

Attendees: Chair: Dale Turner (Skanska), Ben Stone (Kier), Mandy Messenger (Advante), Julia Barrett (Willmott Dixon), Graham Edgell (Morgan Sindall), Dan Evans (Speedy Services), Aled Williams (UCEM), Ian Heptonstall (Action Sustainability), Hilary Hurrey (Action Sustainability), Marcus Bennett (CITB)

Apologies: Andrew Spencer (Galliford Try), Anna Baker (Holcim)

1. Review of actions

Hilary talked through the actions which were either complete, in progress or being discussed as part of the agenda.

Algeco is now cancelled due to lack of engagement and not responding to the Customer Success team.

Discussion took place around the processes that sit behind the Partners who are at risk.

Agreed:

- It is important that the School team focus on embedding the School further (with multiple contacts) within Partner organisations to decrease the risk of Partners leaving the School.

Actions

- Hilary will circulate the current process the Customer Success team follow to engage Partners and what happens when a Partner is highlighted at risk.
- Hilary to circulate information showing the key invoicing months for Partners.

2. Governance – Board Vacancy

There is still one vacant position on the Board as the application process last time only brought one suitable candidate based on the profile the Board is seeking. A list of potential candidates was discussed that do fit the profile sought.

Agreed:

- The National Highways candidates do fit the profile. The Board's ideal choice would be the Chief People Officer to provide a new perspective for the board and for her links into government and across industry. Both candidates need further meetings to decide which applicant is best to finish their application.
- There is a potential gap coming up on the supplier/ SME side in the next 6 months.

Actions

- Ian will speak to both candidates at National Highways to come to an agreement as to who will progress with their application. They will then be interviewed by Andrew and Mandy.
- Hilary will add to the shortlist suitable product suppliers for the Board to review at the next meeting.

3. Updates

3.1 Sustainability Assessment Standard

Ian updated the group and reported that progress was slow but happening. It was important to get it right.

Comments/ feedback:

- It is important that the assessment was not onerous to the supply chain.
- It was important to recognise that not all contractors are going to roll it out.

- A commercial agreement has been sent to Ian which needs review also by one or two Board members.
- CHAS is not engaging in this space anymore. Achilles is but they are harder to engage with and this is being done at a slow pace.

Actions

- A small sub-group will be set up (Andrew, Graham, Mandy) to review the commercial agreement and have a final review of the assessment before final sign off.

3.2 Common Assessment Standard

Ian updated the board on this item. The School continues to work with Build UK and make suggested changes on the CAS and both organisations continue to align as much as possible. Ian will continue to keep the Board updated when necessary.

3.3 CITB long term relationship

Ian talked progress with CITB. CITB have earmarked £1.3M of funding to start in April 2026. Ian is working with Wendy Osborn at CITB on a proposal to engage levy registered companies through the School.

Comments/ feedback:

- The School needs to consider how they will communicate the final proposal to the Partners and gain buy in from them. The Homes group are already keen to engage.
- The issue around data and not being able to have a list of levy registered organisations could be helped by accessing the apprenticeship levy list which can be got hold of.
- Being able to give the right training to the right people will support the value the School gives and embedding it further into organisations.
- Marcus cautioned that a deal is not done until its signed.

Ian will keep the Board updated as the proposal progresses.

4. Collaborations

Hilary talked through the process we went through to plot the organisations the School has engaged with in the past/ currently engages with.

Comments/ feedback:

- RICS was an important organisation to engage with, in particular because of their Whole Life Carbon Assessment. They should be invited to the Carbon group as well.
- We should pick the larger trades and map them to the trade associations and engage with them.
- Organisations such as VGC and Fortel should be engaged with to mandate/ encourage '101 training' in the School related to the labour bill.
- Engage with Bath University as they have developed a sustainability pathway.
- Though we should consider the now, we should also consider where the School wants to be and develop a strategy around that in terms of relationships.

- Aim to have Ecovadis use the School as the go to for training linked to their questions (where appropriate).
- For organisations such as Ecovadis, ConstructionLine etc we need to enable a single sign on.
- Federations such as FMB and NFB have large memberships.
- There should also be engagement with Construction Skills Mission Board, BESA, CIOB, Association of Sustainable Building Products, Sustainable Skyline Taskforce.
- The relationship with FIS should continue.

Actions

- Marcus will provide some information on the federations.
- The School will share the work that is currently being done to map the federations and how many are doing sustainability training with Marcus to review.
- Aled will send across contact details with the Construction Skills Mission Board and BESA so the School can engage with them.
- Hilary to produce a next steps plan, to include some case studies on influence, reach etc and look at a pilot of engagement.

5. Enhancing the School Offer

Ian talked through his thoughts on improving the offer for Partnership and asked for the Boards considerations and thoughts.

Agreed

- The annual value reports should be sent via Ian as Director and to the CEO's of the Partners.
- Paul should be included in the next session to be part of the discussion of where the approach should be for the foreseeable future. It is not infrastructure but more water/ utilities.
- There does need to be a more tailored approach in the packages.
- The offer should be broadened to include other elements eg. FIR, LMS, Operational Excellence etc
- Consider what the need is which will be different for different people in the organisation and may come from different budgets. There could be a base Partnership level with an add on package (i.e. buy the relevant bits) e.g. reporting package, lean package.
- Introduce something like an associate level for SME's so they can afford to buy knowledge and growth opportunities.

Actions

- Ian will bring some ideas back to the next Board meeting.

6. Technology Strategy: Updates

Aled talked through the University of the Built Environment AI strategy. Ian talked through elements of the School's technology strategy.

Agreed

- AI is more ad hoc in most organisations at the moment but is something that needs to be embraced and used in a productive way. There are big benefits from the productivity vs costs element.
- The recommendations presented needs to have data included. There needs to be caution on what AI tools are used and how that data is stored etc.
- Its important to ensure that there is a balance of where value would be added by using AI.
- The digital group is keen to produce training around AI for the supply chain and the School is looking at the whether the development of some training is relevant for CITB Impact funding.
- There should be training developed for a starting level e.g. a check list of do's and don's but also training for CEO's.

Actions

- Ian to speak to Marcus separately about a potential Impact fund.
- Ian will continue to investigate the introduction of an AI run 'Sustainability Coach' and keep the Board updated.

AOB

There is a potential Partner roundtable taking place on 30th July which Dale and Graham are attending.

All Board members have been registered for the Summit.

Actions

- Aled to send across Octopus contact details to be invited to the Partner roundtable.
- Hilary to check with the delivery team in case they need any further Board support on the agenda but also on giving out awards.
- Hilary to develop a 'key messages' crib sheet about the School for Board members to use when they are attending other relevant groups.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 7th October, 10am – 1pm;

Morgan Sindall Offices, Kent House, 14-17 Market Place, London W1W 8AJ