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Industry welcomes the new Government chief construction adviser

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) joined the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) today in welcoming the appointment of Paul Morrell OBE as the first ever Chief Construction Adviser to Government. The new role will help to bring industry and key decision-makers closer together, which will be vital in facing the challenges that the 21st century, and specifically climate change, will bring.

One of Paul Morrell's first tasks will be to take over the Innovation & Growth Team (IGT) strategic review of the sector. This was launched last September by Lord Mandelson with the appointment of Keith Clarke, chief executive of Atkins, as interim chairman.

Keith Clarke, who is also chairman of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) said: "This is a tremendous appointment, both in the quality of the selected candidate and the fact that Government sees such strategic leadership as a priority for the construction industry. Paul Morrell's considerable experience will prove a valuable asset in providing the vital bridge between Government in its role as client, regulator and industry supporter, and the diverse construction and engineering community itself.

"His appointment comes at a crucial time because Government and industry is considering the improvements that need to be made to the UK's major infrastructure to make sure it remains fit for purpose. We are facing multiple challenges in the transition to a low carbon economy and the engineering and construction sectors must play an absolutely fundamental role. It is therefore vital we have a roadmap for success and that there is someone making sure everyone follows it."

John McDonough, chairman of the CBI Construction Council said: "The CBI welcomes Paul Morrell's appointment. There is now a great opportunity to move the industry forward, and the CBI Construction Council looks forward to working with the Chief Construction Adviser on a range of key issues including the Innovation & Growth Team and the wider importance of the Government's infrastructure investment programme in relation to the UK economy, the Government's sustainability and carbon reduction targets, and to training and employment".

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Notes to the editor

1. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 560,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.