

### Economy

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- In August, public sector net borrowing excluding temporary effects of financial interventions (PSNB ex) was £10.5 billion, according to the [ONS](#). This was £0.9 billion lower than in August 2015, when it was £11.5 billion. Public sector net debt (PSND ex) was £1,621.5 billion in August 2016, equivalent to 83.6% of GDP. This compares to £1,569.5 billion, or 83.6% of GDP, 12 months earlier.
- According to the CBI's [Industrial Trends Survey](#) for the three months to September, 11% of firms, on balance, reported an increase in output volumes. Looking to the next three months, a balance of 22% of firms expects output volumes to grow. **The CBI also reported that export order books remained well above their long-run average, despite weakening slightly, which is largely owing to the recent Sterling depreciation.**

#### Housing

- The [Council of Mortgage Lenders](#) reported that total gross mortgage lending in August reached £22.5 billion. This was 6.8% higher than in July 2016 and 15.1% higher than a year earlier. **The CML reported that the latest figures reflected a recovery in market sentiment, which is likely to be attributed to the Bank of England's monetary policy stimulus package. In addition to this, muted prospects for house purchase activity were anticipated by the CML, whilst remortgaging activity is expected to experience growth as low interest rates incentivise borrowers to refinance.**
- In August, according to the [HMRC](#), the number of property transactions in the UK totalled 97,660. This was a 0.1% decrease from July 2016 and was 6.1% lower compared to a year earlier. **The fall in property transactions comes after two months of increases and is likely to be associated with the stamp duty tax changes earlier in April. It is likely that the majority of these transactions were agreed prior to the EU referendum.**

#### Construction

- According to the ISSB, UK steel production totalled 131.5 thousand tonnes per week in August, an annual fall of 37.5% and a 16.0% decrease month-on-month. **The annual decline largely reflects steel plant closures by SSI last year amid challenges in the steel industry.**

For further information contact [amandeep.bahra@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:amandeep.bahra@constructionproducts.org.uk)

### Association Activities

#### Charity Donations for Autumn Lunch

The CPA will once again be supporting the charity [CRASH](#) with a raffle at the Autumn Lunch. CRASH is the construction industry's charity for homeless people. They are a practical charity that focuses on improving the buildings used by homeless people. They do this by awarding cash grants, providing on-site professional expertise and supplying free building materials. We encourage our members to support this effort. *If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact [simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk).*

#### Official London Hotel Partner for CPA

The CPA reminds members of our official hotel partner, [Grange Hotels](#). As London's leading independent hotels, Grange Hotels prides itself on providing exquisite accommodation, hospitality and events services, with seventeen 4 and 5-Star properties located across the heart of the capital.

For guests that require overnight accommodation for the Autumn Lunch or other business in London, please click [here](#) to take advantage of specially discounted rates across 17 hotels in London. As an additional member benefit, CPA members can use these discounted rates throughout the year and also take advantage of discounted meeting room rates. *For further information please contact [matthew.hawkins@grangehotels.com](mailto:matthew.hawkins@grangehotels.com) or [simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk)*

#### Relevant Authorities Workshop #2 – 07 November (London)

Our second workshop on project data management and templates will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> November from 1.00 - 5.00.

Following on from the successful initial meeting, CPA will be hosting further events to ensure all members have the opportunity to engage and take part in the data management initiative.

Following the workshop held on 18<sup>th</sup> August, work on developing the LEXiCON system and website has been underway. The software being developed by [BRE](#) has undergone several iterations and will soon be ready for testing.

The new sections of the CPA website have been drafted and are being reviewed before handing to the web designers. While the initial standard set out the system and processes a substantial amount of work has been needed to ensure admin processes, governance, protocols and practical information handling, are addressed.

Additionally we have been discussing further collaboration with other bodies in the industry to make sure we have the widest possible support. We are very pleased to note that the [UK BIM Task Group](#) are lending their support uniquely to the LEXiCON process. Additionally meetings have been held recently with CPE and the CEN working groups who were both in support of the programme. Establishing this as a European as well as a UK process is very much a reality.

A lot of work has yet to be done and necessarily this falls to a small group of expert volunteers but significant and positive progress is being made. In the mean time we would ask all of those who take part to have a little patience while we get things up and running. We will hope to gradually open up the web site through the Autumn period.

We know there are a keen band of followers who want to become Relevant Authorities and start using the system but we do want it to work to everyone's satisfaction when we launch it. *For more information, please contact [julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk).*

### **Relevant Authorities Workshop #3 - 05 December (London)**

Our third workshop on project data management and templates will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00- 5.00. Further events will be organised throughout 2017. *For more information, please contact [julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk).*

### **CPA's Sustainability Policy Group meeting**

Almost 40 people attended the SCC meeting at which the agenda included Travis Perkins policy of requiring EPD for some material product groups, the latest developments in CEN and ISO standards, and how procurement might better align to the standards, PAS's and certification schemes. *For further information please contact [jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk)*

### **BIM 4 REGS Meeting – 24 October (London)**

A meeting of the BIM4REGS group will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> October from 1.00 - 5.00.

Some work streams have moved faster than others and the success of the health and safety group to instigate the creation of a PAS is very impressive. We hope to review the progress of [PAS 1192-6](#) and how this will help. Equally review other areas such as building regulations, including fire, town planning and other regulatory requirements being made more efficient by use of BIM.

*For more information, please contact [julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk).*

### **Flooding Review #2 – 12 December (London)**

Our second workshop on resilience and flooding will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00 - 5.00.

This workshop is intended to explore and showcase products that answer the key questions in response to flooding issues. We also hope to develop a little further the issues and themes raised at our initial discussion. We will also build on the recommendations of the [Bonfield review](#). *For more information, please contact [julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk).*

### **Construction News Specialists Awards 2017 - entry deadline extended**

The entry deadline for the [Construction News Specialists Awards](#) has been extended, and you now have until Friday, 7 October to submit your entries. These are the only national awards to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the very best specialist contractors in the UK. CPA staff have been asked to help judge two of the 18 categories. Click [here](#) to enter.

### **Fire Door Safety Week - 26 September – 02 October**

This is just a reminder that [Fire Door Safety Week](#) is next week. Founded and consistently supported by numerous CPA members, the week is used to raise awareness of the critical role that fire doors play in protecting property and saving lives, and to stamp out bad practice. The campaign is organised in partnership with the Government's safety campaign [Fire Kills](#). All activities will be coordinated via the website [www.firedoorsafetyweek.co.uk](http://www.firedoorsafetyweek.co.uk) and if you haven't done so already we encourage you to pledge your support via the site.

### **BREEAM issue criteria for rating responsible sourcing schemes**

BREEAM have now issued their revised approach and criteria for assessing responsible sourcing schemes in BREEAM. This can be found at [Breeam Responsible Sourcing Credits](#) *For further information please contact [jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk)*

**New date for next SCC meeting – Friday 02 December**

The SCC meeting prior to the end of the year will now be on Friday morning 2 December. This replaces the previously notified 30 November. For further information please contact [jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk)

**Build4Quality - 28 September (BRE Watford)**

The CPA is supporting [BRE's Build4Quality Conference](#), which seeks to define quality homes and developments, beyond what a recent Parliamentary committee called 'zero-defects construction', and how that relates to sustainability. Jane Thornback, the CPA's Sustainability Policy Adviser, will speak re the business case for choosing sustainable products & materials. CPA members are entitled to a 20% discount on the standard £120 ticket (quote "CPA20" when registering).

For further information and to register, click [here](#).

**Supply Chain Meeting with Transport for London – 29 September (London) – To Be Rescheduled**

Owing to a request from TfL, we will postpone this meeting. A new date, likely in December, will be announced soon.

If you have any questions, please contact [jeff.may@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jeff.may@constructionproducts.org.uk) or [simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk).

**UK Construction Week - 18-20 October 2016 (NEC, Birmingham)**

The CPA is pleased to join many of its members and industry partners in supporting [UK Construction Week](#), the UK's largest construction trade event which unites over 650 exhibitors with an audience of over 24,000 trade visitors. UK Construction Week (UKCW) consists of nine shows: Timber Expo, Build Show, Civils Expo, Plant & Machinery Live, Energy 2016, Smart Buildings 2016, Surface & Materials Show and HVAC 2016 running from 18-20 October and Grand Designs Live which is open to the trade on 19-20 October.

The CPA's team will be participating in a several panel discussions, including the keynote, sustainability, innovation and Grand Designs Live. Registration for the event is free; please click [here](#).

**CPA Parliamentary Reception -- Nearly Sold Out - 19 October (House of Lords)**

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. 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. Less than 10 places remain.

**CPA Autumn Lunch -- Sold Out - 03 November (The Brewery, London)**

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](mailto:julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk).

**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 on 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](#).

**Construction Marketing Awards – 01 December (Radisson Blu Portman Hotel, London)**

The CPA is pleased to once again support the Construction Marketing Awards, a showcase of the construction industry's creativity, innovation and effectiveness in marketing. The Awards raise the profile of marketing professionals and their achievements and are an invaluable opportunity for recognition. [The Construction Marketing Awards](#) are **FREE to enter and you may enter any number of categories.** Entries must be received before the closing date of the 23rd September 2016. The winners will be announced at the gala dinner on 1st December 2016 at the [Radisson Blu Portman Hotel](#) in London. For more information, visit the [Construction Marketing Awards](#) website.

**Other Areas of Interest****Recommended Reading: CLC Report on Innovation Workstream – Roadmapping to improve productivity, capacity and innovation in the housing sector**

The Construction Leadership Council's Innovation in buildings workstream, led by Mike Chaldecott from CPA member Saint-Gobain, aims to embed new approaches to all phases of the construction process for buildings, utilising work already in progress such as the Digital Built Britain strategy and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). The CLC has published a report following a one-day workshop in April. The aim of the workshop was to help develop a strategic roadmap of barriers to take-up and commercialisation of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), and develop solutions to help increase the percentage of new buildings built using, substantially, MMC. The aim is to

improve productivity, capacity and the use of innovation in the housing sector by removing barriers to progress and helping the industry to move the new methods from development through to actual commercial use and thereby increase housing supply. A summary of the findings can be found [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

### **Property Flood Resilience Action Plan published**

The [plan](#) was commissioned by DEFRA as part of its [National Flood Review](#) and issued on the same day. CPA played a key role in the Task Group on Standards, Certifications and Skills. Find the Plan [here](#).

For further information contact [peter.cablehorn@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:peter.cablehorn@constructionproducts.org.uk)

### **Apprenticeship Vacancies Survey**

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and the new Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS) are trying to measure if employers would prefer to post and manage their own apprenticeship job vacancies directly on their [Find An Apprenticeship \(FAA\)](#) free website. The survey below is focused on those employers that have recruited an apprentice before. They are designing the functionality for Find An Apprenticeship, but if employers are happy to leave it to the training provider to post their advert and manage the application(s) then this functionality will not be built. This is in response to some employers requesting this functionality going forward.

The survey is specifically around what NAS can do on the digital service to support recruitment, with a particular emphasis on trying to understand the level of interest employers have in posting vacancies themselves, rather than getting their training provider to do it for them. NAS have been asked for this functionality by employers, but to build it they need to understand how many employers would need it, and what they need it to do. To view the survey click [here](#).

### **Indicators for the environmental performance of buildings' - Common EU framework**

The European Commission is running a public consultation on the first draft proposals for indicators for the 'development of a common EU framework of indicators for the environmental performance of buildings'. This will close on 7th October. The consultation takes the form of an on-line questionnaire which can be accessed [here](#). The consultation focusses on a first draft set of indicators that has been identified by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. These proposals are based on the findings from a broad initial scoping of experience in performance improvement and measurement across Europe. The background documents for the consultation can be found [here](#). For further information contact [jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk)

### **State of Nature Report issued, Contractors Big Biodiversity Challenge and Nature after Minerals**

The latest major report on the status of wildlife and habitats in Britain shows major nature depletion across the UK. The [State of Nature report](#) was compiled by 53 wildlife organisations including the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts. Attempting to reverse this trend is the Construction Contractors [Big Biodiversity Challenge](#) managed by CIRIA which held its annual awards event this week. This is now well supported by a wide range of contractors both big and small. Within manufacturing, the Mineral Products Association runs a major awards scheme on [quarries and biodiversity restoration](#) and the [Nature after Minerals programme](#) is a collaborative initiative led by the [RSPB](#) and supported by [Natural England](#), the [Mineral Products Association](#) and the [British Aggregates Association](#).

For further information contact [jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk)

### **The Assessment of Energy Performance of Non-domestic Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2016**

This came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and was made in response to Section 63 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It forms part of Scotland's action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from non-domestic buildings. The regulations apply to the sale or rental (to a new tenant) of non-domestic buildings of more than 1000m<sup>2</sup>. In addition to providing a valid Display Energy Certificate, owners of such buildings are now required to assess their building and produce an action plan covering improvement work to meet the carbon, energy performance and emission targets identified in this plan as part of the sale or rental process. The owners must either undertake this improvement work or they may defer such work by reporting annual operational energy use. Buildings that meet energy standards equivalent to those introduced by the 2002 building regulations are exempt, as are those already improved under the Green Deal. Full details of this new regulation can be found [here](#). If anyone has difficulty downloading this information please contact [duncan.king@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:duncan.king@constructionproducts.org.uk).

## Parliamentary and Government Update

### **Parliamentary update**

#### **Westminster weekly business**

Due to the Party Conferences the House of Commons is in a period of recess until 10 October 2016.

### **Plans, Reports, Consultations and Statements**

#### **Autumn Statement date announced as Wednesday 23 November**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, has announced that he will present his first Autumn Statement to Parliament on 23 November 2016. The government has published its guidance on Autumn Statement submissions, which can be viewed [here](#). Submissions should be submitted by Friday 7 October 2016.

#### **Neighbourhood Planning Bill**

The new Neighbourhood Planning Bill has now been laid before Parliament. The Government has released two new consultations relating to the Bill:

- A technical consultation on the implementation of neighbourhood planning provisions. This can be found [here](#).
- A consultation on improving the use of planning conditions. This can be found [here](#).

#### **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Emails**

Please note, we have had confirmation that BEIS has started to change over its email addresses from @bis to @beis. Once completed they will reject any emails going to the old accounts.

#### **Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee: BIS Committee launches inquiry into Government's Industrial Strategy**

The Business, Innovation and Skills Committee (BIS) has launched an inquiry into the Government's industrial strategy. The inquiry launch follows the inclusion of the term "industrial strategy" into the Department for Business's name and an indication from the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, that her government will explicitly intervene to support certain parts of the economy. The Committee will consider what the Government means by industrial strategy and questions how interventionist in the free market it should be. It will also look at the industrial strategies of previous governments and of other countries to see if there are any lessons to be learnt. The Committee is inviting written submissions, sent via the Committee's [website](#) by Tuesday 27 September 2016, on the following:

### CPA in the News

#### **Building.co.uk: Economics: Stable, if only for now**

- *Data suggests that activity won't fall off a cliff but it will slow down in the next 12 months.*

#### **Building.co.uk: State of play: Housing**

- *The government wants to see one million homes built in England by 2020, but while some housing experts think a little tinkering will get us there, others countenance a far more radical plan.*

#### **Building.co.uk: Brexit calm – but worst is still to come, warn top consultants**

- *UK's biggest consultants say impact of vote to leave EU won't be felt until spring next year.*

#### **Capital Bay: Curb on EU workers 'will cut new homes by HALF': Key builder says Brexit fallout could fuel crisis in construction.**

- *One of the country's largest housebuilders has warned that cutting off the supply of EU workers to Britain's building sites could halve the number of homes being built.*

#### **Construct UK: Seminars at Construction Exhibitions This Autumn.**

- *Peter Caplehorn, Deputy Chief Executive, Construction Products Association (CPA), confirmed to speak at the Build Show, 20<sup>th</sup> October.*

#### **Facilities Management Journal: Energising 2016**

- *Among many events taking place during the UK Construction Week, the CPA will be giving a key briefing on the state of construction.*

**END**