



Housing for All Modern Methods of Construction Leadership and Integration Group

24 July 2024, 2.30-4.00pm
DETE Offices, Kildare Street, Room 13A

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

Minutes from the April LIG were adopted.

The Chair noted updates since the April meeting including:

- MMC Data Survey is due to commence mid-August.
- NESC are due to publish a report on MMC in the coming weeks.
- The Construct Innovate housing research programme contract has been signed with EI.
- NSAI noted that recruitment is underway for new certification posts.

2. Housing for All Q3 Update

The Group discussed the update of the Housing for All Plan (HfA) due in Q3 2024. DETE, DHLGH and DFHERIS are using the existing MMC Roadmap as the framework for the creation of new actions in the Housing for All plan. This will embed and further expand on the work already being done on MMC.

Further updates followed from DHLGH:

- An overview of the Q2 HfA update which was published
- Building Standards Regulatory Authority is to be established.
- The Housing Commission report was published which has 83 recommendations with a few hundred proposed actions. The Housing Agency will undertake further analysis.
- The Cost of Construction Report is close to completion.
- The standardisation of approaches study is underway, with a consultant appointed in May.
- DHLGH updated on the Accelerated Housing Delivery Programme.

NSAI also noted ongoing work and provided an update on application aids for companies.



3. Industry Body Roundtable

MMC industry representatives were welcomed to the room and a tour-de-table of introductions were made.

The discussion covered two broad topics:

- (a) Meeting scaled up housing delivery targets/ industry delivery capacity/ key enablers of MMC delivery
- (b) Quality, capability and compliance/ moving from offsite manufacturing to onsite installation/ industry led initiatives

A range of views emerged in the discussion, including:

- Funding, and future pipeline certainty are key to scaling.
- Cross sectoral demand needs to be developed.
- Current planning timescales can add to uncertainty around project pipeline.
- Standardisation will enable economies of scale.
- Procedural aspects of Agrément certification were cited as a barrier, however it was noted that incomplete or inaccurate applications contribute to that issue.
- Lack of consultants to aid with Agrément certification applications.
- Need for a clear Government decision to pursue either 2D or 3D (or both) in construction and to draft tenders accordingly.
- In terms of quality/compliance, the number of interfaces between MMC elements increase the quality control points (2D – joinery)(3D – foundational)
- Timber is highly adaptable, but 3D is currently only viable for school modules, and needs increased demand.
- There is unused capacity in the timber frame sector and timber does not face the same issues as other building systems, as they have the IS440 Standard (33 certifications) and have the use of Home Bond for insurance purposes.

Finally, it was noted that MMC Ireland is undertaking a survey of their members to gauge production capacity – due for completion Q4 2024

4. AOB

The next meeting date of September 3rd was agreed by the group.



Attendees

John Newham, DETE
Céline McHugh, DETE
Sandra O'Reilly, DETE
Hannah Bolton, DETE
Alison Mannion, DETE
Áine Stapleton, DHLGH
Sean Armstrong, DHLGH
Éadaoin Ní Fhearghail, DHLGH
Liam Harding, DHLGH
Martin Searson, NSAI
Ross O'Colmain, Enterprise Ireland
Neil Kerrigan, Enterprise Ireland
Colm Farrell, DPER
PJ Rudden, Construction Sector Group

Invited Industry Representative Groups

Paul Tierney, MMC Ireland
Pat Kirwan, MMC Ireland
Denise Tuffy, CIF
Brian Kennedy, Vision Built/CIF
Peter de Lacy Staunton, ITFMA
Gary Smith, ITFMA

Apologies

Chris Daly, DHLGH
Kevin Meaney, DPER
Andrew Brownlee, SOLAS
David Smith, SOLAS
Sarah Miley, DFHERIS
Damien Henehan, DFHERIS
Ross McNamara, DFHERIS
Mark Kelly, D/Education
Geraldine Larkin, NSAI
Paul McDonnell, Enterprise Ireland

DETE, adopted 3rd October 2024