



SCOTTISH FOREST & TIMBER TECHNOLOGIES LEADERSHIP GROUP MEETING

Thursday 11th April 2013, Board Room, Scottish Enterprise, Edinburgh

Present:

Alistair McKinnon (AM)	John Kissock – CHAIR (JK)
Andy Leitch (AL)	Joy McClean - SECRETARIAT (JM)
Cameron Maxwell (CM)	Stephen Good (SG) – item 4
Cathy Black (CB)	Stuart Goodall (StuG)
Colin Kennedy (CK)	<i>Stuart Harker – item 5</i>
Derek McDonald (DM)	
Ed Suttie (ES)	
Elisabeth Stark (EliS)	
Gordon McGuinness (GM)	
Harry Wilson (HW)	

Apologies: Alex Brownlie, Ben Westland, Bob McIntosh, Fergus Tickell, Gavin MacKay, George Webb, Greg Walker, Guy Watt, Lynne Blair, Neil Donaldson, Phillip Turner, Scott Gordon, Tom Bruce Jones

1. Welcome and Introductions – JK

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Special welcome was given to guest Stuart Harker from the Timber Trade Federation. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising – JK

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate and approved.

Matters arising:

- *“SDI detailed export report of results to be circulated to all SFTTLG members”* – Joy to enquire progress with Angela.
- *“Meeting (half/full day) required by end of October to define call topics for WW-Net+ Programme. Members to consider who they will send from their company”* and *“Invite to ‘Defining Call Topics for WW-Net+ Programme’ Meeting to be drafted up and circulated”* - Specific event did not take place as picked up at other events. Proposal deadline is the end of April.
- Forestry education letter to Aberdeen University – DM updated the group that no response has been received. Follow-up to be made and update to be given at next SFTTLG meeting.
- Skills Strategy work – SDS report will be taken to Joint Skills Committee Meeting w/c 15th April.
- *“Proposal of possible solutions for the planting/restocking issue to be put together (based on evidence) to assist Fergus Ewing in assembling group of people to discuss the topic”* - Event will take place in Scottish Parliament for MSPs in May/June.
- *“Next Renewables ILG to take place in Inverness in April. Planting/restocking possibly to be added to the agenda following consultation with Mr Wheelhouse”* - SG reported back to the group that meeting will not take place until have more facts.



- "More detail to be found regarding the possibility of lower emission levels for materials" - JM to circulate Scottish Government response to SFTTLG members.

3. Comments on the Chairman/Industry/Organisation Updates Circulated Prior to The Meeting – All

Updates from CK, HW, SG and DM were circulated prior to the meeting. JK and AL also provided short verbal updates -

JK:

Attended the Wood Plus Consultation in London on behalf of Wood for Good (and SE) and also attended EcoBuild. SE decided best not to attend Grown in Britain event. Will attend the ILG/RAB Chairs meeting on 24th April where Nicola Sturgeon, John Swinney and Fergus Ewing are expected to be in attendance.

AL spoke to his late paper which he circulated round the table (see attached).



AL Late Update.doc

JK thanked the regional chairs for their written updates and for the great structures and agendas appearing. JK supports the money spent on this project.

- ILG to be kept up to date with 'Grown in Britain' work - SG

4. Construction Innovation Centre Update – SG

A year ago the SFTTLG received a presentation explaining the original call by Scottish Funding Council to HEs and industries for proposals to establish industry demand lead Innovation centres. Construction was one of the submissions, which was supported by industry but not lead by it. For this reason, the original submission was rejected. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) invited the industry to submit a new application, however this time lead by industry.

A Steering Group made up of 7 industry members and 5 academics has been established to put together the submission. SG went on to provide more detail on the background of the proposal, the construction innovation centre's scope of service, its objectives and principles, the breadth of innovation support, the areas of focus, the coordinated and overlapping support and next steps.

The deadline for applications is 28th May, with the SFC panel meeting to consider applications in June, and a decision and award of grants will be made in July/August.

Discussions then followed regarding ownership of intellectual property, amount of money bidding for and how academics will be paid/accessed.

SFTTLG agreed to give their support to this construction innovation centre bid.

- Anyone interested in participating in the Construction Innovation Centre Steering Group to contact SG - ALL

5. Wood First Plus – Stuart Harker

JK introduced Stuart who currently works on the Wood First Plus exercise for the Timber Trade Federation. He has previously worked on the Olympics, has timber technology experience and structural engineer experience. In regards to funding arrangements Wood for Good, Forestry Commission Scotland and the Timber Trade Federation (as sponsoring Stuart's time to manage this project) have contributed. SFTTLG are contributing through the Futures project (managed by Steve Harrison) and possibly financially (yet to be finalised). Update; Financial package with SE now fully established and contracted.



Stuart described the project, its aims and objectives, and its importance in the context of BIM (Building Information Modelling) for enabling timber products to be specified. The project will in effect collect and collate the necessary characteristic and performance information for timber construction product “classes” for the purposes of compiling a database for BIM usage.

The Group agreed that this would be an important piece of work and discussed industry auditing of data, practical information gathering, and information presentational issues.

JK thanked Stuart for his presentation and stressed the importance of this work.

6. EcoBuild Feedback – AM

AM reminded the group that we took a stand at this year's EcoBuild (the world's largest event for sustainable design, construction and built environment) as an “experiment”. Due to large numbers of visitors, exhibiting space is expensive – it cost us £60k (with a total cost of £115k - £120k, although this was mitigated by asking our participating companies to contribute, therefore final cost to us being around £90k).

Following feedback from our exhibiting companies, the “experiment” has proved to have been very successful. Eight out of the twelve companies have completed evaluation questionnaires providing overwhelmingly positive responses such as – they forecast generating an additional £7.8m turnover (over the next 3yrs) and £650k (over the next 12 months) as a result of attending the event.

Planning has already begun for a larger stand for next March, and some seminars/events in the main auditorium. It is proposed to take 18 companies next year (12 this year). If the event again proves to be successful and worthwhile, to continue to build the Scottish presence, a further development could be to create a “Scottish village” to maximise our impact (companies said in feedback Scottish visibility is key).

The group agreed that Ecobuild is better option than Timber Expo for many SFTTLG members and companies, in identifying and engaging with new customers.

7. SFTTLG – Options for Future Development – JK

Following 3 years with FIAB and SFTTLG, JK noted that he intended to step down from the Chair, and indicated that he would like someone who is working actively (day to day basis) in the industry to take over as the SFTTLG Chair.

JK noted that this time would be an opportune time to reflect on the past years and the group's impact. John noted that he felt that the group had done well in;

- Succeeding to raise the profile of the Industry with the Scottish Government beyond the Rural Affairs department.
- Successfully engaging with SDS and moving forward the skills programme.
- Successfully expanded the group to capture more of the supply chain and some additional Industry expertise.
- Through the Forestry Futures Programme, successfully engaging in the low carbon construction field and the carbon benefits/information story through Wood First Plus.
- Through the group's agendas considering a range of Industry issues to identify if there is anything further needed to be done by the ILG - this resulting in sponsored partnership projects between Confor/FCS on the new production forecasts; and
- Recently in conjunction with Confor and FCS, we helping to create a more sustainable Regional Group structure and programme of activity.

JK also reflected on areas where there could be further improvements:

- SFTTLG has been less strategic in the consideration of the future than we might have been.
- Industry could be better engaged in guiding the agenda and the forward programme for ILG.
- SFTTLG could and should be doing more to promote our Industry and our importance to the Scottish economy as a whole but also the rural economy in particular.



JK raised the ILG's role in acting as an industry vehicle for influencing SE and SG, and is the group using this opportunity well enough?

Many attendees agreed there is a lack of industry engagement and a significant level of apathy. A key issue highlighted was – how does the Group relate to, and communicate with the industry between meetings? Some members noted that primary processors and larger companies have more to gain from the meetings.

It was agreed that there is the tendency for the ILG to spend a lot of time on the same issues (which are also raised and debated elsewhere), but needs to spend more time on the bigger more strategic issues and opportunities. The ILG also needs to link and work closer with other groups around these opportunities.

Some members noted that the lack of industry feedback may be due to the diverse nature of the business sectors the ILG covers.

Some believe that over the past 3 years we have a much clearer understanding of the context that the industry sits in and where it needs to go, thanks to the work of colleagues like JK, CB and AM. EcoBuild was used as an example to show where external influences can greatly help companies.

AM commented that SFTTLG's role in guiding SE's activities needs to be by directing towards actions which would not otherwise happen, and which would make a significant difference and impact. The SFTTLG and the industry need to focus more on and articulate these areas of opportunity.

It was agreed that a thorough discussion on the future of the SFTTLG would take place at July's meeting. JK agreed to stay in post until this work was completed.

- Discussion 'Where to Take SFTTLG' to be the main agenda item of next SFTTLG (most other items to be postponed) – ALL
- Discussion paper to be constructed with contributions from smaller regional players (as well as larger players) - SG

8. AOB – CB & AL

Events - Regional Meetings

Timber Treatment Project Request for Funding Support - on behalf of AB, AL talked to the 'Proposal for a field trial of UK softwoods used in ground contact applications' paper (previously circulated). The WPA project will look into why fencing treatments are lasting much shorter time than planned. The project will cost about £80k and WPA is looking for around 50% contribution from SFTTLG/SE. JK highlighted the importance of this work.

- An SE contribution to the WPA project to be considered – AM

JK announced that CB will be leaving the group as textiles has moved into the food and drink area within SE. The group thanked CB for her highly valued contribution to SFTTLG over the years.

Next meeting – Thursday 11th July, 10.00 – 12.30, Apex House

DATE	ACTION	WHO	STATUS
29/03/12	Feedback on the strategy, good news stories and case studies to be sent to JM.	ALL	
11/12/12	Youth Employment (CM to sort speaker – probably James Ogilvy, good stories required from GW and others); Low Carbon Construction (with input from CS ILG); Wood for Good (presenters David Hopkins & Stewart Harper to touch on carbon topic); Update on GW's Work / New Ideas (GW); Horizon 2020 and Scale & Threat of Pests & Diseases (CM to sort speaker) to be added to the forward agenda.	JM / CM / GW	
11/04/13 & 29/03/12	The SDI detailed export report of results to be circulated to all SFTTLG members.	JM TO CHASE ANGELA	
11/04/13	Forestry education letter to Aberdeen University – Follow-up to be made and update to be given at next SFTTLG meeting.	DM	
11/04/13	Scottish Government response regarding possible lower emission levels for materials query to be circulated to SFTTLG members.	JM	
11/04/13	ILG to be kept up to date with 'Grown in Britain' work	SG	
11/04/13	Anyone interested in participating in the Construction Innovation Centre Steering Group to contact SG	ALL	
11/04/13	Discussion 'Where to Take SFTTLG' to be the main agenda item of next SFTTLG (most other items to be postponed)	ALL	
11/04/13	Discussion paper to be constructed with contributions from smaller regional players (as well as larger players)	SG	
11/04/13	An SE contribution to the WPA project to be considered	AM	