

Press Release
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CIC to progress industry Lifelong Learning

The initial meeting of the Construction Industry Council's (CIC's) new Lifelong Learning Committee took place on Tuesday the 15th October with its main aims being to positively work towards enhancing the development and integration of education, training and competence across the high levels of the built environment and to combat the escalating skills shortage which is currently affecting the industry.

Lifelong Committee Chairman Mark Way commented:

"Lack of training, lack of money and lack of interest has resulted in the construction industry being short of just about everyone from tradesmen to professionals - and it is getting worse year on year.

With the help of my committee I intend giving particular attention to this decline which, if not arrested, will cripple what is still not only a great industry, but one of the few capable of offering a worthwhile lifetimes occupation."

The role of the committee will be to co-ordinate and take a strategic view of industry higher level education, careers, training, CPD, qualifications and competence areas. It will carry out its role through three Panels covering Education, Training and CPD and Occupational Standards and will work in close liaison with CITB.

The following key issues were identified as priorities for the committee to action.

- To provide the CIC vehicle for input to the development of the proposed Construction Skills Council in conjunction with CITB and other industry partners
- To act as the vehicle, in conjunction with the new industry Strategic Forum, for co-ordinating implementation of 'people' issues emerging from the recent 'Accelerating Change' report
- To implement potential joint Careers activity between industry Professional Institutions to address the significant recruitment needs of the sector
- To lead and co-ordinate initiatives to improve recruitment and retention in the industry itself
- To develop and implement Joint Accreditation Criteria for Professional Institution recognised academic courses

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- To investigate and develop , in conjunction with the Construction Skills Certification Scheme, cards for Professionally qualified Technical Visitors to Construction Sites
- To explore the development of a competence qualification covering Design Risk Management in pursuance of the work already undertaken by the Safety in Design initiative.
- To support the extensive ongoing programme of work being undertaken in conjunction with CITB, for the development, maintenance and industry implementation of the framework of higher level Occupational Standards and NVQs/SVQs

Further information about the work of the Committee can be obtained by contacting David Cracknell, Director of Lifelong Learning (dcracknell@cic.org.uk).

Note to Editors

The Committee is formed from representatives of CIC's Professional Institution and related membership and supersedes a number of former subgroups and organisations (including the former TOPIC and CISC).

CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade association in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professional in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 400,000 individual professionals and 20,000 firms of construction consultants.

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