

PRESS RELEASE

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“Build on Existing Work”: CIC’s Response to the Egan Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities

The Construction Industry Council has asked the Egan Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities to consider a range of work already being undertaken to improve skills across the construction professions. In particular, CIC has asked the Review to look at the activities already covered by the remit of ConstructionSkills. CIC regrets that there has been no dialogue, to date, between the Review team and ConstructionSkills.

CIC is keen to see a clear and unequivocal definition of ‘sustainable community’. The accepted definition of sustainability is as a balance between economic, environmental and social issues, but the definition in the context of the Review seems skewed towards the economic and social issues as opposed to the environmental considerations.

In addition to the lack of linkage to the relevant Sector Skills Councils, CIC has asked the Review team to look at several other current initiatives which are providing leadership to the professions’ joint approach to skills development, these are:

- **Futures Group** – all built environment professions working collaboratively to achieve greater unity and collaboration, particularly in the area of developing generic skills;
- **Accelerating Change in Built Environment Education (ACBEE);**
- Development of **Generic Core Learning Modules/Common Learning Outcomes;**
- **Professional Skills Survey;**
- **Occupational Standards Framework for the Built Environment.**

“Any new initiative recommended by Sir John must build on this work and not overlook it”, said **Graham Watts, CIC’s Chief Executive.**

These current initiatives are picked up in more detail in CIC’s full response, which is attached.

Sir Michael Latham, Chairman of ConstructionSkills said:

“The concerns expressed by our ConstructionSkills partner, CIC, are totally appropriate. ConstructionSkills are very ready to give advice to the Egan Review at any time and we certainly believe that many of the issues raised by the Egan Review are at the core of our new responsibilities as an SSC.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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 professions in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

ConstructionSkills is the new Sector Skills Council (SSC) for construction, which is a partnership between CIC, CITB GB and CITB NI. In common with other SSCs, its objectives are to:

- reduce skills gaps and shortages and help employers and employees to make informed career and personal development choices;
- improve productivity and business performance in the sector;
- increase the opportunities for everyone in the workforce to develop their careers and improve their productivity, as well as ensure equal opportunities for all sections of the workforce; and
- to improve the supply of learning options, including the development of apprenticeships, higher education courses and national occupational standards.

For further information please contact Helen Smith at the Construction Industry Council, 020 7399 7407 or email hsmith@cic.org.uk