



E-Newsletter Vol 3, Issue 4, June 2009

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A note to readers



Michael Thompson
Executive Director
WMCCE

With Summer evident at least for a short while in recent days, and with whispers that the recession could be coming to an end (if we are to believe the experts), perhaps it is time to think more positively and move towards the future with the expectation of better things to come, although with all that has happened in the past year, we cannot expect a return to where we were. Public expenditure is being drawn in to an extent and this is likely to continue in the immediate and perhaps medium term. There is likely to be more reliance placed on the private sector.

One of the "positives" this month was the visit to the West Midlands by the Olympic Delivery Authority, led by John Armit CBE, and the messages of opportunities for the West Midlands in the build up to the Olympic Games and the Legacy period that follows them through to 2014. Many West Midlands companies are already involved in the build up to 2012 and there is the hope that there will be many more. Those opportunities won't come to us automatically; we have to go out and find them.

Another positive is the West Midlands Task Force which, under the chairmanship of Ian Austin, MP, Minister for the West Midlands, has developed an action plan for the West Midlands Construction Industry. Several of the actions were developed from a Construction Summit which WMCCE organised on behalf of Learning and Skills Council in February. WMCCE is one of the organisations that will be taking that plan forward.

Perhaps this is the time for us all to take advantage of a potential upturn in the coming months, take advantage of the opportunities as they arise, and strive towards making our region a better place to live in.

News

New Series of Construction Podcasts- for the West Midlands



Following the success of the WMCCE Podcasts in 2008, a new series has just been launched. Hosted by Sky News presenter Marverine Cole, the WMCCE 'Construction Talk' podcasts give an insight of what is happening in the UK construction industry, particularly in the West Midlands.

With engaging speakers ranging from business leaders and government officials to supply chain representatives, the latest issues affecting the industry are broached and debated.

[Full Story](#), [Listen to Podcasts](#)

Construction Innovation Centre- Now Open



City of Wolverhampton College's new multi million pound construction centre is now officially open. The state-of-the-art Construction Innovation Centre was officially unveiled earlier this month in a special People's Opening.

Director of the Faculty of Technology Mike Hughes said: "This was a very different way of opening a new £5 million development, but it reflected the innovative way we approach all our work with students and employers."

[Full Story](#)

Increase Your Profile- Become a Demonstration Project



WMCCE is looking for leading- edge, active construction projects that are innovating or applying an element of best practice to join the Constructing Excellence Demonstration Programme and become a Demonstration Project.

WMCCE captures good techniques from Demonstration Projects and distributes them across the industry in the form of case studies, press releases, articles and podcasts... [Full Story](#)

WM Monthly Economic Update- Construction



The construction PMI has reported an easing in the pace at which output is declining in the sector, reaching its lowest for eight months. This improvement was most evident in the civil engineering sub-sector, but also seen to a lesser extent within the housing and commercial...

[Full report](#)

2012 Games Opportunities



In support of the 2012 Olympic Games, WMCCE is working in conjunction with Advantage West Midlands and the government portal CompeteFor.com to provide information about the London 2012 procurement opportunities.

➔ [See tenders](#)

Want to know who from the West Midlands won a bid?

➔ [Read the monthly briefing](#)

Upcoming Events

Women in Construction

When: 16 June 09

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

Following the hugely successful launch of the Women in Construction Action Network in the North West we are delighted to announce the launch of the network in the Midlands region. This is your chance to...

For further information or to book your place [Click here](#)

Free Commercial and Contractual Advice Surgery

When: 19 June 09

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

One hour appointments for free Commercial / Contractual Advice given on Construction Issues.

For further information or to book your one hour appointment [Click here](#)

Helping to Achieve Project Excellence

When: 23 June 09

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

This course aims to further develop personal skills in applying the core tools and techniques of Value Management. Getting the most out of these approaches to improve projects and their delivery.

For further information or to book your place [click here](#)

BREEAM Workshop

When: 06 & 07 July 09

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

Delivered by BRE experts, the workshop is designed to give construction industry professionals the know-how to deliver successful projects under the current and future legislative drives for sustainable development.