

## Procurement Special Interest Group

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Date:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Victoria House, 37-63 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4DA

**Attendees:** Sara Gouveia (Action Sustainability), Shaun McCarthy (Action Sustainability), Emily McBride (Action Sustainability), Oliver Quindos (Alstom), Tim Ward (Alstom), Richard Tyler (Kilnbridge), Emma Squires (Network Rail), Alice Hands (Sir Robert McAlpine), Dale Turner (Skanska), Hands (Sir Robert McAlpine)

### Meeting notes:

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Dale Turner (DT) thanked the group for their attendance and the group introduced themselves. DT welcomed Alstom representatives at their first Procurement meeting, upon becoming recent partners of the School.

#### 2. New website beta demo

Emily McBride (EM) talked through the new School platform slides (attached) and highlighted some of the new key features:

- Simple and intuitive site navigation
- Large dropdown menus which clearly outlines topics and sections of website
- New search functions
- Personal dashboard has been tailored and some new features have been added 'certificates & badges'
- Updated corporate/partner dashboards
- Accessibility improvements
- Partner's get full control of priority supplier lists

EM ran through the website demonstration and the group talked through finer details of the functionalities. EM mentioned that the new website will likely launch in October 2019. DT and Alice Hands (AH) questioned whether the new School platform will prompt partners if suppliers have completed resources, they intend on them completing. EM mentioned that the system will likely be able to incorporate this feature but would verify this with the website developers.

EM showed the group how the Procurement pages will look via a demonstration. With the help of Procurement SIG members, the School developed a learning pathway for procurement professionals to follow through and upskill in key sustainability areas. EM mentioned that the website is currently undergoing beta testing and the feedback received so far has been very positive.

- ✓ **Action:** EM to check whether any online resources can be assigned to other colleagues within the same organisation or will this feature only apply to resources that are appointed by the action plans. **Completed:** EM has confirmed that this won't be a current website feature, but this may be developed in the future.
- ✓ **Action:** EM to check whether e-learning modules will be available for partners to upload on their LMS. **Completed:** Emily confirmed this will be feasible.
- ✓ **Action:** Sara to circulate future School training webinars with members

- ✓ **Action:** EM to verify whether the system will notify partners if suppliers have completed e-learning modules, mitigating against duplication of partner requests. **Completed:** partners can set targets, which they can check against. Partners can check against any priority supplier on their dashboards. This is a phase 2 development feature so won't be ready for the launch of the website.

### 3. Performance Through Procurement

Shaun McCarthy (SM) mentioned that the need to upskill procurement teams has always been prominent. SM informed the group that the School bided for two new pieces of work:

- Performance Through Procurement
- Downloading a digital mindset

The School is currently undergoing contractual due diligence for the "Performance Through Procurement" piece of work. "Performance through Procurement" will significantly increase the quality of procurement training materials within the School and will use these to deliver training that will improve procurement approaches across the housing, infrastructure and local authorities supply chains. It would be intended to train over 2,000 individuals from 740 organisations (at least 50% SMEs) with 1,100 learners face to face and over 900 learners using our "free to access" online learning library. This project begins in November 2019. The group agreed that it would be beneficial to continue the Procurement group so members can assure content quality and to help reach the group's objectives. The Procurement SIG members will be asked to contribute to the development of future resources to make sure they are relevant.

- ✓ **Action** – The group to nominate other Procurement leads to join the group

### 4. Downloading a digital mindset

"Downloading a digital mindset" is the second piece of work that has been won and the School will be working to develop this. The Procurement SIG will be asked to contribute to the development of future resources to make sure they are relevant and good quality.

This will include:

- Leading digital change differently (Part1): Focused on leading culture change, developing curiosity, problem solving, creativity and communicating change in a digital context. The digital leaders' skill set (Part two): Aimed at embedding the learning from Part 1 with delegates drawing up plans for change and identifying blockers and enablers.
- Digital Bytes. Short videos on 5G, blockchain and data ecosystems, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, cloud-based computing, the internet of things, robotics, automated design, global positioning systems, wearable technology and BIM.
- 5 x e-modules focusing on: Leading digital, what is digital? How to engage your supply chain on digital? Digital construction – not just BIM and Drones, Problem first – technology second.

## 5. New Horizon

SM updated the group on the status of the Horizon group, along with other leadership groups and SIGs within the School. From the Board's strategy session, it was suggested that the School considers an "Upper School" to drive the leadership agenda and to consolidate the various initiatives we already have (SIGs, category groups, Horizon etc.) SIGs and category groups have been successful, but they do not form a coherent programme of work, nor have a forward plan. The Horizon group helps to inform our content and direction, but it has delivered little in tangible outcomes. Therefore, the School requires a solution to satisfy partners who want to follow and those who want to lead that covers the whole School (not just sustainability).

### **Two primary areas of focus moving forward:**

Strategic advisory group:

- An invited group that meets twice a year in a facilitated session to consider the long term issues the School needs to tackle
- Wider consultation with partners and members through themed events
- This would comprise senior representation from partners, leading academics and other invited guests (not necessarily School partners)
- Their role is to advise the Board who ultimately represent partners interests

Academic engagement:

- Identifying and working with leading academics to find ways to use the opportunity presented by the School to engage industry and to use academic findings to support new learning
- This may not be a "group" but a more informal network

For more information on this proposal, please read the slide deck attached.

## 6. AOB

The group provided feedback on the meeting and found it useful and insightful to meet fellow partners, as well as getting a better understanding on the new developments for the School.

- ✓ **Action:** EM to create a calendar that comprises of all leadership groups, SIGs and category group meetings dates and times for partners. EM addressed this for future development.