



Housing for All Modern Methods of Construction Leadership and Integration Group

Wednesday 14 February 2024, 2.30-4.00pm

DETE Offices, Kildare Street, Room 12A

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

The Chair (Céline McHugh, acting) opened the meeting and noted apologies from the Chair, John Newham. The Chair also noted that Minutes of the December meeting would be circulated and approved at the next meeting.

The Chair welcomed invited attendees: Mairead Phelan, Head of National Building Control Office; and Pat Nestor and Alan Isdell from Dublin City Council.

A number of updates since the December meeting were shared to the Group by DETE:

- The Housing for All Industry Capability Working Group proposed that the MMC LIG would consider the House of Lords Report on MMC at a future meeting.
- DETE representatives were invited to a US Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development hosted international workshop in conjunction with the MOD-X research group and National Institute of Building Sciences (USA) on developing a new US Action Plan for Industrialised Housing Delivery in Washington DC in early February. Policy and industry experts were drawn from the US, Sweden, UK and Japan as well as Ireland.
- TASC, in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Building has published a report on MMC. The project/report examines the barriers to greater use of MMC in an Irish context, both for the delivery of market/private housing and non-market/public housing. DETE and Construct Innovate participated in a panel discussion at the launch event on February 1st.
- The National Economic and Social Council is currently undertaking research on sustainable housing models including considerations about MMC.
- The MMC Data project is progressing well and the consultants, KPMG, will be hosting a workshop with industry stakeholders on Feb 15th to progress their research for the project.
- DETE and DHLGH participated in a site visit to the OPW installed 2-story volumetric homes located in Backweston, Lucan.



Actions:

- **Circulate December minutes for approval at the next meeting of the Group.**
- **Include an item to discuss the UK House of Lords MMC report at the next meeting of the Group. [DETE]**

2. MMC and Compliance

The Chair noted that compliance, and regulation more broadly, is a central theme in the MMC Roadmap accounting for 8 actions.

The NBCO and Dublin City Council outlined their practical experiences of building control with respect to MMC, and NSAI outlined the latest figures with regard to the Agrément process.

This was followed by an open discussion where topics discussed included: MMC's transition from the factory to site; how MMC materials are protected onsite when delivered; and the practical use of Agrément Certificates.

It was agreed that DETE would capture the main points raised and potential suggestions for action/further discussion across:

- Industry, construction professionals & BCA training/information sharing opportunities
- Quality assurance for manufacturers
- Enhanced central reporting of issues encountered by BCAs
- Procurement guidelines
- Role of CIRI
- Role of BIM/Digital mandate
- Role of Construct Innovate
- International practice e.g. BOPAS etc.

Action: DETE to prepare a draft note for circulation and further development, including development of follow up actions arising from the discussion, with a request for further input from the members, and recirculate in advance of the next meeting. [DETE]



3. Updates on various initiatives

The Chair invited updates on the various initiatives:

Construct Innovate:

- The group was informed that 7 Accelerated Housing Research, Dissemination and Demonstration (AHARRD) projects were completed in December; and the team are creating infographics and videos to coincide with their publication.
- The Construct Innovate weekly webinar series is well attended, with the next tranche to be themed on MMC.
- The seed funding call for projects to bring in the industry has closed with 18 projects approved for €1.1 million.
- Construct Innovate intend to open another round of seed funding in the future.
- The Centre is expecting to commence further research projects in 2024 in the area of housing, following consideration of a range of housing research priorities identified by DHLGH.

Built to Innovate:

- EI has approved a number of grants to companies under the Built to Innovate programme. An EI review of the programme's effectiveness is to commence later in Q1 as envisioned in the MMC Roadmap and Housing for All Action.
- It was also noted that EI are due to attend the House Building Summit in April and National Construction Summit in May.

Build Digital:

- The group was notified that since January this year, no major project over €100 million can be tendered unless digital; this will lower to €1 million by 2028.
- Build Digital has reoriented its focus to support the implementation of the Digital/BIM mandate.

Demonstration Park:

- DFHERIS notes that the planning decision for the Park is due imminently; a peer review has been undertaken and considered by the Project Oversight Group and DFHERIS; and LOETB will tender for ground works soon.



4. AOB

The next meeting in April was noted by the Chair.

The Group agreed to invite MMC Ireland and Smart Offsite Association to attend the next meeting.

It was also agreed that the MMC LIG Secretariat would approach Glenveagh/NUA to organise a visit to their MMC training facility in Carlow.



Attendees

- Céline McHugh, DETE (acting Chair)
- Manus O'Donnell, DETE
- Hannah Bolton, DETE
- Sean Armstrong, DHLGH
- Éadaoin Ní Fhearghail, DHLGH
- Liam Harding, DHLGH
- Damien Henahan, DFHERIS
- Ross McNamara, DFHERIS
- David Smith, SOLAS
- Mark Kelly, D/Education
- PJ Rudden, Construction Industry Group
- Martin Searson, NSAI (VC)
- Claire Lane, NSAI (VC)
- Ross O'Colmain, Enterprise Ireland
- Daniel McCrum, Construct Innovate
- Colm Farrell, DPER

Invited Attendees

- Mairead Phelan, NBCO
- Alan Isdell, Dublin City Council
- Pat Nestor, Dublin City Council

Apologies

- John Newham, DETE
- Kevin Meaney, DPER
- Chris Daly, DHLGH
- Sarah Miley, DFHERIS
- Andrew Brownlee, SOLAS
- John Conlon, DPER
- Neil Kerrigan, Enterprise Ireland

VC = By Video Conference.

DETE, Adopted 18 April 2024