



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

Housing for All Action 23.9 (MMC)  
Terms of Reference  
*MMC Leadership and Integration Group*

## Housing for All - Action 23.9

### Terms of Reference

#### MMC Leadership and Integration Group

##### Context

Action 23.9 in Housing for All seeks to promote a culture of compliant, good quality sustainable innovation in residential construction through the development of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), including the establishment of a demonstration park for MMC.

The adoption of MMC has the potential to dramatically improve construction sector productivity. It is critical that there is a continuous and accelerated flow of new innovations in construction including MMC, particularly regarding house and apartment building, so as to ensure: the accelerated delivery of Housing for All targets; the ongoing transformation of the construction sector; and that the construction sector contributes to Ireland's sustainability and Climate Action targets.

Innovation and new technologies will be generated on an ongoing basis from a range of sources including the industry itself (both domestically and internationally), research performing organisations (including the Construction Technology Centre), specific projects such as Build Digital, innovations to meet Climate Action targets, and elsewhere. The forthcoming new Demonstration Park for MMC as part of the delivery of Action 23.9 will need to be agile and remain relevant in the context of ongoing innovation in the sector so that it plays a strong role in driving wider uptake of MMC innovations and helps to ensure that the sector has access to relevant skillsets.

To that end, with the support of a number of Government Departments, DETE is leading on the establishment of an overarching leadership mechanism to ensure integration and coordination across a range of existing and emerging MMC relevant entities and initiatives, including but not limited to:

- Demonstration Park for MMC at Mount Lucas
- Construction Technology Centre (CTC)
- Build Digital Project
- National Construction Training Centre at Mount Lucas
- Enterprise Ireland – *Built to Innovate*

The overriding ambition of the new Group will be to ensure that there is a robust framework in place that will support the construction sector to rapidly evolve and transform with the adoption of new technology and MMC applications that makes best use of available resources and expertise. The adoption of these new technologies and MMC applications in house and

apartment building must be compliant with regulatory requirements (including building regulations and building control regulations).

## Purpose

The new Leadership and Integration Group (“the Group”) will have a leading role in promoting a culture of innovation in residential construction as envisaged under Housing for All (Action 23.9) and will also contribute to broader MMC development and research orientation.

The Group’s primary role is to ensure the integration and coordination of existing, and emerging, initiatives in the construction sector ecosystem; across research, development, and innovation activities; demonstration activities; regulatory system; education and training; and enterprise support, with the specific objective of driving a continuous flow of new innovations and applications in MMC in house and apartment building. The entities operational in this space are expected to include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstration Park for MMC at Mount Lucas
- Construction Technology Centre (CTC)
- Build Digital Project
- National Construction Training Centre at Mount Lucas
- Enterprise Ireland – *Built to Innovate*

The Group’s leadership and integration role is strategic, and the individual entities operate within their own governance structures at an operational level. It will aim to ensure a coordinated approach, and that those emerging innovations and new technologies being developed and deployed by the industry in Ireland and abroad, and promoted by the public sector, can be showcased, and demonstrated in a coordinated and timely manner, particularly (but not exclusively) by the Demonstration Park for MMC, and could also inform the design of construction training modules.

The Group will also consider actions to support the wider development of the construction ecosystem to support the sector in continuous transformation and innovation adoption, including: finance, procurement, testing, certification and commercialisation, quality and compliance requirements, further funding opportunities, taking account of the ongoing work of the Construction Sector Group Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group.

In bringing an enhanced focus to the house-building sector, the work of the Group also has the potential to inform the adoption of MMC in wider parts of the construction sector to build scale domestically. In this broader context the Group will engage with the Construction Sector Group and its Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group who continue to address the design and specifics of MMC as it relates to the future implementation of the National Development Plan'.

## Tasks and responsibilities of the Group will include

- i. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Group;
- ii. Regularly consider and assess updates on developments and activities from:
  - o Demonstration Park for MMC at Mount Lucas
  - o Construction Technology Centre (CTC)
  - o Build Digital Project
  - o National Construction Training Centre at Mount Lucas
  - o Enterprise Ireland – *Built to Innovate*
  - o Other relevant entities, projects and initiatives as agreed
- iii. Identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration across the various initiatives above and propose and oversee actions (such as MOUs) to ensure these are exploited fully and systematically;
- iv. Identify potential over-laps across the various initiatives and propose actions to address these;
- v. Contribute to, and/or source advice on, developments in MMC domestically and internationally, including new technological innovations that should be promoted and demonstrated variously across the ecosystem, as appropriate;
- vi. Consider broader MMC ecosystem gaps and strengthening opportunities and consider and/or define suitable actions in response; informed by the work of the CSG (Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group), and elsewhere, as relevant;
- vii. Compile a report on the Group's work for presentation to the *Housing for All Industry Capability Working Group* – report to be presented by DETE and DHLGH
- viii. The Construction Sector Group and Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group will be advised of the ongoing work of the [Leadership and Integration] Group.

## Membership

A representative from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will Chair the Group.

The membership of the Group shall consist of a representative from:

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair, Assistant Secretary)
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Construction Sector Group (Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group)
- Enterprise Ireland
- SOLAS

Senior representatives from the following entities that will also be required to participate in meetings of the Group from time to time on request in an advisory capacity include:

- Construction Technology Centre
- Build Digital Project
- National Construction Training Centre
- National Standards Authority Ireland
- Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland
- Demonstration Park for MMC
- Local Government Management Agency

### Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from July 2022 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties or the end of the lifetime of the *Housing for All* strategy.

### Ways of working

The Group will meet regularly, with four meetings envisaged per calendar year.

Draft minutes will be compiled by the DETE secretariat and circulated in draft form prior to each meeting, will be agreed at each meeting of the Group, and will subsequently be published.

The Chair (or other member of the group) may request an additional meeting of the group to escalate or resolve issues that cannot be delayed until the next scheduled meeting. The Chair will decide if an unscheduled meeting should be organised.

Documents will be circulated as early as possible, but not later than 3 working days in advance of the meeting. Documents tabled on the day of the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair and will be kept to a minimum. Documents that are confidential in nature will be clearly marked as confidential.

At the discretion of the Chair, group members may be permitted to send a substitute if they are unavoidably unable to attend meetings.

Non-members may be invited to attend meetings of the Group where particular insight or expertise is required. Invitations to attend will be cleared through the Chair and issued by the secretariat.

Interaction, reporting and communication with the *Housing for All Industry Capability Working Group* will be a key priority.

Working groups may be formed by the group to work on specific issues as required.

In line with the principles of openness and transparency, the Group will operate according to the guidelines set out in the Transparency Code, prepared in accordance with Section 5(7) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. This means that the Group's membership, work programme, and the minutes and agendas of all meetings will be published.

### **Agreement of Recommendations**

The Chair shall determine when consensus has been reached on matters discussed at meetings of the Group. However, where there is a considerable difference of opinion, that must be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

### **Review**

The Group will review its role, membership, effectiveness and terms of reference annually during the life of the Housing for All strategy. The first scheduled review will be undertaken by the Group in July 2023.

### **Amendment, Modification or Variation**

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the Group members.