



PRESS RELEASE

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Potential for an immediate lift in construction growth – Lord O’Neill

Construction leaders are to put together an ‘instant growth’ package to further boost activity in the sector following the Autumn Statement.

The Strategic Forum for Construction welcomed steps announced last week by Chancellor George Osborne to stimulate the industry. The Autumn Statement reflects an increasing recognition of the contribution that the sector can make to growth.

But with the economy facing major challenges on the road to recovery, the Strategic Forum for Construction believes that the industry must do more to support the government, identifying further new opportunities to kick-start this growth.

In response the leading clients, professional bodies, contractors, specialists and product suppliers represented on the Forum have agreed to collaborate to provide updated guidance to government.

The Strategic Forum will take proposals to government, identifying additional opportunities to boost activity and create employment. This action plan will look specifically at how to stimulate the sector in the short-to-medium term, ensuring that the industry provides its greatest support at time when the country is likely to need it most.

Strategic Forum for Construction chairman Lord O’Neill said: *“The Autumn Statement rightly focused on our industry as a potential engine room for economic recovery, cutting through barriers to development and funding a range of strategically important projects”.*

“But much of this investment will not kick in until 2013 and beyond. As a major contributor to the economic success of the UK, we believe that the construction industry could do more to fill in this gap, ramping up activity over the coming year. This will keep people in work and companies in business”.

“It is vital that the industry as a whole comes up with robust proposals, and I am therefore pleased that members of the Forum have agreed to back this initiative. Having developed an action plan we look forward to engaging with government, working in partnership to boost output in the industry in 2012”.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

The Strategic Forum for Construction is the only construction forum that seeks to represent the whole of the construction community. It comprises senior members of the constituent organisations. The Forum's activities are both proactive and reactive but at all times seek to work in partnership across the industry to achieve long term improvements. The membership of the Strategic Forum comprises:

- Construction Clients Group
- Construction Alliance and the UK Contractors Group
- Construction Industry Council
- Construction Products Association
- National Specialist Contractors' Council
- Specialist Engineering Contractors Group
- Trades Union Council.

1) **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

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