

Constructing Excellence Procurement Group Meeting on Wednesday 28th September

Key points raised and action points going forward:

- Procurement needs to be (and be seen as) an enabler across the built environment sector.
- To date, the Procurement Group has followed the Construction Sector Deal and focussed on a wider definition of what value is (eg the expansion of the definition of value to include non-price elements) – acknowledged that procurement procedures need to be structured so that they do not present barriers to those seeking to access the public sector purse and they also need to identify and promote value at all stages.
- Going forward – RR suggested that the group build on the work championed by Ann Bentley under the banner of "Procuring for Value" but focus on the public procurement process and other issues facing the built environment sector.
- Numerous challenges need to be addressed through value-led procurement procedures, including building safety, net zero, housing crisis and a volatile (potentially broken) post-Brexit and post-Covid supply-chain.
- There is plenty of guidance already in the sector as to what good procurement should look like, most notably the Cabinet Office's Construction Playbook, but also including the BSI Construction Procurement Standard, DHLUC Collaborative Procurement Guidance, Trial Projects from 2013, David Mosey's Gold Standard for Construction Frameworks and T*H Paper on Alternative Pricing Models. However, what is missing is commentary/feedback from the Sector as to how these are all being applied in real life and how they are making a difference/what "good" looks like in procurement practice.
- This is an area that the Constructing Excellence Procurement Group and wider members could coalesce around – how the Construction Playbook and other best practice guidance is delivered in practice, the barriers to its effective implementation and recommendations as to what could be improved?
- [Query whether there is something for the group to say about employment and procurement (there is some wording in the Construction Playbook, but is there more to say?).]
- Some organisations are already starting to look at employment (e.g. IR35) – recognition that procurement can play a major role in employment opportunities (e.g. local employment).
- How do we want to acknowledge the Value Toolkit? It is important to consider its impact on procurement practice in the built environment – as well as the work undertaken on the Gold Standard – and relevant and effective interfaces need to be established. Perhaps also with the Industry and Government Joint Venture Governance Group for the Value Toolkit? AN to feedback on the outputs and musings of that Group.
- Suggested outputs:
 - Members to consider how they see procurement as an enabler and whether their experience chimes with the messaging and processes set out in the Construction Playbook.
 - Members to consider themselves as procurement and evaluation ambassadors from the built environment sector in order to highlight/illustrate via case studies/real life anecdotes etc. how the Construction Playbook and other guidance is being

operationalised by clients to deliver on the desired value-driven outcomes and to highlight:

- Main challenges?
- What works well?
- How do we procure innovation, new tech, new ways of working?
- How can we incorporate Standards? BSI Flex?
- Case studies on where clients and supply-chain have achieved good quality and safe outcomes/prioritised long-term value over short-term savings and other considerations