**Innovation & Sustainability Group**

**Wednesday 13th July 2021 @ 12.30pm**

 **Online Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Noel Street (NS) S&I Chair / 3DReid

Andrew Carpenter (AC) CE Midlands

Susannah Goh (SG) Virtual Innovation Team (WM Innovation Alliance)

Amrit Sagoo (AS) Nottingham Trent University

Amy Burton (AB) RSM

Chaminda Pathirage (CP) Wolverhampton University

Emma Hope (EH) LC International

Francesca De Petris (FDP) Metro Alliance

Georg Gaduzo (GG) Gad Architects

Glen Irwin (GI) Hydrock

Glen B (GB) Wolverhampton University

Grace Hayward (GH) Metro Alliance

Hana Robertson (HR) Hana Tech

Ian Griffiths (IG) Shakespeare Martineau

Marc Priete (MP) Leicester NHS

Mark Worrall (MW) LC International

Nick Lawrence (NL) Stepnell Construction

Nitesh Alagh (NA) NMCN

Rosie Fieldson (RF) University of Lincoln

**Apologies:**

Anna Tsartsari (AT) BE Design

Susan Selkirk (SS) CE Midlands

Emma Hannam (EH) Constructing Excellence

Katrina Woodward Nottingham Trent University

Mark Wakeman Stepnell Construction

Fred Carter Totally Modular

Peter Braithwaite (PB) University of Birmingham / ARLI

Jon Roberts (JR) University of Birmingham / ARLI

Comments on the minutes should be made within 7 days of issue

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|  |  | **Actions** |
| **1.0** | **Apologies** |  |
|  | As above |  |
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| **2.0** | **Previous minutes** |  |
| 2.1 | Previous minutes were accepted as a true record |  |
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| **3.0** | **Proposed new I&S Structure** |  |
| 3.1 | NS presented the meeting with a Tiered structure proposal to enable the Forum to engage and operate in this very major transformational change of the industry |  |
| 3.2 | RF / FDP questioned whether we needed to structure events and discussions in the way proposed and suggested we potentially focus on topical subjects / innovation challenges and statutory strategic implementation of zero carbon measures e.g. WM Construction Sector Action Plan / Big City Plan (Birmingham) |  |
| 3.3 | Discussion expanded to cover the Key Challenges for the East & West Midlands to drive Net Zero:* Social
* Economic
* Environmental

Identify a Brownfield site and propose a Viability based on Repurposing vs New Build |  |
| 3.4 | RF suggested that the strength of the group could be to connect and influence all elements of the industry – locally and regionally  |  |
| 3.5 | Everyone was tasked to Identify Key Challenges that the Forum could get involved with so as to make a positive impact | ALL |
| 3.6 | It was proposed to undertake 3 challenges per topic across the Shires of: Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands. |  |
| 3.7 | NS requested that all members contribute by providing Challenge suggestions | ALL |
| 3.8 | Discussions covered Operational and Embodied Carbon, Circular Economy, Offsite Manufacturing and what the challenges were for the industry in this transition period: Regulatory / Social |  |
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| **4.0** | **SCi GRID** |  |
| 4.1 | NS requested ALL members to log onto, explore and contribute to SCi GRID to get the site active [www.the-grid.com](http://www.the-grid.com) * Identify / Post and Resolve Challenges
* Create value and opportunity.
* Ease of use
* Provide answers to users on Route to Zero Carbon
 | ALL |
| 4.2 | NS gave an overview of the SCi GRID that is working to create an inclusive platform for engagement between individuals and cross-sector communities of likeminded innovation-driven entrepreneurs, universities, businesses and the local business support ecosystem, to connect, exchange and grow towards a sustainable construction future. |  |
| 4.3 | NS reported that the SCi GRID was linking up with LETTI and UKGBC to share information and provide enhanced regional cover |  |
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| **5.0** | **Repurposing to Zero** |  |
| 5.1 | NS provided an overview of the works undertaken with IAWM, Wolverhampton & Aston Universities, 3DReid, Mott MacDonald. |  |
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| **6.0** | **Discussion Matters / Ideas for Future Events** |  |
| 6.1 | **Design for Performance** |  |
|  | GI introduced the subject as stated that he was due to give a presentation that all were welcome to attend. |  |
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| 6.3 | **Building Skills for Net Zero** |  |
|  | With this being ‘such a large topic area’ it was agreed that Key Objectives be determined for this and S&I actions to ensure Objectives and Deliverables can be achieved | KW |
|  |  |  |
| **7.0** | **Collaboration Partners Updates**: WM Innovation Alliance / |  |
| 7.1 | Nothing further to report |  |
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| **8.0** | **CE Midlands Events 2021** |  |
| 8.1 | - East Midlands Awards Dinner – 3rd September 2021- West Midlands Awards Dinner – 10th September 2021 |  |
| 8.3 | NS reported that there continues to be a good level of entries for the East and West Midland award categories. |  |
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| **9.0** | **CE National** |  |
|  | Nothing further to report |  |
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| **11.0** | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | 12.30pm – 2.00pm on Tuesday 26th October 2021 |  |

**APPENDICIES**

**Questions**

**Please complete your answers to this mini poll so that we can analyse and discuss at the meeting.**

**What do you think is the biggest skill shortage to achieving net zero buildings?**

* Construction skills using modern net zero building methods
* Qualified retrofit designers and architects
* Qualified installers of heat pumps
* Climate consultants

**What do you think the government should be doing more of to support the decarbonation of the built environment?**

* Subsidised or free training programmes to bridge skills gap
* Provide clear guidance to the construction sector
* Provide grants and sufficient funding
* Work with councils to build a Net Zero infrastructure

**Have you moved to a renewable energy tariff in your own home?**

* Yes
* No