation and growth in the construction industry.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/government-construction-summit-2013-speech-by-chloe-smith>

Have your say ... Consultation on Lord Young Report “Growing your Business”

In May this year Lord Young, the Prime Minister's advisor on enterprise and small business, published the report '[Growing your Business](#)'. This recommended removing complexity, cost and inconsistency for SMEs in bidding for public contracts by simplifying and standardising the procurement process. The proposals include:

- Introducing a requirement for all public sector contracts over £10,000 to be accessible on the same site;
- Banning burdensome pre-qualification questionnaires for low value public sector contracts, and introducing a single standardised requirement for high value contracts; and

- Ensuring suppliers further down the supply chain benefit from the same standard payment terms that public bodies offer prime contractors to ensure prompt payment for public sector work.

A consultation on these recommendations will run until 17 October – please submit your views on the consultation through this link:

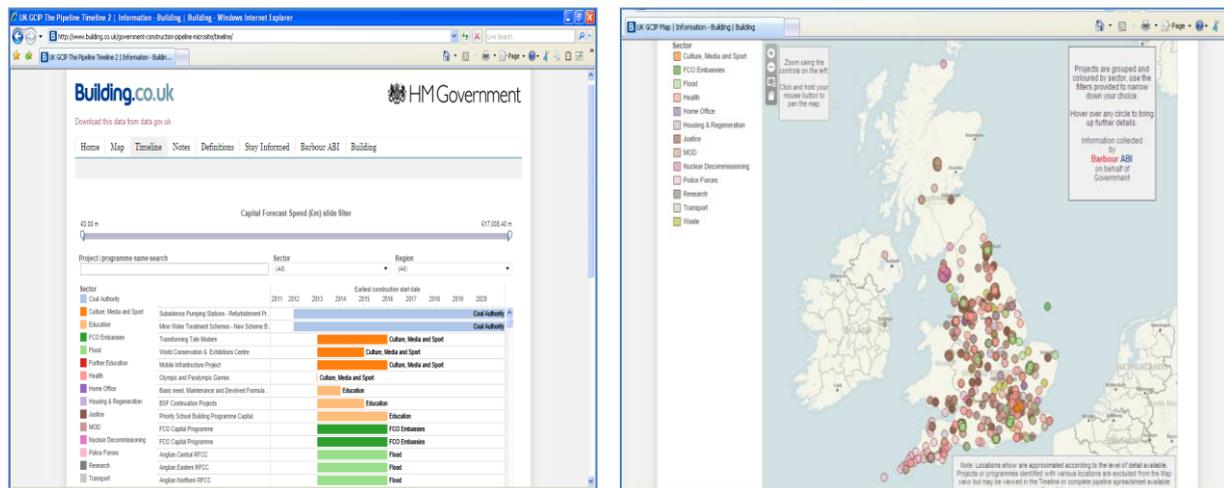
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/making-public-sector-procurement-more-accessible-to-smes>.

The press release can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-public-bodies-to-adopt-sme-friendly-business-rules>

Government Construction Pipeline updated with £109 billion of future opportunities through to 2020 and beyond

The Government Construction Pipeline was updated on 19 August with opportunities on future government construction contracts worth over £109 billion, the largest amount of government construction projects ever published. The update includes the latest available information following the Spending Round for 2015/16 and opportunities related to investment in infrastructure across government as set out in *Investing in Britain's Future*, to set out programmes and projects up to 2020 and beyond.

For the first time the pipeline has been published on a new online portal www.uk-cip.org.uk.



The interactive portal is designed to help suppliers access the construction pipeline data in a simple and accessible format. Hosted by HM Government's private sector partner Barbour ABI, the portal features a timeline and map view of government construction projects. This is Phase 1 of a portal development programme with further advancements in functionality to be added for future publications. As with previous publications, the data will remain available in Excel format from www.gov.uk and www.data.gov.uk.

The pipeline is updated every six months to help suppliers to plan ahead, invest in and grow their businesses. Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Chloe Smith, said about the latest publication:

“We know that being transparent about opportunities available in the public sector is exactly what suppliers need to start looking at their business, investing and boosting their capabilities.

Regularly updating this information and providing construction suppliers with much earlier visibility of future opportunities within government gives UK businesses the knowledge they need to plan, get ahead of the game and grow. With over £109 billion worth of future public construction contracts now up for grabs from now to 2020 and beyond, we are reinforcing our long-term commitment to rebalance the economy and help Britain get ahead in the global race.”

We welcome feedback on the pipeline and on the development of the new portal. Please send general feedback on the pipeline to governmentconstructionteam@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk and on the portal to info@barbour-abi.com.

Minister Chloe Smith visits CITB



At the end of August the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Chloe Smith, visited the new facilities at the National Construction College (NCC) in Bircham Newton along with Peter Hansford, Government Chief Construction Adviser. They took the opportunity to try out the newly installed construction plant simulator and held discussions about the way that Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the NCC are supporting the industrial strategy and developing modern construction skills training to meet the

current and emerging needs of the industry. Chloe Smith MP said *"It is great to come to the National Construction College in Bircham to see the ground-breaking work being done here to ensure that we have the skills in place to meet the challenges that lie ahead and to continue to drive the sector's growth."*

For more info see: <http://www.citb.co.uk/news-events/news-story/key-government-figures-visit-national-construction-college/>

Towards a “Digital Built Britain”

The Industrial Strategy for Construction announced that we are going to be "An industry that is efficient and technologically advanced", so what does that mean and why shouldn't the UK continue its engineering heritage to lead the world in this crucial market?

We have to compete on a new basis, the construction industry is the last bastion of the analogue world and the UK is going to continue its lead on the journey to Digital Leadership.

The Level 2 BIM programme is a key enabling strategy for the UK. Developing the processes, open data definitions and creating a capable, informed work force has not only contributed to savings of 20%, but also cemented the UK as the recognised leader in vision, policy, capability and results for Digital Construction World Wide. This was demonstrated by the Fiatch award this year, the first time such an award has been presented to a public body outside the shores of the USA.



Mark Bew MBE
Chairman, BIM Task Group

But all of this is positioning us for the next game changer..... “Digital Built Britain”.

Announced at the 2013 Construction Summit, “Digital Built Britain” is the brand we will deliver BIM Contributions to the Smart City, Smart Grid initiatives and to deliver BIM Level 3 capability to the domestic and international markets’.

Implementing Government Soft Landings (GSL)

- The first cross government “GSL Stewardship” meeting was held on 22 July with representatives from the majority of departments who have identified their GSL Leads and Champions. The purpose of this group will be to drive through the implementation of GSL across government through sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and benefits identified. This group, chaired by a government department, will meet regularly going forward and will assist in the testing and updating of the GSL guidance documents.
- A new learning outcomes framework is currently under development for training on GSL with Construction Industry Council (CIC) and Civil Service Learning which will support the GSL Champions across government.
- A lunch was hosted by Lord Carter with Facilities Management (FM) companies on 17 July to raise the profile of GSL and BIM within FM organisations. The group reinforced the need for a ‘designed to operate’ approach to be taken throughout procurement. We are taking this forward to ensure that procurement will be aligned to the objectives of GSL and BIM.
- BIM4FM, the FM industry organisations group, have published survey results on FM industry views on BIM and their current understanding. See link: <http://www.bimtaskgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BIM4FM-Survey.pdf>. Further work from the group in the form of a white paper on ‘How BIM will be used in existing estates’ is being worked on and an industry event is being organised for early 2014.
- Input to the new project management framework has ensured that GSL and BIM are included and a PIN was issued by the Government Procurement Service (GPS) on 6 September. Further information can be found on the GPS website <http://gps.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/uk-sbs-manage-property-frameworks-behalf-gps>.
- A feasibility study is currently being undertaken look at how KPI’s will be measured and monitored post construction with a potential contractual link between construction and FM.
- Development of PAS1192.3 operational data standard which will define data protocols for BIM to FM/asset management systems has started and a steering group has been formed from across FM and asset management industries. Publication of this document is due 7 March 2014.



Deborah Rowland
*Head of Facilities Management Policy & Strategy
Government Property Unit*

HM Government and UK industry leading the Global BIM journey



The Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Chloe Smith, was joined on stage at the second Government Construction Summit by Mark Bew, David Philp (BIM Task Group) and Graham Watts (CEO Construction Industry Council) for the presentation of the The Fiatch James B. Porter, Jr. Award for Technology Leadership which honours and celebrates: vision, technical acumen, and commitment to advancing the capital projects industry. The award to both HM Government and UK industry supports the supposition of the UK being at the vanguard of a

digital change in the built environment. The Minister added that *"BIM is the enabler of a better future; a more collaborative built environment that liberates added value at all stages of the asset lifecycle. It allows SMEs to compete with bigger companies. And the savviest, smartest firms are already maximising the potential that BIM can unlock."*

BIM Implementation within the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice now has over 20 projects using BIM processes and the early projects such as Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institution (which announced a 20% reduction in capital cost) are leading the way in Level 2 BIM implementation. This has been a fantastic achievement by all the organisations and individuals involved, demonstrating commitment and persistence to see the projects through. But the biggest achievement has been the widespread realisation that Soft Landings, collaboration, procurement, operations, good design and engineering can be dramatically improved through the use of BIM tools and open sharing of data. Emily Thomas the Governor at Cookham Wood summarised this by saying *"For the first time I could understand a building design, it allowed me to contribute and comment (both positively and negatively) for the first time rather than having to look at a flat drawings"*.

New models of procurement – Trial Projects

Following the successful Government Construction Summit held in July 2013, Cabinet Office published 4 Case Studies from the Trials Project programme. This was a significant step in terms of transparency and visibility of the trial projects. The projects are already providing a compelling body of evidence and demonstrate that Government is becoming a more intelligent client in driving efficiencies. A series of workshops are now being held to develop guidelines for making the implementation of the Trials a repeatable process that delivers consistent outcomes and savings. The objective will be for clients to embed the process as business as usual, and also ensure the process can be shared as best practice throughout an organisation. Complementing this activity, further trial projects in the programme will be introduced via the publication in October of short form case studies.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/cabinet-office/series/government-construction-strategy-trial-projects>

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award



This award will be presented at the British Construction Industry Awards which will be held on the 9 October 2013. UCH Macmillan Cancer Centre won the award last year with a number of other excellent projects ranging from Kings Cross station to Tauntan Third Way bridge short listed as runners up. This year's shortlisted projects can be viewed here: <http://www.bciawards.org.uk/709889>

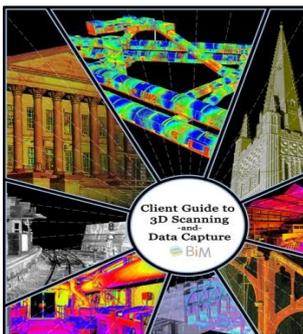
The awards will be presented at a gala dinner on 9 October at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. More information is here: <http://www.bciawards.org.uk/563670>

PUBLICATIONS

Government Construction Cost Reduction Benchmarks

The publication of the '[Government Construction Cost Reductions, Cost Benchmarks, & Cost Reduction Trajectories to March 2013](#)' evoked considerable positive press coverage, and evoked one external construction commentator to describe the move as a "[brave initiative](#)" (see link: <http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/news-insight/comment/none-but-the-brave-publish-benchmarks/>). The success of the Benchmarking group has led to several upcoming workshops being set up for further government departments to conduct similar granular comparisons with the wider public sector, and leading private sector bodies with like for like projects.

BIM Task Group publishes the "Client Guide to 3D Scanning Data Capture"



The "[Client guide to 3D scanning and data capture](#)" has now been uploaded onto the Task Group Labs area of the www.bimtaskgroup.org website.

It has been a great effort by the working group to get it in this position. The newly formed Survey4BIM working group, will work to move this document from beta to a signed off document. We hope that this guide will be the first in a series that demonstrates how BIM and digital surveying can be liberated to bring added value during the lifecycle of our projects.

BIM Task Group weekly newsletter



The BIM Task Group's weekly newsletter is now reaching a typical audience of around 3,000 readers. This digital publication provides updates on the team's activities, people stories and educational content. "Building" magazine is now providing a monthly condensed review of our top stories.

The latest version is here: www.bimtaskgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BIM-Task-Group-Newsletter-29h-Edition.pdf

Past publications can be found in the newsletter archives at: <http://www.bimtaskgroup.org/articles/newsletter-archive/>

Saying farewell to Juliet Mountford

Juliet Mountford, Executive Director in the Major Projects Authority (MPA), left the Cabinet Office in July after 22 years in the Civil Service. Juliet has joined the British Red Cross as Head of UK Services.



Since joining the Civil Service as a researcher in 1991, Juliet has worked for six Government departments and her range of expertise spans a range of important political issues, such as lone parents and social housing, HIV and AIDS, rent arrears, mortgage default, anti social behaviour, the gender pay gap, building the Big Society and troubled families. More recently, she headed up the Construction team and SWIRL teams, overseeing the divestiture of SWIRL from full Government ownership to create the first joint venture business based on government intellectual property. She took up responsibilities as the interim Head of the Major Projects Authority earlier this year.

The Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude, and the Chief Operation Officer of Efficiency Reform and Growth, Stephen Kelly, have both acknowledged her exemplary stewardship of the MPA, in particular, her energy and commitment to delivering results. Her role in the British Red Cross is a tremendously exciting opportunity and we wish her every success.

We want these newsletters to generate a two-way **dialogue** and would be very pleased to receive **comments, queries** and **feedback** to GovernmentConstructionTeam@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk or InfrastructureCost@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk.

If you would like to be **removed** or **added** to the distribution list for our newsletter please email servicedesk@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk.