

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Embargoed Wednesday 12 July 2017: 0600 hours**

Inquiry into the impact of Brexit on future skill needs

### **Parliamentarians call on training overhaul to help ‘Build on Brexit’**

Brexit could prove disastrous for the delivery of new homes and infrastructure unless transitional arrangements are put in place to allow the construction industry to easily draw on EU workers while it skills up a domestic workforce in greater numbers. The warning comes from a Commission of Inquiry of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment in a new report *Building on Brexit*, published today (July 12- 4pm) at the RICS in London.

The cross-party group of parliamentarians points out the perfect storm of an ageing workforce and more people leaving the industry than entering it which is creating a skills crisis even without Brexit. There are nearly 200,000 people from the EU working in the UK which we cannot afford to lose, it says. The report sets out a 12-point plan to deal with the impact of Brexit on skills and for modernising the industry to become more competitive and productive going forward.

#### **The report is calling for:**

- Government to stabilise the existing workforce by ensuring existing EU migrant workers are able to remain in the UK and then putting in place transitional arrangements for a period of time so that access to foreign workers does not fall off a cliff edge. There are 194,000 workers from the EU – equivalent to the numbers needed to build 16 Crossrails.
- Industry to get behind an overarching ambition to attract, train and retain a greater domestic workforce, with skills aligned to more modern ways of working.
- Industry to step up to the plate and become future proof, more productive and enterprising by harnessing digital technologies and offsite construction.

To help boost training and the skilling up of a domestic workforce the report is recommending:

- the formation of a single body to provide strategic oversight on training and skills at all levels and attracting new talent across the spectrum of the built environment, rather than just trades;
- merging the apprenticeship levy and the CITB into one and the money ring-fenced so it is spent within the built environment to attract and train new talent with the skills for today and the future.

The report identifies that *“The current system of having two levies is unviable and confusing. There also needs to be more flexibility over how levy money is spent,”* Oliver Colville, chairman of the APPG Group for Excellence of the Built Environment said: *“Brexit presents huge risks to the UK construction sector and, as a consequence, to our ability to deliver the homes and infrastructure that we urgently need.”*

*It is hard to overstate the importance of locking in construction to the heart of the industrial strategy and taking a proactive and comprehensive approach to the challenges facing the construction sector in mitigating the risks.”*

Professor John Nolan, chairman of the Construction Industry Council, which sponsored the report said *“It is vital the industry skills up and modernises and we would suggest our recommendations are incorporated into the sector-deal agreement that is being drawn up between Government and the Construction Leadership Council as part of the new industrial strategy.”*

## **ENDS**

Notes to the editor

**Attached full version of the report, which includes executive summary and recommendations –  
Embargoed Wednesday July 12: 0600 hours.**

**The APPG Building on Brexit report will be launched at RICS, 12 Great George Street,  
Parliament Square, Westminster on Wednesday 12 July 2017 at 4pm.**

The CIC 2050 group comprises of early career professionals whose vision is to provide a collaborative forum and platform for members of all construction disciplines and professional bodies. The group focuses on promoting a sustainable construction industry and to support those entering careers in the construction industry. The Group aims to develop ideas, share knowledge and enable communication, with an integrated voice, to other stakeholders.

CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist business associations for professional services providers in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

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