

CIOB Welsh Election 2021 Manifesto: Our vision for the built environment in Wales



Foreword

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) recognises the vision and direction set out for Wales in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and in doing so, fully embraces the seven goals it identifies as necessary for improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The built environment lies at the heart of well-being in Wales, and, as a significant contributor to the Welsh economy, the construction industry must take a leading role in advancing the seven goals as set out in the Act.

As the largest professional body for construction managers the CIOB has a vital part to play in supporting the delivery of these goals, and this manifesto sets out our vision to improve well-being in Wales. To this end, the CIOB and its members in Wales have identified three areas that we believe require urgent attention.

The construction industry in Wales has a moral obligation to improve the quality and safety of our buildings and structures. We will work with the next Government to ensure safer and better-quality buildings and we call on the Government to increase its investment in construction and to adopt the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety.

We are aware of the need to have a well-qualified, diverse workforce that has the capability to deliver modern methods of construction as well as the skills to preserve our built heritage. We will continue to play our part in advancing the skills and knowledge needed for our technical and professional workforce and will seek to work with the future Welsh Government to develop qualifications and training that support the industry's future skills needs.

The CIOB is fully committed to the net zero agenda and accepts the construction industry must adapt and modernise its practices in order to effectively contribute to achieving decarbonisation in Wales. This manifesto calls for an accelerated and coordinated retrofit education and training programme that will equip construction professionals in the skills they will need to decarbonise our built environment.

The CIOB firmly believes that its members in Wales are in a strong position to support the delivery of its vision for the future and this manifesto is a realistic platform to launch our proposals towards advancing the collective goals that underpin the Well-being of Future Generations Act.



Gerald Naylor FCIOB
CIOB Wales Hub Chair

Introduction

The quality of our built environment affects every member of society. It influences productivity and well-being at home and at work. It creates and maintains the places that people live, work and play in, the infrastructure that supports them and the services that sustain them.

Much has changed since the last election in Wales, with the UK formally exiting the European Union and the Covid-19 pandemic affecting almost every aspect of life. At the same time, the climate emergency risks exacerbating the inequalities that the pandemic has exposed and demands urgent action if we are to secure the future of our planet.

While the pandemic has brought immense difficulty to so many, it has also highlighted the strength of our communities. The construction sector has demonstrated its strengths as it helped to support the economy throughout lockdown, and its resilience, flexibility and dedication will be essential as we begin to build back and shape a Wales that is fit for future generations.

We continue to face long-standing challenges that pre-date the pandemic. Moving forward, we must answer important questions about how we plan to improve the quality and sustainability of our buildings, and how we will equip current and future members of the industry with the skills they need to create this change.

Ahead of the 2021 Senedd elections, the CIOB has set out its vision for the future of the built environment in Wales, developed in close consultation with our members in Wales. We stand ready to work with the future Welsh Government to help to improve the quality of life for users and creators of the Welsh built environment.



The Welsh construction industry is the **fifth largest employer in Wales**, providing over 100,000 jobs directly, and supporting many others which are reliant on the industry.



It contributes around **6% of GDP** to the Welsh economy.



There are nearly **13,500 construction businesses**, with the majority of them micro-sized firms (as of 2019).

What we need from the Welsh Government

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 gives Wales the ambition, permission and legal obligation to improve its social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being.

Supporting Future Generations

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to consider the long-term impact of their decisions, work better with people, communities and each other, and tackle persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The Act is unique to Wales and offers a significant opportunity to drive positive change that benefits current and future generations.

The Act sets out seven goals for well-being that public bodies must work towards achieving:

- **A prosperous Wales**
- **A resilient Wales**
- **A healthier Wales**
- **A more equal Wales**
- **A Wales of cohesive communities**
- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**
- **A globally responsible Wales**

Although the construction industry is not specifically named under the Act, it is clear that it is at the heart of these goals and has a key role in understanding how design, planning and building can have a lasting impact on future generations.

Our buildings need to be more resource efficient, using less energy, water and other materials if they are to adapt to cope with the climate change experts expect will take place over the coming decades. They need also to be updated to match the extraordinary change technology is creating in how we live and work.

To achieve these ambitions, the CIOB is calling on the future Welsh Government to:

- ✓ **Increase its investment in construction, to create safe, high-quality new buildings and improve and adapt existing properties, to ensure they are fit for purpose for the future generations that will use them.**
- ✓ **Implement the findings of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety to continue to lead on improving existing standards of building safety and quality, and to ensure that funding is made available to adequately support this reform.**
- ✓ **Ringfence funding for the development of degree-apprenticeships in key areas of shortage, including construction management, quantity surveying, facility management and building design.**
- ✓ **Develop an accelerated and coordinated retrofit education and training programme in colleges and universities, as well as the private sector, to train construction technicians and professionals in the skills they will need to decarbonise our existing building stock.**

The CIOB in Wales

The CIOB is the world's largest and most influential professional body for construction management and leadership. Our 45,000-strong global membership encompasses decision makers across all built environment disciplines, from planning and design to construction, sustainability and facilities management.

With nearly 1,500 members in Wales, our members have led, or taken senior positions, on some of Wales' most high-profile projects, including the Senedd in Cardiff, the International

Convention Centre in Newport and the Grange University Hospital in Cwmbran, as well as thousands of smaller commercial and residential schemes in both the public and private sectors.

Supporting careers in construction has been at the heart of the CIOB's work in Wales. In 2015, we co-launched the first ever Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship in Construction Site Supervision and since then have gone on to develop two Level 5 Higher Apprenticeships in Construction Management and Quantity Surveying in 2018.

These apprenticeships are unique, working with consortiums of employers and training providers to develop robust content and ensure the qualifications are developed by the sector, for the sector.

Our training programmes also offer student membership of the CIOB and are designed for seamless progression to higher level study, ensuring equal opportunities for upwards social mobility.

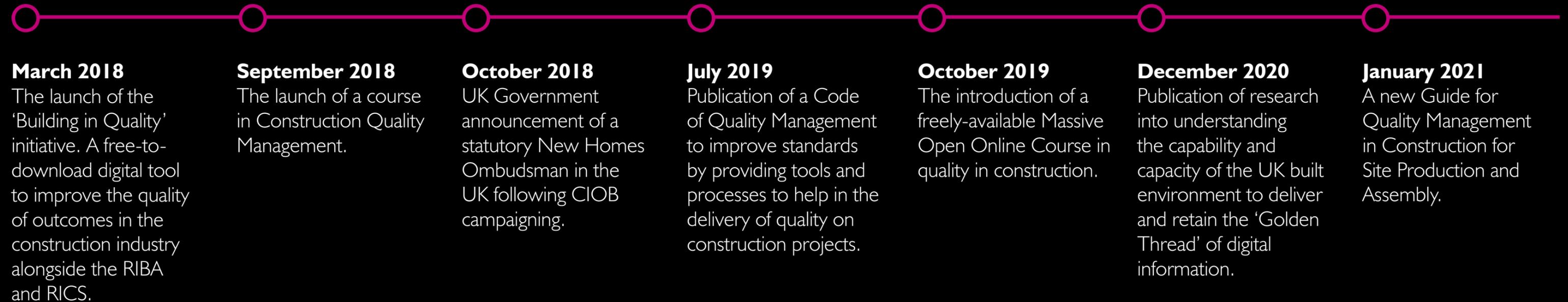
Collaboration is central to our work in Wales. We regularly work with our sister bodies and trade groups to ensure a one voice approach on key issues affecting Wales, for example through our support and alignment on the conditions needed to improve construction in Constructing Excellence in Wales' Building Back Wales report in June 2020. We recognise the time for change is now and the industry must work collectively to maintain regular and consistent dialogue with the Government to enact our vision for Wales.

The CIOB's vision for the future – The importance of build quality and safety

Quality is critical. It is about the greater public good we expect from our buildings to promote human health, safety and wellbeing as well as addressing today's numerous social, cultural, environmental and economic concerns.

In June 2017, we launched a Construction Quality Commission made up of past CIOB Presidents to investigate the issues of quality in the sector and address what needs to be done to improve it. The Commission has been involved in, and led on, several CIOB initiatives to improve quality and safety, documented in the timeline below.

We continue to be active in driving building safety reform with representation on the UK Government's Industry Safety Steering Group to drive the Building Safety Programme and deliver cultural change in construction industry.



The CIOB's vision for the future

I. Build quality and safety

The Welsh construction industry is the fifth largest employer in Wales, providing over 100,000 jobs and making up approximately 6% of the GDP. The industry is therefore ideally placed to put Wales quickly on the path to economic recovery.

Construction and maintenance is a key economic driver, and looking forward, investment in both repair and maintenance of the existing building stock, as well as the construction of new buildings, will be vital to rebuilding the Welsh economy, implementing building safety reform and reaching net zero.

As well as providing a crucial economic boost, investing now in the construction of new hospitals, educational buildings, recreational facilities and affordable, energy efficient housing will create a Welsh built environment that leaves a legacy of quality for future generations. This will have far-reaching effects beyond just the economy, and will create positive outcomes for healthcare, living and learning standards across Wales.

Additional investment in construction will also help to secure stable, long-term employment for existing members of the industry, as well as opening opportunities for the upskilling and training of new entrants, supporting the effective transfer of skills from industries currently undergoing structural change as a result of the pandemic.

Quality, or rather the failure of quality, is arguably the most important issue facing the construction industry today.

The CIOB is committed to ensuring that the principles outlined in the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety are fully implemented, and we have been active in driving building safety reform at an industry and regulatory level. Our recently published Guide to Quality Management in Construction aims to provide a single point of information on quality management to establish best practice for site production and assembly.

Key to improving quality will be an industry-wide shift in culture, and the future Welsh Government must challenge the industry in Wales to build better.

- ✓ **We are calling for the next Government to increase its investment in construction, to create safe, high-quality new buildings and improve and adapt existing properties, to ensure they are fit for purpose for the future generations that will use them.**
- ✓ **We urge the Government to implement the findings of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety to continue to lead on improving existing standards of building safety and quality, and to ensure that funding is made available to adequately support this reform.**



The CIOB's vision for the future

2. Education, skills and training

There are numerous construction-related recommendations which address skills development in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Welsh Government will have to work closely with industry if it is to address the significant skills shortages currently affecting the construction industry in Wales and support the industry to attract diverse entrants from all walks of life, and prepare for the digital and low-carbon skills that will be needed going forward.

The Construction Leadership Council's (CLC) Industry Skills Plan identifies several enablers which will be needed to tackle the sector's skills challenge. These include:

- **Enhanced work experience**
- **Industry-education links**
- **Technical-professional progression**
- **Modern qualifications that meet future needs**
- **Net zero skills**
- **Digitisation**

The Cardiff City Regional Skills Partnership Plan finds that the UK Government Apprenticeship Levy has influenced employer expectations and behaviour in Wales. All universities in the region report an appetite amongst employers for a wide range of degree-apprenticeship programmes, including those at master's level. In some cases, these expectations are being driven by the broad and expanding degree-apprenticeship offer in England, and demand is coming from across a broad range of sectors and companies, including construction management and quantity surveying.

The CIOB in Wales has successfully developed two higher apprenticeships in construction management and quantity surveying. These are currently being offered as part of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) portfolio of construction qualifications, and together with industry and UWTSD, the CIOB Wales Hub is working towards creating degree-apprenticeships to be made available once the Welsh Government has released further funds for these.

✓ **We are calling on the future Welsh Government to ringfence funding for the development of degree-apprenticeships in key areas of shortage, including construction management, quantity surveying, facility management and building design.**

In order to support the development of degree-apprenticeships, the CIOB recommends that:

- The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the higher education sector works with construction industry employers to build a convincing case for the development and Government funding of degree-apprenticeships in key areas of shortage.
- The CIOB and Local Authority Building Control jointly investigate the re-establishment of qualifications leading to the recognition of Clerks of Work. Formal acknowledgement by stakeholders of this vital role will contribute to essential improvements in quality.
- The CITB, CIOB and Qualifications Wales collaborate on a clear education and training progression path, from craft all the way to professional qualifications.
- The Welsh Government and the CITB expand and enhance workplace experiences for full-time construction students in the secondary, further and higher education sectors.

The CIOB's vision for the future

3. Net Zero

Awareness of the urgent need to tackle the climate emergency is growing, and delaying action is not an option. With targets being set for 20-to-30-years' time, difficult decisions must be taken before it is too late for future Welsh Governments to deliver impactful action.

As the UK prepares to host the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference, Wales has a vital opportunity to demonstrate its position at the vanguard of the UK nations in leading climate action. This will build upon the unprecedented legal framework that underpins the nation's commitment to achieving net zero, under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Environmental Act 2016.

As a member of the Building Sector Working Group interfacing with the Welsh Government, the CIOB is actively advising on the decarbonisation of Wales' built environment, to ensure a long-term roadmap with viable targets that the industry can deliver. The CIOB is calling on the UK Government to implement the Construction Leadership Council's National Retrofit Strategy, which will provide a long-term policy framework that will help the industry to scale up systematically to meet the volume of work required to retrofit the existing housing stock.

If the ambitious retrofit targets in Wales are to be met, the Welsh Government will need to ensure that we have enough qualified individuals who can specify, design, install, manage, and maintain this work. At the same time, it is vital to educate the users on the correct use of the retrofit solutions if we are all to benefit from this massive remit.

Whilst the current Welsh Government has recognised the sustainable benefits of home-grown timber, a coordinated approach will be vital to achieving significant growth in the delivery of buildings using indigenous timber sources. It is accepted that no single partner can meet the aspiration of zero carbon, without the coordination and commitment to the wider built environment, including manufacturers, planners, designers, contractors and, of course, clients.

The construction industry is already well equipped to measure embodied carbon both in buildings and what is used across the wider supply chain. To strengthen our compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and carbon monitoring, we believe there is a significant opportunity for the next Welsh Government to work with the sector to introduce a clear metric and target for carbon reduction on construction and infrastructure projects.

- ✓ **We recommend that the future Government develop an accelerated and coordinated retrofit education and training programme in colleges and universities, as well as the private sector, to train construction technicians and professionals in the skills they will need to decarbonise our existing building stock.**

- ✓ **We recommend that the future Welsh Government works in partnership with the construction industry, timber suppliers, local authorities and specialists such as Wood Knowledge Wales, to ensure that a joined-up, sustainable approach is taken to the uptake of home-grown timber.**

- ✓ **We recommend that the future Welsh Government, the forty four public bodies in Wales, those they fund and their sub-groups, to implement a carbon metric, in their feasibility, planning delivery and operation of its own built environment.**

How you can get involved

For candidates in the 2021 Welsh election



Speak to CIOB members about how construction is making a difference to the lives of people in Wales. Contact the CIOB Wales hub lclarke@ciob.org.uk



Engage with us and let us know your thoughts on our priority areas by email policy@ciob.org.uk or via tweet [@theCIOB](https://twitter.com/theCIOB)



Show your support and speak to your constituents about our key asks to highlight how you can support the construction sector.

For construction industry professionals



Use our online tool to get in touch with your local candidates and share your vision for the construction sector in Wales.



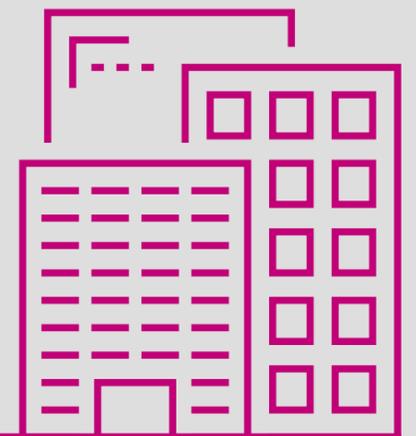
Take a look at our election resources webpage detailing further information on what the political parties are saying in their manifestos.

[Election resources ▶](#)



Sign up for the CIOB policy team monthly newsletter which will cover the results of the Senedd elections.

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