

Attendees:

Robyn Conway (Supply Chain Sustainability School), **Alice Crowsley** (Supply Chain Sustainability School), **Keith O'Flynn** (Sisk), **Afton Curtis** (BUUK), **Ben White** (Kilnbridge Construction Services), **Jason Cox** (Wilo UK), **Andy Fulterer** (Lendlease), **Joe Gasside** (Wilo UK), **Georgina King** (RSK), **Helen Spafford** (North Wales Construction Partnership), **Yomade Hundeyin** (Ferrovia), **Kerry Parker-Wray** (IKO), **Will Maginn** (NG Bailey), **Oliver Cripps** (Etex Group), **Phoebe Butler** (GRS Roadstone), **Rebecca Hart** (United Living), **Richard Pickett** (Waites), **Christopher Rowett** (Environment Agency), **Ryoko Azuhata** (Canary Wharf Group), **Simon Stone** (Galliford Try), **Steve Attfield** (Marshalls), **Steve Watson** (Ardmore Group), **Warren Lynes** (OnSite Support)

Please note these meeting notes are to be read in conjunction with the final slide deck and Mural Link as circulated to all.

Meeting notes

Priority Suppliers Tutorial

An overview of Priority Suppliers was a goal of the group in order to understand what counts as a priority supplier, how to identify them and the overall process.

Steve Watson shared the journey that Ardmore went with their suppliers regarding sustainability. He described the challenges in tackling a list that long. His first criteria for tackling the list to class those in the supply chain as priority suppliers:

- Who has the biggest impact in sustainability
- Who needs to improve their performance

The next stage was to drill down to where they are spending money, thinking about the data they have in their business and who the big hitters are who make the biggest impact. They then made another list using this information.

How long to narrow down the list? 3-4 weeks, making sure the data was correct. Need other departments to corroborate the list.

Is it part of the onboarding process? Only if they have been targeted. Or repeat supplier. Don't enforce unless they will be used continually.

How do you keep them engaged and accessing resources? Review meetings, stay in touch directly, emails and picking up the phone to follow up/ chase. Time is the biggest factor, culture POV, keep on reminding you, however there will be a point where we don't continue working with that supplier. After a few times of being chased, most realise the value and get on with it.

Are you getting your priority suppliers to report using the Tool? Not now, looking to use that in the future, looking to introduce this next year as a next step for the list.

Actions: Robyn Conway to combine Steve's guidance and advice with some general SCSS advice on Priority Suppliers and circulate as a Case Study to the Group.

Business Planning

The Group were guided through the results of the Impact Report (these results can be found in the slide-deck), and how our business planning will work.

Some key elements relating to the Construction Group are:

- When giving a free-text response, the top upcoming challenges for Partners are:
 - Reporting
 - Carbon
 - Waste
 - Procurement
 - People and Skills
- When given a drop-down option on the survey, Partners have said that their challenges are:
 - Circular Economy
 - Sustainable Procurement
- The key risks that the construction sector have identified are:
 - Carbon
 - Costs
 - Materials
- Additional area to focus on for construction could be:
 - Water Conservation and pollution and Water Stewardship

The Group then divided into 3 rooms and considered 4 questions designed to turn the shared challenges into objectives for the forthcoming year.

Question 1 – Consider the key learning priorities identified in the impact survey & training activity data. Do you agree with this? Is there anything else the LG would like to focus on?

- **Supplier Scope 3 emissions:** bigger companies are starting to record or estimate scope 3 emissions but a lot of our suppliers and subcontractors who are much smaller are quite scared by this prospect. It's relatively simple to understand, but because they haven't even made that first step, smaller suppliers are daunted, and their clients are pushing for it. School could help with this education.
- **Which ESG framework to adopt:** there are between 20 and 40 different ESG frameworks which give companies a score on each components of environmental, sustainability and governance. There may be two or three that are most applicable to the construction industry, but it's not clear which is the optimum choice. Some main contractors have decided to adopt one already.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain:** Group discussed how it's just so early on in terms of the project process, but if those customer decisions aren't correctly made it can have a big impact on the project cost and the project outcomes. Partners have projects coming through now with 10% minimum BNG.

Question 2 – Consider the balance of training and content. Agree as a group which activities you need to do more of, the same, less of.

- **Must have:** E-learning (3 new this year, more planned for next FY), Virtual Conferences (we have 20 per year – keep an eye on the [Events Calendar](#))
- **Should have:** Circular Economy Roadmap and what can we do as Partners and industry movers in terms of CE, committing to what we plan to do as an industry in terms of circular economy with a focus on the net zero standard as a blueprint.

Question 3 – Discuss the key sustainability challenges that we have as a sector. Then choose 2 or 3 key challenges that the School can address through knowledge & collaboration.

- Circular economy and collaboration across the industry
- BNG
- Unpicking the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard – we need to break that down into manageable and understandable chunks.
- Building performance, which sits with climate adaptation and resilience, how do our products and our buildings respond to the changing climate – what are the expectations on the industry.

Question 4 – What are the key activities that the School can undertake to tackle these challenges?

Challenge	Activity/Solution
Scope 3 Reporting for the trades/smaller suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Collaborate with Homes sector to reach Groundworkers▪ School already building an e-learning module on Scope 3 Reporting▪ Scopes Cheat Sheet in production, too▪ Push engagement in Scope Busting workshops
Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Initiate a collaboration across the School to integrate Circular thinking into every group and their activities▪ Work towards building a Circular Economy Roadmap
Climate Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Linking together what the School is already doing and publicising that – Climate Action Group activities?▪ Webinar on NZCBS hosted by one or more of the organisations who authored the standard

Next steps are for these solutions to be shared with the other School Partner groups, assess any alignment, and plan some practical actions to address them, and these objectives will be shared with the Board.

At the next meeting on **19 February 2025 at 10am**, the Group will have the chance to receive feedback from the Board, decide upon outputs, and then to sign off the finalised Business Plan.

Thank you.