



E-Newsletter Vol 3 Issue 1, January 2010

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A note to readers



Michael Thompson
WMCCE Executive
Director

We will all acknowledge that 2009 was a disastrous year for many in the Construction Industry and we will hope that 2010 can only be better. This hope is to some extent strengthened by the expectation that the UK will come officially out of recession by the end of January 2010. However, whether it does or it doesn't, the fact is that the route to recovery will be a long one. It will not be a journey that will take us back to where we were before recession, but it will take us to somewhere very new and very challenging. Are we up for that challenge?

At the launch of the Construction Action Plan on 21st December at the site of the new Birmingham Library, Ian Austin MP, Minister for the West Midlands, was impressed by the involvement of a large number of different organisations working together for the common good of the industry. This integrated and collaborative approach is part of the key to a successful future. "United we stand, divided we fall."

January 2010 sees the inaugural meeting of the West Midlands Sustainable Built Environment Forum, on a small scale to start off with, but something that will develop once we know the needs of Forum members. Further information can be found [here](#)

If it is not too late, a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year to us all!



Prospect Report: Discover how the regional market is evolving.

Top 20 League Tables: The Top Clients, Contractors and Specifiers from the region.

Latest Projects: Discover projects in the early planning stages and new contracts signed in the region.

Follow the link below to see current and previous reports:

[More information](#)

Upcoming Events

Great Regional Debate

When: 19 January 2010

Where: Arup Campus, Solihull

An expert panel will discuss "In a time of change, can the West Midlands construction sector re-establish the region's credentials for enterprise and innovation?"...[more](#)

Support for Innovation

When: 27 January 2010

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

Network Director, Deborah Pullen, will provide an introduction to the work of the Modern Built Environment Knowledge Transfer Network and the support available for business innovation in the West Midlands...[more](#)

Sustainable Construction- Pay as you Save

When: 02 February 2010

Where: Birmingham Council House, Birmingham

Richard Baines, Director of Sustainable Development, will briefly explain the part humans are playing in accelerating Climate Change and then focus on what building professionals can do to...[more](#)

Breakfast Briefing: Construction Update

When: 05 February 2010

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

An overview of the major changes likely to affect you. Including: Contracts - JCT update, new NEC contract, Industry reports "Never waste a good crisis", Legislation - new Construction Act, Contract law case...[more](#)

Preparing for the Carbon Reduction Commitment

When: 12 February 2010

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

Regional Minister Ian Austin Champions Support for Construction Sector



West Midlands Minister, Ian Austin MP, on 21st December launched the West Midlands Construction Taskforce [action plan](#) which will target support for the construction sector in the region.

The Action Plan will map and monitor ongoing activity and support for the construction industry sector in the region, and identify...[more](#)

[Watch Video](#)

Hereford School Pupils Scoop Construction Industry Awards



A unique construction initiative that has provided over 700 work experience days for students has resulted in award wins for two local Herefordshire school pupils.

Dedication, commitment and enthusiasm by Louis Bounds and Natasha Stratford, both Year 11 pupils, who have been attending the Minster College Training Initiative have... [more](#)

A New Call for Carbon Trust Applied Research Funding



A new call for applications for Carbon Trust applied research funding opened on 14 December 2009 (closing date 18th February 2010).

Applied Research Grant funding is available to businesses, research institutions and other organisations and aims to support the development and commercialisation of technologies which have the potential to reduce UK carbon emissions...[More](#)

The National Training Awards: Apply now!



The National Training Awards will be open for entry during January 2010.

Run by UK Skills on behalf of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, the awards are designed to support the drive to increase UK competitiveness through Skills Development and... [More](#)

New Professional IT Advice for Small Businesses



A new initiative launched by Business Link West Midlands will help regional businesses to improve their performance through more effective use of IT in the workplace.

For more information, or to see additional support services offered by Business Link [click here](#)