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In particular, the Knowledge Base sponsored by the LGTF has a wide range of articles and publications on subjects from asset management to sustainability, including many informative Constructing Excellence and LGTF reports and case studies, plus useful documentation from the Scottish Executive.

SCALA is supplying the website on behalf of the society's many partners, which include the LGTF, and in the spirit of inclusivity in which we operate no registration is necessary and information can be freely downloaded. The site aims to promote high standards of practice, to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, to develop skills and expertise and to help represent the interests of all involved in public sector construction and architecture.

The LGTF is a major partner of SCALA and contributions are welcomed to the site from everyone involved in public architecture who want to deliver the highest quality buildings, roads and landscapes at the lowest reasonable price. The LGTF, with SCALA, believe that the best way of achieving these objectives is by using best value principles.

I hope you enjoy the feast of information available 24/7 by clicking on www.publicarchitecture.co.uk If you wish to make a contribution contact me via the website and through the Practice or Project Base to submit your brochure or project.

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So far over 130 local authorities have already signed the declaration. If your local authority is yet to sign register them today and we'll send you a declaration information pack showing you how to develop a sustainable energy strategy in your area.

W: www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/NottinghamDeclaration/
E: practicalhelp@est.org.uk **T:** 0870 241 2089

Thames Gateway Constructing Excellence launch

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The Club will act as a focus of interest and forum for all construction related clients and businesses to discuss, share

and learn. Keen to recruit members it seeks to become the hub for information on the Thames Gateway with a special emphasis on delivery and construction, rather than strategic planning. The Club will also form links with other official organisations working in the Thames Gateway including the development corporations, the regeneration agencies, the LDA, ODA and LOCOG.

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- Lean assessment
- Company and project team roll-out programmes

Contact us:

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T: **01923 664638**

W: www.bre.co.uk/service.jsp?id=355

or through our local offices: BRE Scotland and BRE Wales

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The Commitments was developed by the Strategic Forum for Construction's 2012 Task Group, with much of the early drafting carried out by Constructing Excellence, in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Trade and Industry. The six areas covered include:

- Client leadership;
- Procurement and Integration;
- Design;
- Sustainability;
- Commitment to People;
- Health and Safety.

To learn more go to: www.constructingexcellence.org.uk/news/article.jsp?id=7904

OGC embeds Best Practice



Office of Government Commerce



Mike Foy, LGTF Board Member and Regional Champion for the North West

As the LGTF representative on working group 3 in the Public Sector Construction Clients Forum (see Summer LGTFnews) I have highlighted the adoption of best practice by local authorities since the release of Rethinking Construction in 1998.

The LGTF have helped produce over 200 of the Constructing Excellence demonstration projects and a selection forms part of the OGC business case for better public sector practices and can be viewed on www.lgtf.org.uk.

The recently produced report sponsored by the East Midlands Regional Centre of Excellence; Transforming Local Government Construction - The Power of Frameworks states that local authorities are consistently working towards a better built environment through modern approaches to procurement, construction delivery and maintenance. I will ensure this past knowledge is put to good use, and not duplicated or diluted, whilst maintaining the momentum.

The terms of reference for the group are to:

- Define the meaning of Embedding Best Practice in the public sector including smaller clients.
- Identify the levels of and the target audience across the public sector.
- Examine and measure how widely the application of Best Practice principles have reached across the public sector in time, cost and quality.
- Identify existing and subsequent potential barriers that are restricting the implementation of Best Practice.
- Establish formal processes and an Action Plan to promote the uptake of Best Practice deeper and wider.
- Equip and support public sector bodies to delivery projects efficiently, on time, to a higher quality and within budget through the application of Best Practice principles.

The principles I will work to when representing the LGTF on the group are:

- The greater adoption of best practice is important but equally recognise what local authorities have achieved so far and support the wider adoption.
- Integrate guidance into current programmes and collaborate with partners to have a greater impact through existing vehicles and networks.
- Support guidance with the correct resources, allowing local authorities to adopt best practice and take ownership of the agenda.
- Provide clear strategic leadership in the guidance produced and work with partners to ensure the greatest impact.
- Recognise regional and local issues and understand that the local authority agenda needs to be heard to inform OGC thinking.
- Work with other organisations, for example the Regional Development Agencies, to promote a common strategic message and clear approach to embed best practice across the UK public sector.
- Provide the right training and support locally to encourage the agenda to be adopted by more authorities and recognise that there are other stakeholders who must be made aware of the agenda, including the private sector and the smaller operators in our local economy.

Comments on the article or OGC issues to:

E: Natalie.clinton@constructingexcellence.org.uk

Contact the LGTF

- to let us know your views;
- for information, support and resources on procurement issues;
- to change address details or nominate a colleague to receive this newsletter.

Next LGTF Board meeting: 19th September 2006.

See website for a synopsis of meetings.

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