



After the disruption and political turmoil of the past few years, we're hoping for a more settled 2023. However, with the energy crisis looming, war still ongoing in Ukraine and cost-of-living affecting the industry, 2023 looks set to be bumpy once more.

As we begin 2023, construction has a huge contribution to make; to the country's net zero pledges, to help tackle the housing crisis, to delivering new infrastructure, retrofitting the public and private estate to improve sustainability and prepare buildings for a digital future, as well as adopting digital techniques to improve sustainability throughout the supply chain.

Government commitments to social value and improving the environment will be a major obstacle for the industry to tackle, but the commitment to use of SMEs is a bright light for suppliers.

As the government begins to implement new procurement rules, we will hopefully see a more robust supply chain and growth for SMES.

Research of our valued readers has been conducted and we have identified a number of key sectors for our community, which will focus our content over the next year.

Procurement

Following government consultation on procurement changes, new rules are currently going through Parliament. What does this mean for suppliers? What are the challenges we need to overcome to improve SME collaboration and social value improvements? Throughout the year we will consider:

- **Procurement changes**
- **SME integration**
- **Supply Chain and the import and export of materials**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Skills shortage**
- **Regulations and legislation**
- **Private sector investment**
- **Planning**
- **Construction law**

Submissions

These are accepted on a rolling basis for online content.

Features must be non-commercial and exclusive to Construction Online.

Content: approx. 800 words plus images

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Infrastructure

Infrastructure has long been the star pupil of the construction industry, consistently remaining in growth over the past quarters. The November Spending Review saw the Government continue to its promises of investment and levelling up infrastructure, with a number of major projects getting the green light. But what will a new government mean for infrastructure and how we will continue to invest in this important area.

This subject focuses on developments within infrastructure, digitisation, sustainability and case studies.

- **Transport: Rail, roads, aviation, ports, waterways**
- **Utilities - cabling, water - AMP programmes, waste-water, EV charging network**
- **Energy - nuclear, wind, solar, offshore**
- **Infrastructure and major projects: HS2, Thames Tideway, Crossrail**
- **Government Transforming Infrastructure Performance Plan**
- **National Infrastructure Pipeline**
- **National Infrastructure Strategy and the Spending Review**
- **Digital infrastructure - 5G, fibre broadband, communications network, smart homes, smart motorways**
- **Defence Infrastructure Organisation**
- **Flooding: flood defences, tidal flood schemes, SUDS**
- **Housing infrastructure / social infrastructure**
- **Supply chain**
- **logistics**

Digitisation / Technology

Both productivity and decarbonisation of the industry will be benefitted by the introduction of emerging technologies into the industry. The government is looking for a sea-change within the construction industry, to bring it forward with digitisation and invest in Modern Methods of Construction, as well as achieving net zero by 2050. This topic looks at the adoption of technology within the industry, and its progression. Government reports have identified problems in production and processes and want construction to follow a more manufacturing model for building, we look at the processes this involves and how we can speed up building.

- **New technologies**
- **Software**
- **Drones**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Offsite manufacturing**
- **BIM**
- **IOT**
- **Cloud software**
- **Cyber security**
- **Site security**
- **Intelligent buildings**
- **Supply chain**
- **AR**
- **VR**
- **Digital twins**
- **Data**
- **Green technology**



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Sustainability & Social Value

The construction industry and buildings themselves are huge contributors to emissions and tackling this will go a long way to helping the government achieve its Net Zero targets.

New Government policy places both sustainability and social value at the forefront of procurement decisions. What will this mean for the industry and SMES.

The Public Sector and private clients are asking more and more for green technology and sustainable designs. The sustainability focus looks at how adopting Modern Methods of Construction and digital technology can lead to greater energy savings during and post-construction.

- **Offsite manufacture**
- **Energy consumption**
- **Intelligent buildings**
- **Electric vehicle charging network**
- **Supply chain**
- **Suds**
- **Flooding**
- **Energy/ carbon footprint**
- **Clean growth plan**
- **Plant – old plant & equipment is a big environmental challenge**
- **Materials**
- **Construction waste and recycling**
- **Social Value**

Skills & Training

With a well-publicised skills crisis underway, less workers coming from the EU workers, and the industry losing talent from every sector, we look at what is being done to encourage young people into construction. While the construction industry attempts to make the most of new technologies, we also look at training within the industry and how upskilling employees is vital. Research from City & Guilds Group shows that one in 20 construction companies believe their workforce doesn't have the necessary skills for now or the future; a comprehensive policy addressing the issue is sought industry-wide.

- **Apprentices/apprenticeships – national apprenticeship week (march)**
- **Skills shortage – Brexit, EU workers**
- **Professional development**
- **Upskilling & training**
- **Leadership**
- **Health & safety**
- **Software, new technologies and green technologies**
- **Brexit**
- **Mental health**

*Of course, our usual current affairs and project news will also be delivered,
with other topics regularly covered including:*

- **Housing and the housing crisis**
- **Health & Safety**
- **Legislation and regulation**
- **Regionality**