

Materials UK – Construction Working Group

Notes from third meeting of Construction Working Group (CWG) of MatUK
26th March 2007
at TWI's offices

Attendees

Philip Ramsey, Pilkington	Glass (Chair)
David Adams, Knauf	Plasterboard/Insulation
Tim Broyd, Halcrow	Research
Graham Couchman, BRE	Research
John Davenport, TWI	Composites
Hafiz Elhag	Concrete
Cliff Fudge, H+H Celcon	Concrete masonry
Denzil Spencer, Ibstock	Ceramics
Andy Tyler, Omya	Industrial minerals
Roy Wakeman	Timber
John Tebbit, Construction Products Association	Secretary

1. Welcome and introductions

PR welcomed everyone and noted apologies. Due to accidents on main roads several people who had planned to attend had phoned to say they could not attend or would be late.

2. Minutes and Actions from last meeting

The Minutes were accepted.

The actions listed were:

1. DA to supply copy of presentation - Done
2. JT to circulate attendance list of IGT Construction Town Meeting of 25th January - Done
3. JT and members to continue look for data on end use of materials e.g. for buildings, infrastructure - Ongoing
4. Potential new members once identified to be e-mailed by JT or PR – Done but still continuing to look for further members
5. PR/TB/JD to discuss contacts in Carbon Trust for possible funding
6. PR to draft Terms of Reference and TG structure – see next agenda item

3. Discussion of Terms of Reference

PR presented the draft for discussion. A number of points came up in discussion. See attached PowerPoint.

- A list of DTI visioning and strategy documents could be lifted from their site, but would need analysis to see what relevance they had for construction materials. (File note – the DTI Sustainable Construction

strategy will be out for consultation in June and this may well be the key document).

- The Technology Strategy Board which was formed two years ago by DTI is an arms length body based in Swindon, now staffing up. Innovation platforms would appear to be favoured way of funding work. Recent papers suggest that Low Impact Buildings are a possible subject with Defra, DTI and CLG involvement.
- Did there need to be a split between public and private construction as there were different drivers. Also should the group concentrate on materials for the public sector as this perceived as easier to approach?
- The main group could set up the housing Task group then other TGs would follow.
- Regarding dissemination, mapping of KTNs should be done by MatUK.
- The KTN for the Modern Built Environment has three areas, healthcare, offices and infrastructure. Materials are one of the cross cutting themes. (<http://mbektn.globalwatchonline.com>)
- There was a need to get the metals sector involved. GC to enquire via SCI.
- Members made the point that whilst regulation was an innovation driver over 5 to 10 years, in the longer run innovation could drive regulation.
- There was a need to distinguish between mitigation of future climate change and adaptation to it.
- The supply chain needed to be analysed with regard to where costs and value were occurring. There was some question as to whether this could be drawn up.
- Could the drivers actually be reduced to just two – cost and regulation.

A final set of Terms of Reference will be produced reflecting the points raised.

4. Organisation of Town meeting

PR outlined the plans for a Town or Community meeting focussed on housing. There was discussion on whether this should be held at the annual conference in Harrogate of the public housing sector. The decision was made to let PR and JT look at the options and draw up a plan outside the meeting. (File note – the meeting will be held on 3rd July at DTI in London.)

6. Sector R&D views

Note that PowerPoint presentations are attached. Key points are reported below.

Glass

- Reducing cost of commodity glass
- Value added products
- Reduced energy loss through windows

Composites

- Better information and understanding of composite capabilities
- Cleaner, cheaper manufacture
- Durability and life cycle issues
- Environmental impacts
- Standards for QA and design
- Joints and connections
- Achieving optimum solutions by using composites as part of a hybrid solution
- Also supply chain and training/accreditation issues

Concrete masonry

- Sustainability issues
 - Greater use of recycled material
 - Solutions to Part L- including linear thermal bridging
 - Thermal mass
 - Recycling of end product
 - Environmental profiles
 - Responsible sourcing
 - Airtightness improvements
- Other
 - New acoustic Robust Details
 - MMC- large units, thin joint, package of supply & fit
 - Efficient masonry home building
 - Flood resilience
 - EC6
 - New forms of masonry units

Concrete and cement

- Has UK Concrete Platform for research
- Resource efficiency and use of different waste streams:
- E-Tagging RFID Technology:
- Structural performance
- Service life design
- Sustainability

Timber

- Current Environmental Issues
 - Life Cycle Assessment data for timber products
 - Durability & maintenance of timber products
 - End of life
- Timber frame buildings
 - Thermal efficiency
 - Thermal mass versus insulation & good design
 - Impact of flood
 - Fire safety
- For the future
 - New generation of composites
 - Advanced wood processing technologies
 - New manufacturing technologies
 - Tailored wood supply

Industrial minerals

- Mineral Industry Research Organisation
- Standards can be a barrier to innovation
- Security of supply
- Carbon footprint and energy use, including transportation
- Bio leaching
- Nano technology for fillers in polymers and bitumen

Ceramics

- CERAM is industry research body
- Good data collection of existing performance
- Using waste and other novel materials as resource
- Unfired clay products
- Cavity walls – their days are numbered

John Tebbit
20th May 2007