



COMBINING PRODUCTIVITY AND A NET-ZERO RECOVERY

Document C - What the Government should ask of the construction industry re the climate change emergency.

The numerous institutions in the construction and property sectors are assuming they are fit for purpose to deliver a net zero built environment. Given that the sector is the least digitised, least productive - probably the most disjointed and has little effective R&D - this is a gross assumption.

The sector as it is presently configured needs disruptive action if either productivity or carbon reduction goals are even to be distantly approached. However, the advent of digital technology for design, manufacturing of products and assembly on site potentially provides the means for a disrupted sector to meet these ends. Critically this goes beyond the Government's role as a major, combined collection of clients to defining the outcomes that the Treasury and Cabinet Office should require from the sector to aid delivery of its five goals of jobs, levelling up, productivity, export and net zero carbon across private and public clients.

Potential actions for Government in order to demand action from the sector:

- 1) Call a Sunak or Gove headed summit re the Climate Emergency and the Construction Sector (it worked with Prescott as DPM on Safety). Schedule it one year before COP26. State unequivocally the Government's expectation and support for enabling a transformation of the Construction and Property Sectors by January 1st 2025, where 95% of the entire sector must be practising design, procurement, supply chain management, construction and commissioning at, or as near as is practical, to net zero!

The efficiency gains of a move to a digital based design and implementation of all capital projects are fundamental to the health of the UK as a globally competitive economy.

- 2) Announce Productivity (exploiting the Industrial Challenge work) and CO₂e targets for selected programmes across Government Departments focusing on a wartime R&D approach to enhance existing assets and iterative procurement exploiting the potential of a digital twin asset base.

Consultation with the CLC allows the industry to respond positively if engaged this month, accelerating their current work.

- 3) Demand each professional institution stipulates their respective members must show competence in mitigating, as well as adapting to climate change. Results to be published by December 1st 2020.



- 4) Remind all companies offering design and project management services to include net zero carbon as a design criteria (regardless of whether the client has requested it, though the private sector is increasingly doing so).

Roadmap to achieve this by January 1st 2023 to be published in company accounts.

- 5) Institutions and Trade bodies are to stipulate to HE and FE bodies that they provide relevant courses training graduates for the sector and include CO₂e (embedded and operational) as a primary requirement.

Graduates completing courses by June 2024 to have the respective necessary skills.

Separately we have attached an implementation plan that attempts to use the Government's role as a client to ensure capital projects on public assets encourage innovation, productivity improvements and mitigation of climate change and then cascade the necessary skills and knowledge learned to the private sector. We believe that the shovel-ready and 'Speed' initiatives are actively preventing new entrants and essential innovation. We must move from Craft to Plug and Play! if rapid innovation, testing, quantification with the necessary changes to design, procurement, project management and maintenance occurs, the UK will have changed the structure of its disjointed construction sector to produce an effective as well as an exportable skill set.