

## PRESS RELEASE

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### CIC's Futures Group Enters Research Phase

The project plan for Phase (b), the research phase, of CIC's Futures Group has been approved. 11 institutions have committed to funding this phase with nine other members of the Professional College of CIC being involved as an additional group.

A research consultant will be appointed by the 26 March to address the schedule of project objectives which were agreed at the Futures Group Awayday in January. The full list of these objectives is:

- Investigate common topics for cross-disciplinary CPD and method of delivery.
- Develop a cross-disciplinary research agenda.
- Develop a core set of universal values that apply to all professionals in the built environment.
- Conduct a joint review of accreditation.
- Consider the establishment of a portal as a single access point to professional institutions.
- Investigate possibilities for exchange of knowledge.
- Investigate sharing of website access to membership databases.
- Make proposals for maximising economies of scale through innovative ways of reducing overheads.
- Develop a joint strategy for serving the regions.
- Investigate ways of developing procurement philosophy for future needs of the construction industry.
- Investigate the implications of broadening the sector to cover the whole life cycle.
- Investigate joint working in relation to understanding and dealing with EU issues.
- Identify how the membership can act together effectively in relation to influencing industry and government.
- Develop a cohesive careers promotion strategy.
- Consider consolidating aspects of arbitration and dispute resolution services.
- Develop a strategy for combined approach to international activity.
- Consider developing joint approaches to specific sectors of the built environment.
- Develop a joint approach to value-based income.
- Encourage institutional benevolent funds to explore ways of co-operation.

A full copy of the research brief is available from Helen Smith at CIC.

**ENDS**

## Notes to the Editor

1. The 11 institutions which have committed to funding Phase (b), the research phase, of the Futures Group core programme are:  
British Institute of Architectural Technologists (BIAT), Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), Institution of Highways & Transportation (IHT), Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), Landscape Institute (LI), Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).
2. The additional members of the Professional College of CIC are:  
Association of Building Engineers (ABE), Association of Cost Engineers (ACostE), Association of Project Management (APM), British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM), Institute of Clerks of Works of Great Britain (ICWGB), Institute of Plumbing (IoP), Institute of Highways Incorporated Engineers (IHIE).
3. The role of the Futures Group is to assist the professional institutions serving the built environment and natural environment to provide the best possible services to society, particularly through greater integration, collaboration and co-operation between them.
4. 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 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

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