

CIOB Sustainability & Environment SIG Minutes – Kick-off meeting

18th January 2018

Attendees:

Dave Hampton (DH) (Chair)

Chris Whitehead (CW)

Hero Bennett (HB)

Kirsten Henson (KH)

Eddie Tuttle (ET)

Emma Nicholson (EN)

Jacqui Glass (JG)

Richard Pickett (RP)

Hannah Clement (HC)

Stephen Wielebski (SW)

John Diston (JD)

Apologies:

Chris Gorse

Amie Shuttlesworth

Inga Geach

1.0 Introductions

1.1 DH: This Special Interest Group formed to provide expert sustainability and environment input into all that the CIOB do: Policy positions, educational activity and training. CIOB must respond to sustainability issues of the day, drive the industry to towards significant carbon reduction, and use insight of the SIG for 'horizon scanning'.

1.2 DH: Not keen on another talking shop; the SIG's ambitions should be set high.

1.3 ET: The group must produce strong outcomes. Policy and Public Affairs at CIOB will certainly be drawing on the group for our policy positions and to inform discussions with other industry organisations– Build UK, CIC, numerous other professional bodies, and government.

1.4 DH: Not actively looking for further members, but open to suggestions of additional, valuable contributors from current SIG members.

2.0 Terms of Reference

2.1 JD: The Terms of Reference will be circulated following the meeting. They set out why the SIGs have been re-launched; the specific purpose and objectives of the Sustainability & Environment SIG, and the

governance structure. The group feeds into the SIG Steering Group and CIOB Policy Team, who manage resource allocation and ensure the groups collaborate on projects where there is overlap.

2.2 ACTION: All members to read and if necessary comment on draft Terms of Reference by Friday 26th January. Comments to be collated by JD and DH and updated Terms of Reference circulated for agreement.

3.0 Update on Relevant Work of CIOB

3.1 DH: The SIG has mandate to set its own direction, however some clear areas of work ongoing at CIOB that might be a good platform. Outputs may include Construction Manager articles; CPD resources and future content for CIOB Academy training courses; providing briefing for response to government consultations; and the re-launch of Carbon Action 2050 into a new Carbon Free Construction website. Also a review of our involvement and how best to interact with Chartered Environmentalist organisation Society for Environment.

3.2 JD: Presented briefing paper attached, which details some of the schemes mentioned by DH.

4.0 Particular Issues SIG Members

4.1 DH: To open out discussion, each member should indication of what they want to work on through 2018, framed as “one big sustainability issue to address”, and “one wish” for sustainability.

4.2 HB: We need to improve and highlight the link between sustainability and quality. So often sustainability fails because quality design and engineering is not followed through by building. Throughout any project lifecycle there are opportunities for sustainability solutions to fall through the cracks – particularly when the focus is on the bottom line. Big wish would be for a focus on sustainability as equal, if not before, a focus on cost.

4.3 AK: Reflecting on experience of Carillion, Grenfell and the huge focus in 2018 on governance and assurance, we need to recognise that sustainability is competing for oxygen with other issues (for example H&S, Fire safety, procurement issues). With these reviews going on the important thing for sustainability is getting involved, and getting the sustainability voice heard. Any reviews of building regulations for instance might ignore sustainability, but this is an opportunity for the sustainability agenda. Example work could include mapping out all sustainability standards and creating a common position on how we

could improve them. Waste Standards (PAS402) for instance, lots of companies signed up, but rarely enforced and completely unreliable.

4.4 CW: In agreement with previous issues/wishes, but specifically notes that the only way change is realised will be through legislation. Agree with the need to combine quality and sustainability, particularly with the increasing numbers of houses under construction. Improving the skills and qualifications of site managers could be crucial to ensure performance gap is closed. One big wish: implementing thermographic survey of every new home built.

4.5 JG: Notes that SIG Member Chris Gorse has done a lot of research on performance gap and conducted comprehensive research on thermographic surveying. As well as improving skills on site, the sector must also address transparency at the boardroom level. There is an ethos of transparency in all sustainability decisions which JG would like to see embedded at the board-level. Without transparency, it's harder for the sector to learn from past decision-making. There is important work to be done about 'minding the gap' between the boardroom and specifications, and then the gap between specifications and site decision making. More transparency would also be an opportunity to set out sustainability success stories.

4.6 RP: It is important that we understand our client's drive for sustainability. What to what extent do they have this drive and place a premium on sustainable building solutions. One wish: find some solutions to reducing carbon at Willmott Dixon – have a target to create a 10% reduction in carbon from transport.

4.7 KH: Still finds it surprising that sustainability data and KPIs not 'used properly'. Most companies and projects measure a range of KPIs but analysis and interpretation lacking. KH's experience is that project staff are not clear on why they are measuring, nor how to learn the lessons from their data to improve sustainability metrics. There is scope for further education work to improve combat both a skills gap and motivation gap.

4.8 SW: 2018 will yield fundamental changes in the industry. Grenfell review + Carillion will lead to questions of building regulations but also procurement practices and general competency of construction workers. It is vital the CIOB helps its members respond to these changes, and ensure chartered construction managers meet necessary competencies that emerge. Secondly, there are plenty of areas within

the Government's 25 year plan (Water stressed areas, implications of climate change; minimizing waste) which the CIOB should be 1) responding to; and 2) encouraging our membership to understand and adopt new approaches where necessary.

4.9 A discussion emerged on how we can motivate members and industry to change

4.9.1 AK: demonstrating the monetary value of improvements or using league tables has worked well to motivate project teams at Mace. Visibility and Consequence are the two pillars of their strategy to get project teams to adopt improvements.

4.9.2 HB: Clear governance and assurance. Perhaps also a CIOB sponsored award for those projects or companies with positive sustainability systems.

4.9.3 SW: Agrees on valuation. Provides example statistic around water usage: if water leakage was reduced by 1% enough water would be saved to supply x number of houses each year.

4.9.4 KH: This all ties into appropriate and useful interpretation of data

4.9.5 CW: legislation is the best motivator in construction. We should seek to influence legislation first and foremost.

4.10 HC: Agrees that quality and sustainability will come hand in hand. From a local authority perspective, there remains an issue of short-sited decision making. Future proofing construction projects and planning with respect to changing climate will be vital. One wish: everyone to 'buy-in' to sustainability – planners, site managers, designers, architects. The way to achieve this: training and resources presented in 'their language'; inclusion of sustainability in appraisals and KPIs for all staff.

4.11 EN: Suggests a gap between regions – clients and contractors less on-board with BREAAAM outside of London and South East. EN notes previous work she has done on analysing the London environmental plan. To add to the concept of awarding companies that run positive sustainability programmes, we should celebrate best practice with city planning and targets.

4.12 DH: One big wish is to see carbon follow on from plastic as the issue of the day.

5.0 Summarising and Actions:

5.1 DH: Clear themes developing throughout above discussion are opportunities in education and training; influencing government and legislation; potential awards and recognition schemes; and articles and resources for publication on various channels – eg Construction Manager and CIOB Carbon Free Construction webpage.

ACTION 1: All members to read and if necessary comment on draft Terms of Reference by Friday 26th January. Comments to be collated by JD and DH and updated Terms of Reference circulated for agreement.

ACTION 2: The CIOB can respond to the Government's 25 year environmental plan. All members of the SIG to provide 100 – 200 words in response to the plan. Please send to JD and DH by Friday 26th January, collated into a response by DH and JD and sent round for approval.

ACTION 3: Next meeting to be set. JD to send out Doodle Poll with drafted response to 25 year plan.