

CPA Launch Parliamentary Reception

We are delighted to announce The Earl Of Lindsay will host the Construction Products Association's Parliamentary Reception on Wednesday, 19 October 2016, in the Cholmondeley Room & Terrace at the House of Lords. The Reception will commence at 18.30pm and finish at 21.00pm.

With changes to the main political parties' leadership underway, including the announcement of a new Prime Minister, we expect to approach the autumn with a clearer view of the key policymakers and their priorities. It is therefore vital that members are actively engaging with their political representatives to ensure that the industry's voice is heard. The Reception will offer members and industry the opportunity to share our concerns and promote our interests with a united voice, seeking certainty in long-term policy.

In previous years we had numerous MPs and members of the House of Lords attend from across political parties. Attendance by our members has been over-subscribed; we would therefore encourage you to book as soon as possible to guarantee a place. Trade associations should also purchase tickets for your members, ensuring we have a wide representation from across the products industry.

If you would like to attend, please complete the online booking form [here](#) by Friday, 09 September 2016.

Economy

All the latest economic and housing data are available via the Association's online interactive database for members. Click [here](#).

Economy

- According to the [BRC](#), UK retail sales in June decreased 0.5% on a like-for-like basis compared to June 2015, when they had increased 1.8% on the preceding year. On a total basis, sales increased 0.2%, against a 2.9% rise in June 2015. **The monthly decline in retail sales was mainly down to a fall in sales in the fashion categories amid unseasonal weather conditions. The publication determines it is too early to assess the impact of the EU referendum, however.**

Construction

The [ONS](#) has published construction output data for May 2016, and, therefore, refers to the period before the EU referendum. Overall, output decreased 2.1% compared to April and fell 1.8% year-on-year. Changes across the sectors are:

- All new work decreased 2.6% compared to April and fell 2.7% compared to May 2015
- Public housing output decreased 0.6% on a monthly basis and 18.8% on an annual basis
- Private housing output decreased 3.6% month-on-month but rose 3.6% year-on-year
- Public non-housing output decreased 4.3% on a monthly basis and fell 0.5% on a yearly basis
- Infrastructure output rose 0.6% compared to April but fell 10.3% compared to May 2015
- Output in the private commercial sector decreased 2.1% on a monthly basis but rose 0.8% on yearly basis
- Industrial output decreased 9.4% compared to April and 12.3% compared to May 2015
- Public housing repair, maintenance and improvement (RM&I) output decreased 2.8% on a monthly basis and 6.0% on an annual basis
- Private housing RM&I decreased 0.8% month-on-month but increased 0.9% year-on-year

For further information contact amandeep.bahra@constructionproducts.org.uk

Association Activities

CPA Autumn Lunch – Sold Out

The CPA's annual Autumn Lunch has proven more popular than ever and has sold out. A waiting list is now available for members. For more information, please contact julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Flooding Resilience Workshop – 03 August (London)

The CPA has been working closely with DEFRA, DECC and DCLG, including senior officials and ministers, to support a review led by Dr Peter Bonfield (CEO, BRE) in response to flooding and future resilience measures. As a result, the CPA will host a workshop to review procurement and appropriate use of products in response to flooding, whilst showcasing what members are currently offering and what they may be able to offer in the future. This workshop provides a substantial opportunity to network with insurers, financial organisations, and other industry bodies, as well as departmental representatives, concerned with flood risk and flooded assets of commercial, domestic and new build sectors. The CPA are calling for expressions of interest to attend and perhaps provide a short presentation of their interest and previous involvement in the subject.

Time and Location: commencing at 1.30 with registration at 1.00.

Held at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT.

Please contact Peter.Caplehorn@constructionproducts.org.uk to RSVP or with expressions of interest.

Highways UK – 16/17 November (NEC, Birmingham)

The CPA is supporting [Highways UK](#) a major event for the people and organisations involved in the planning, operation and future-proofing of the UK's road network. Sponsored and supported by [Highways England](#) together with several CPA members and numerous UK contractors, the event will provide the very latest update, insight and analysis on the emerging implications for the sector of Britain leaving the EU, including a presentation by CPA Economics Director Noble Francis. Opportunities for exhibition space and sponsorship remain. CPA members will be given a 20% early booking discount on passes. For more information and to register please click [here](#).

Export

Opportunity with Qatar World Cup

The [Global Sports Projects Team at UKTI](#) are working with the Embassy in Doha who have requested help to identify companies who could potentially find opportunities around the 2022 Qatar World Cup project. The Embassy learnt that they are looking to procure:

- Stadium Cooling Systems and equipment
- Elevators
- Firefighting systems
- Plumbing Materials
- Generators
- Electric Distribution Boards
- Sanitary Appliances
- Doors
- Seating
- Windows
- Stadium lighting – Interior/Exterior
- Landscaping – install and maintain soft landscaping

Security

- Networked Video Storage
- Cameras
- Hostile Vehicle Mitigation
- Security Doors
- Access Control
- Turnstiles

In addition, the Embassy have identified, for example, a need for a total solution for Steel Supply and Fabrication (4000 tons of steel are required for one of the stadiums), glass reinforced plastic for the stadium façade, interior and exterior lighting, landscaping.

To learn more, please contact ukti.doha@fco.gov.uk or andrew.bacchus@ukti.gsi.gov.uk.

Other Areas of Interest

Implementation of the CPR

A new report has been issued by the European Commission and European Parliament concerning the present state of the implementation of the CPR. In short, the report says that satisfactory progress has been made considering that it has only been fully applied since July 2013. It goes on to state that some areas show room for improvement. There are no surprises in the text so you may wish to just read Section 10 – *Conclusions, Recommendations and way forward*. A copy of the report can be accessed [here](#). If anyone has difficulties please contact duncan.king@constructionproducts.oreg.uk.

Innovate UK Opportunities

[Innovate UK](#) is the UK's innovation agency, an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the [Department for Business, Innovation & Skills](#). It offers a number of funding opportunities of interest to construction product manufacturers, including:

- [The £15m Materials and Manufacturing Competition](#)
- [The £19m Energy Catalyst Round 4](#)
- [The £15m Open Competition](#)
- [The £15m Infrastructure Systems Competition](#)

Recommended NHBC Report: *Modern methods of construction: views from the industry*

As the UK increases its housing output, attention is focusing on modern methods of construction (MMC). Based on focus groups and a survey of 135 senior house-builder and housing association colleagues, this research looks at current levels of use of MMC in its many forms and industry views about its future. The report is available at www.nhbcfoundation.org.

Recommended Constructing Excellence Publication: “Outcome-led Procurement”

[Constructing Excellence](#) has produced a short publication about a common-sense approach to procurement, highlighting why it's important for suppliers to understand outcomes, the pitfalls involved and suggestions for how to make the process work better. To download the document, click [here](#).

Parliamentary and Government Update

Week Commencing 11/07/16

Parliamentary update

Westminster weekly business

The finalised Westminster business document for the week commencing Monday, 18 July 2016 can be viewed [here](#)

Plans, Reports, Consultations and Statements

New Prime Minister and Cabinet

Theresa May MP has replaced David Cameron and delivered her first statement as Prime Minister in Downing Street on Wednesday 13 July. To view the transcript, click [here](#). So far Downing Street has confirmed the following appointments to Cabinet Ministers:

- Karen Bradley Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
- James Brokenshire Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Alun Cairns Secretary of State for Wales
- Greg Clark Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- David Davis Secretary of State for Leaving the European Union
- Baroness Evans Leader of the House of Lords
- Michael Fallon Secretary of State for Defence
- Liam Fox Secretary of State for International Trade
- David Gauke Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- Chris Grayling Secretary of State for Transport
- Damian Green Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
- Justine Greening Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities
- Philip Hammond Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Jeremy Hunt Secretary of State for Health
- Sajid Javid Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- Boris Johnson Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Andrea Leadsom Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- David Lidington Leader of the House of Commons and Lord President of the Council
- Patrick McLoughlin Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chair of the Conservative Party
- David Mundell Secretary of State for Scotland
- Priti Patel Secretary of State for International Development
- Amber Rudd Secretary of State, Home Office
- Liz Truss Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor
- Gavin Williamson Chief Whip
- Jeremy Wright Attorney General

DECC and BIS Merger

The Department for Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills have been merged. DECC's permanent secretary Alex Chisholm confirmed that all of the energy and climate change ministry's responsibilities have been rolled into BIS with “immediate effect”, creating the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Chisholm goes on to reiterate what Number 10 confirmed earlier — that Higher and Further Education policy and the apprenticeships programme are being transferred from the former BIS department to the Department for Education.

Meanwhile, he confirms that BIS is losing its responsibility for trade and investment policy, which is now going to Liam Fox's new Department for International Trade.

Government Statement on the status of EU nationals in the UK

The Government this week has stated that there has been no change to the rights and status of EU nationals in the UK, and UK nationals in the EU, as a result of the referendum. The decision about when to trigger Article 50 and start the formal process of leaving the EU will be for the new Prime Minister. The UK remains a member of the EU throughout this process, and until Article 50 negotiations have concluded.

When we do leave the EU, government fully expect that the legal status of EU nationals living in the UK, and that of UK nationals in EU member states, will be properly protected. The government recognises and values the important contribution made by EU and other non-UK citizens who work, study and live in the UK. The full statement can be viewed [here](#).

Labour leadership Update

On Monday 11 July Angela Eagle launched a Labour leadership challenge against Jeremy Corbyn. In addition, the Party's National Executive Committee has announced this week that Jeremy Corbyn will automatically be on the ballot. The result of the leadership election will be announced on the 24 September 2016.

Government Report: Post-16 Skills Plan and Independent Report on Technical Education

The government's vision for technical education has been developed based on the work of Lord Sainsbury's independent panel. The post-16 skills plan sets out the government's plan to support young people and adults to secure skilled employment and meet the needs of the economy. The report is of an independent panel set up to advise ministers on improving the quality of technical education. To view the report click [here](#).

Energy and Climate Change Committee Launches Inquiry 'Leaving The EU: Implications For UK Climate Policy Inquiry'

The Energy and Climate Change Committee will explore the implications for UK climate policy of leaving the European Union. The UK's climate-change agenda has been driven by a mixture of national and international policies. Nationally, the Climate Change Act 2008 sets the UK decarbonisation agenda up to 2050. On the international stage, the UK currently negotiates as part of the EU bloc. The EU 2030 target—the EU's proposed contribution at the recent COP21 climate change conference in Paris—was agreed by Member States in October 2014. The UK's participation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which requires companies to purchase permits to emit greenhouse gases, will now be subject to negotiation. Withdrawal from the EU raises questions as to the UK's position with respect to existing EU pledges and policies, and its future interaction with the EU bloc to fight climate change. Through this inquiry, the Committee aims to understand the implications of the UK's departure from the EU on the UK's climate-change commitments and ambitions, and determine which climate policy areas will need to be addressed during the UK's exit negotiations. It also seeks guidance on an appropriate timeline for these developments. Deadline for submissions: Monday 22 August 2016. For further information click [here](#).

Communities and Local Government Select Committee: Capacity in The Homebuilding Industry Inquiry

The Communities and Local Government Committee has launched an inquiry into the capacity of the housebuilding industry to meet demand for new homes. The Committee invites submissions of evidence on the following issues:

- whether the numbers of builders and types of firms in the homebuilding industry is sufficient to meet housing demand
- the structure of the homebuilding industry, in particular the role of small and medium-sized developers
- housebuilders' business models and how risk and uncertainty affect incentives to expand
- the sustainability, size and skills of the building industry workforce
- why fewer homes are being started and completed than the number of planning permissions being granted
- the extent to which current planning approaches cause delays to the building of new homes
- innovative approaches to increasing the housing supply, for example self-build, off-site construction and direct commissioning by central government and local housing companies
- the role of development finance and how it can promote or constrain housing investment

Deadline for submissions: 12 September 2016. For further details click [here](#).

Launch of National Infrastructure Assessment Consultation

A consultation into how the NIC plans to take forward the National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) has been launched this week. A central responsibility of the National Infrastructure Commission is to publish a NIA once a Parliament. This will:

- Analyse the UK's long-term economic infrastructure needs
- Outline a strategic vision over a 30-year time horizon
- Set out recommendations for how identified needs should begin to be met

The National Infrastructure Assessment Process and Methodology Consultation can be found [here](#). Responses to this consultation should be sent to NIAEvidence@nic.gsi.gov.uk by 5th August 2016

Building More Homes

The House of Lords cross-party Economic Affairs Committee published the report '[Building More Homes](#)', which results from its inquiry into the UK housing market earlier in the year. The Committee makes wide-ranging recommendations to address the housing crisis, including:

- Restraints on local authority borrowing should be lifted. Local authorities should be free to borrow to fund social housebuilding as they are other building programmes. This would enable local authorities to resume their historic role as one of the major builders of new homes, particularly social housing.
- Council tax should be charged on development that is not completed quickly. The private sector housebuilding market is oligopolistic with the eight largest builders building 50% of new homes. Their business model is to restrict the volume of housebuilding to maximise their profit margin. To address this the Committee recommend that local authorities are granted the power to levy council tax on developments that are not completed within a set time period.
- Maximise the use of public land. The Government must take decisive steps to build on the very substantial holdings of surplus publicly owned land.

- The Committee recommends that a senior Cabinet minister must be given overall responsibility for identifying and coordinating the release of public land for housing, with a particular focus on providing low cost homes. The National Infrastructure Commission should oversee this process.
- Local authorities should be given the power to increase planning fees. Local authorities should be able to set and vary planning fees to help fund a more efficient planning system and the upper cap on these charges should be much higher than the current limit. For further information, please contact Rebecca Larkin rebecca.larkin@constructionproducts.org.uk

CPA in the News

Planning and Building Control Today - [Construction product sales grow in second quarter](#)

HBD Online - [BRUFMA 2016 annual conference: building performance – homes and beyond](#)

Building - [Sustainability: The new normal](#)

Building - [Ecobuild 2017 launches with focus on regeneration](#)

Building - [How Theresa May can avoid a construction recession](#)

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