An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

Housing for All - Modern Methods of Construction Leadership and Integration Group

21 September 2023, 2.30pm

DETE Offices, Kildare Street, Room 12A

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions and Matters Arising

Minutes for May and July Meetings were duly adopted.

- MMC training for NCBO, professional bodies etc, identified in the Roadmap, were noted. D/HLGH is engaged with RIAI to progress.
- DETE is progressing the MMC Data Dashboard project and is concluding a tender process currently.
- Construction Innovation & MMC was included in the Housing for All presence at the Ploughing Championships.
- Solas/LOETB will engage further with NSAI as Demonstration Park project progresses.
- Construct Innovate will hold further 'industry days' and EI will update the Group in due course.
- OPW has been invited to present to the next meeting of the Group.

2. Updates to Group ToR and Membership for Decision

It was agreed that:

- D/Education and NSAI be added as members of the Group.
- The Group assumes responsibility for implementation oversight of the Roadmap for increased adoption of MMC in public housing delivery.

It was noted that D/Education has considerable experience of MMC related procurement.

Action: MMC LIG ToR to be updated. [DETE]

3. Roadmap Implementation

DETE provided an overview of plans regarding the implementation of the MMC Roadmap, and it was noted:

- MMC Leadership and Integration Group has implementation oversight of the Roadmap for Increased Adoption of Modern Methods of Construction in Public Housing Delivery.

- 10 actions from the Roadmap are set to be included in the Quarter 3 update of Housing for All, with quarterly reporting via D/Taoiseach.
- 9 actions in the Roadmap are due for completion/updates in Q3.
- Roadmap is a live and evolving document.
- DETE is setting up a tracker to monitor implementation of actions in the Roadmap.

It was noted that the Social Housing Accelerated Delivery programme is progressing with positive engagement with the Local Authorities.

Action: The next meeting will review progress on Roadmap Actions, particularly the Q3 Actions. [DETE]

4. Presentation on Agrément & Discussion

Martin Searson, Head of MMC Certification at NSAI presented to the Group on NSAI's Agrément Certification offering and recent developments. Key points noted were as follows:

- Across a number of other countries, the number of Agrément certification schemes is similar (1/2), except for the UK which has 6.
- The timeframe to Agrément certification of building systems is currently averaging 16-18 months (but variable). NSAI is developing a stepped approach that aims to achieve efficiencies and reduce the timeframe.
- 17 MMC 'Building systems' have been Agrément certified to date by NSAI; 38 applications are at various stages of the certification process, and a further 14 new enquiries between July and September this year.
- NSAI has introduced a 'pre-approval' stage so that Agrément Certification applications progressed are of high quality.
- NSAI aim to offer 3 types of certification: Agrément Certification (subject to pre-approval); Ancillary Certification (incl onsite/offsite assessment); and ISO 19650 (BIM) Certification (currently in development for future rollout).
- To enable understanding within the sector, 4 infographics for MMC certification, a process flow chart, and a 15 step MMC Agrément approach are being developed.
- NSAI expects an acceleration of demand for their current certification offerings over the coming years, before demand is expected to level off.

5. Updates on Various Initiatives

The Chair invited updates on the various initiatives via a tour de table.

Demonstration Park:

- LOETB have appointed KSN to the role of Project Manager for the project and they have commenced a project review and planning of the future programme.
- The Phase One (groundworks and housing units) summary cost report is expected in Mid-October.
- Once planning is submitted the project will move forward with final designs, procurement of groundworks and scheduling for the construction phase.

Construct Innovate:

- CITC are recruiting for 3 positions currently that will further assist with the running of the new Centre.
- It was noted that there is a significant pipeline of research in the area of housing.
- A quarterly DHLGH-DETE-Construct Innovate meeting is to be arranged for early October.

Action: Enterprise Ireland to provide an update on the emerging CITC work programme at next meeting. [Enterprise Ireland]

Built to Innovate:

- EI is currently undertaking various promotional initiatives to support further take-up of supports by industry, including CIF national conference, and engagement with Lean Construct Ireland.
- EI expect to announce further project approvals in the coming weeks.

Build Digital:

- BIM Roadmap commences January 2024 for projects over €100m.
- The OGP are working closely with Build Digital in relation to procurement requirements and development of guidance.
- Build Digital will shortly announce a new public sector partner for the project.

6. AOB

DHLGH advised that Minister of State at DAFM, Pippa Hackett TD, has issued invitations to Government Departments to become members of the Timber in Construction Working Group.

The Group is expected to be launched on 4th October 2023 at the Build with Wood Conference at Avondale.

Next meeting was agreed for the 26th October 2023 at 2.30pm.

The proposed meeting schedule was noted, with each meeting planned to take place between 2:30-4pm:

- 7th Dec 2023
- 8th Feb 2024
- 4th Apr 2024
- 4th July 2024
- 12th Sept 2024
- 5th Dec 2024

Attendance

John Newham, Chair, DETE
Céline McHugh, DETE
Feargal Ó Coigligh, DHLGH (VC)
Sean Armstrong, DHLGH
Éadaoin Ní Fhearghail, DHLGH
Ross O'Colmain, Enterprise Ireland
Neil Kerrigan, Enterprise Ireland
Ross McNamara, DFHERIS
Kevin Meaney, DPER
Andrew Brownlee, SOLAS
Martin Searson, NSAI

Apologies

John Conlon, DPER
David Kelly, DHLGH
Sally Cao, DFHERIS
William Beausang, DFHERIS
Philip Nugent, DECC
PJ Rudden, Construction Sector Group

VC = By Video Conference

DETE, Adopted 26 October 2023