



SCC Newsletter, April 2008

I have pleasure in introducing the second issue of the SCC Newsletter.

We have been increasing activities throughout the 2007/8 financial year, and I am happy to report that we ended the year having met all the contractual targets set by Scottish Enterprise, our founding government client and funder. In addition, we recently heard that an application for European Regional Development Funds has been successful, which will allow us to enhance and extend our range of activities. From 1 April we assumed responsibility for administering the Scottish Construction Forum, and will help to ensure that the SCC and SCF work together for the benefit of the Scottish construction industry.

Our Industry Advisory Group, under the chairmanship of Gordon Masterton, has recommended that we focus effort on the areas of:

- sustainability
- lean construction processes
- off-site construction
- holistic health and safety
- skills and training for site supervisors and middle management.

Items in this Newsletter show how we are rising to the challenge.

Much of the time in our first year of operation has been spent, as planned, in engaging with the range of existing construction industry clubs and forums throughout Scotland. Over the next few months we will complement this activity by seeking to engage with an increasing number of trade and bodies and individual construction companies.

Prof. Tim Broyd,
Centre Director

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Forthcoming events

14 May	Dealing with contamination on existing residential developments, Edinburgh (joint with CIRIA)
20 May	Performance improvement (pi) workshop, East Kilbride
21 May	Performance improvement (pi) workshop, Perth
21 May	Flood resilience and resistance – adapting to a climate of change, Glasgow (joint with CIRIA)
22 May	Performance improvement (pi) workshop, Edinburgh
28 May	Performance improvement (pi) workshop, Aberdeen

Details of these events are available at www.scocon.org

Demonstration projects programme

Demonstration projects are those that are distinguished either by innovation or exceptional performance.

While a number of projects previously accepted onto the programme by the expert advisory panel are progressing through the latter stages of the procedure, arrangements for the peer group meetings are underway for the two newest projects Gigha and Sun City House in Dundee.

The peer group meetings are part of the demonstration project process of presenting the innovation or performance initiatives of the project to fellow practitioners and professionals, disseminating good practices within the industry. The project acts as a case study and exemplar within a particular industry theme or issue.

The Gigha housing project will be the case study for

the themed meeting *Organisation of projects in isolated communities* to be held on 27 May at the CBE, Glasgow Caledonian University. Similarly *Sustainable housing – the baseline* will be the theme for the Sun City House meeting planned for later this year at the University of Dundee.

For full details of the DP programme [click here](#). A dedicated newsletter will follow shortly. If you have any projects that may satisfy the criteria please contact: Alan Tough on **01382 388172/07771 838362** or email: alan.tough@scocon.org

Full details of the programmes' objectives, procedures and projects can be found by visiting www.scocon.org

Sustainability

Sustainability has been given a greater profile within the construction industry in recent years. This trend is likely to increase as government targets on sustainable energy generation and consumption come into effect. This presents a number of challenges for the construction industry.

The Sullivan Report (2007)* sets increasingly challenging targets for carbon reduction in both new and existing buildings. For new buildings, changes in energy standards have been outlined for 2010 and 2013, with a target of net zero carbon buildings being set for 2016/17.

The implications of these targets are that buildings will need to improve their thermal efficiency, energy consumption and source renewable technologies for on-site generation of energy. This will not only involve the use of greater quantities of high performance materials, but will also impact on construction methods, levels of air tightness, on-site practices and the integration of new technologies for energy generation and management.

These issues have led to a great deal of activity within the industry, research organisations, universities and government agencies on how to deliver solutions for low and zero carbon buildings. Some key areas of work include:

- sustainable construction methods
- sustainable materials
- building integrated renewable technologies
- ecohomes
- BREEAM
- energy performance certificates (new build and existing properties).

All of these issues are being tackled by SCC partner organisations and a number of events have been planned for the coming months that will inform the industry on meeting these challenging targets. For more information go to the SCC events calendar, contact SCC on **0845 863 0026** or email enquiries@scocon.org

Lean construction

In our February newsletter we announced that following interest shown by a number of leading organisations such as the Scottish Building Federation and Communities Scotland, Scottish Enterprise had allocated funding to the SCC for a series of awareness workshops around the country.

These all day, nominal fee workshops took place during March in Dundee, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, and were delivered on behalf of the centre by BRE (CLIP) and Lean Practitioners Limited. From the positive feedback they have been well received and the majority of those attending indicated that they would be recommending further involvement to their organisations. [Click here](#) for learning materials derived from the workshops

We intend to provide further training and support once funding is in place. For further information contact Alan Tough on **01382 388172/07771 838362** or email alan.tough@scocon.org

Sector performance improvement clubs

Good progress is being made with the development of sector performance improvement clubs for both infrastructure and housing, with the infrastructure sector leading the way. The first sets of performance measures have been defined and are out to consultation.

If you would like further information on sector improvement clubs please contact Jon Wells of Building Software Limited
email jonw@buildsoft.co.uk

We would like to use this newsletter to highlight the latest developments in both performance measurement and best practice. Your experiences and contributions are welcome so please send details to Jennifer Simons at jennifers@buildsoft.co.uk

SCC pi news

pi workshops

SCC has announced the next round of *pi*



workshops, which focus on Level 1 and Level 2 of the framework. These workshops will cover the practical issues of implementing a measurement process and provide some practical examples of how the SCC *pi* framework is being implemented.

Details of the *pi* workshops, to be held at locations across Scotland during May, are available via the SCC website.

pi clinics

SCC ran its first *pi* clinic in March in Dundee and the event was supported by organisations from across the sector. Further clinics are planned in the autumn following the next series of workshops and details will be available on the SCC website.

pi clinics give organisations direct help and support with performance measurement and provide the opportunity for practitioners to share their experiences with others.

Developments at Level 3

Level 3 project measurement

SCC has developed *pi* sets that can be used to measure projects through their lifecycle. Offered as part of the SCC *pi* implementation service, Level 3 project measurement can be tailored to the needs of any organisation.

SCC provides organisations with help selecting appropriate sets of measures and with the development of processes to collect and report their data.

For further information on Level 3 project measurement please contact Jon Wells of Building Software Limited email jonw@buildsoft.co.uk

Other news

Additional £700k funding for Scottish Construction Centre

On behalf of the SCC, the University of Dundee has been awarded £708k from the European Regional

Development Fund (ERDF) to support the activities of the Centre. The funding will be used to

- expand the network of construction improvement clubs as the principal conduit for disseminating the results of relevant research, for encouraging innovation and for identifying the needs of the industry
- increase the number of demonstration projects and publish their results through workshops and case studies
- improve performance in productivity and sustainability, especially among SMEs, through the provision of wider access to workshops, networks and user clubs so that best practice in the application of KPIs can be shared
- spread lean thinking throughout the Scottish construction industry through a series of awareness-raising workshops followed by the provision of advice and guidance to those companies who wish to embed lean thinking in their organisations
- develop a web-based productivity portal that will provide the opportunity for contractors, including SMEs to input productivity data consistently, compare their performance with that of other contributors, and determine the causes of differences between their own performance and the rest of the industry
- provide practical guidance and a support programme for those clients, design professionals and contractors who wish to improve their capabilities in the area of whole life costs and value
- provide pragmatic advice on how sustainability can be improved by converting the outputs of recent, relevant research programmes into practical user guides
- collate the results of recent, relevant research projects and convert their outputs into practical implementation tools
- provide additional guidance and support on a wide range of topics such as productivity, sustainability (including a cost/benefit analysis on renewable energy), health and safety, value management and best management practice

- enhance the value of the SCC website which will be used to disseminate the results of the Centre's work and provide a comprehensive programme of relevant Scottish activities.

Scottish Construction Forum

The Scottish Construction Forum is an industry led initiative which aims to provide improvements in Scotland's construction sector. The forum seeks to encourage best practice, improve research and increase communication across the sector. The Scottish Construction Centre has just taken over the administration of the forum, and a new chairman, Archie Ferguson, has been appointed from 1 April 2008. The administration is based at our Glasgow office and the SCF can be contacted at scf@scocon.org

The Forum has adopted the recommendations of the Scottish construction industry plan 2007–2012 and four sub groups have been established to progress the following themes:

1. Positioning.
2. People.
3. Procurement.
4. Planet.

Copies of the industry plan may be obtained by emailing scf@scocon.org

The next meeting of the forum is on 7 May 2008.

Skills Development Scotland

The Scottish Government has established a new single skills body to co-ordinate the work of Careers Scotland, Scottish University for Industry and the key skills elements in the Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise areas. The new organisation was formed on 1 April 2008 and has 1500 staff based throughout Scotland with headquarters in Glasgow.

This body will support the Scottish Government's skill strategy Skills for Scotland. Skills Development Scotland is a non-departmental public body and is fully accountable to Scottish ministers.

Contact: Skills Development Scotland, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU. Tel: 0141 225 6710 www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Construction related crime

Construction related crime and vandalism affects the productivity and profitability of the construction industry in many ways. If we can help reduce crime

then the performance of the industry will improve – a key objective of the Centre.

The Centre has developed links with the Scottish Business Crime Centre and regional police crime prevention/architectural liaison officers who will help raise awareness of ways in which disruption by criminal activity can be reduced.

We aim to bring you latest information on straightforward, cost effective ways to reduce crime and to make construction sites more secure. We will also raise awareness of the benefits of careful design, particularly of housing developments and car parks to reduce crime in the community.

For more information on these issues visit www.scocon.org or go to the following websites:
Scottish Business Crime Centre www.sbcc.org.uk
Secured by Design www.securedbydesign.com
Safer Parking Scheme www.britishparking.co.uk

Scottish sustainability colloquium – UrbanBuzz initiative

In our February newsletter we reported that the SCC had hosted the only UrbanBuzz Government sustainability colloquium in Scotland with the objective of consulting the construction industry on this important issue.

The final report on this UK-wide consultation exercise has now been published and is available in the reports section on the SCC website www.scocon.org

Two new programmes from Glasgow Caledonian University

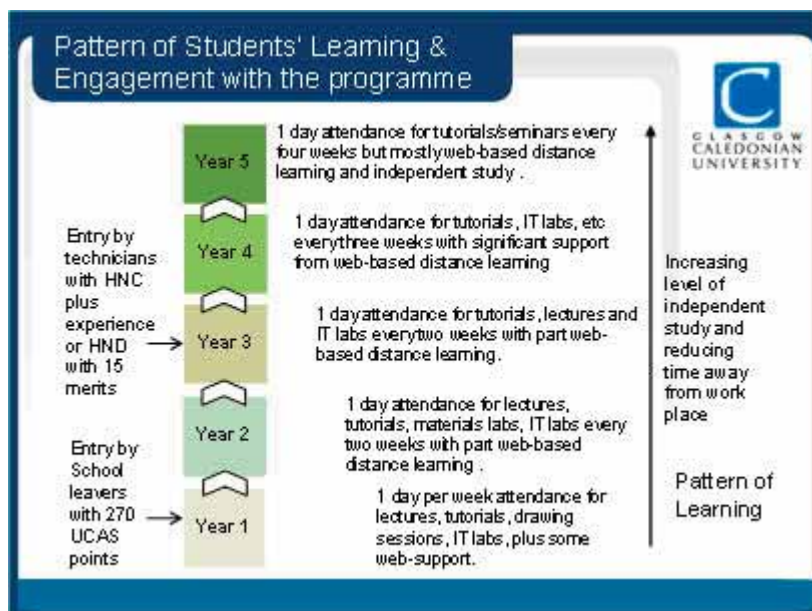
1. Construction management programme

An innovative BSc (Hons) Construction management by blended learning, is being offered by the School of the Built and Natural Environment at Glasgow Caledonian University. It is part-funded by Scottish Enterprise and designed specifically to address the supply of construction management graduates. The initiative has been introduced to address the skills shortage of construction managers identified by both SCC and its Industry Advisory Group.

The initiative represents a partnership with employers and seeks to form a construction club from industry. To date, the project has received support from a comprehensive list of major construction companies including Balfour Beatty Construction, Barr Construction, Bovis Lend Lease,

CBC, Clark contracts, Dawn Group, HBG, Mace, Miller Construction, Ogilvie Construction, Robertson Group and Thomas Johnstone Ltd. This list continues to grow and it forms an invaluable resource for pupils wanting to enter into a rewarding career in construction.

Among other things, this project integrates the expertise available through on-line distance learning education and workplace learning to offer a programme of study so employers can recruit pupils from school and sponsor them through a part-time degree in construction management. However, unlike standard day release, attendance will only be periodic at university, which is a significant shift away from the traditional model. The level of independent study, assisted through our established web-based learning, will increase as they progress in



the programme. This reduces the time they will be away from the workplace and will help minimise disruption.

Lastly, there remains a ladder of opportunity for HNC/HND graduates to join the programme at an advanced stage. For more information contact Michael Tong: mto@gcal.ac.uk or visit: www.caledonian.ac.uk/bne/cmb1

2. Worker engagement tools for communicating with non-English speaking construction workers

Researchers at the School of the Built and Natural Environment (BNE) within Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) have been commissioned by Construction Skills to develop pictorial aids to support the communication of health and safety

knowledge between non/low English speaking construction workers and English speaking site managers. The project has been introduced to address the concerns of industry including both SCC and its Industry Advisory Group, that more needs to be done to promote safety in construction.

The contract will involve developing a lexicon of critical health and safety words and phrases, before mapping them to pictorial images. The resulting database will allow communication of the most critical information between managers and workers where language problems exist.

A key part of the research is industry collaboration. Two industry workshops will be held, one in London and one in Glasgow, to engage industry practitioners with first-hand knowledge of the

problems and current strategies to overcome them. Possible sites, to pilot the materials developed, are also being sought. The piloting will concentrate on the three top foreign languages currently spoken on UK construction sites:

1. Polish.
2. Russian.
3. Romanian.

The project started on 4 March and will run for 12 months. The research team would like to hear from anyone interested in collaborating on the project, especially those who have any of the three nationalities on their sites. The research team are also keen to receive copies of any worker-based materials (inductions, tool-box talks,

method statements) for analysis as well as information on what strategies contractors have employed to help communication with migrant workers.

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