

#HousingAction2023

Summer Conference Programme 2023

Thursday 13 July at SBARC Cardiff 9.30am-3pm



Action Notes

Initial Priorities for Action

Two areas were identified that needed urgent action where we felt the alliance and the sector could rapidly mobilise expertise.

1. Improving Collaborative Procurement:

- There was scope for doing better on procurement than counting post codes on final sales invoices;
- There should be a focus on localising supply chains and developing collaborative resources eg shared teams;
- Developing social value clauses that SMEs can respond to;
- Creating a procurement project group;
- Defining a more proactive role for housing organisations in supporting SMEs;

Action: The Alliance will support the establishment of a community of practice and identify sources of external funding to develop a project.

2. Developing A Net Zero Skills Plan because:

- Green skills development is proceeding very slowly;
- There are clearly significant gaps in capacity to deliver eg contractors, colleges etc;
- There are a number of potential partners who we could work with including Colegau Cymru, Welsh Timber, CHC and CIH; clarity on WHQS2
- The need to firm up standards eg WHQS2 and other specifics for (with) training providers eg specific skills, volumes, pipeline, timescales etc;
- There were other opportunities for innovations eg entrepreneurial skills in the community, skills for in-house teams, carbon literacy in schools;

Action: The Alliance will support the establishment of a community of practice and identify sources of external funding to develop a project.

An additional opportunity has emerged to bring Karbon Homes (and partners in North East England) together with Welsh housing organisations to identify, write up and share cases of good practice.

Action: Set up a small working group of volunteers to discuss which cases, what target audiences (when practitioner and academic requirements are different) and we have a choice of outlets eg web site, WhatsApp groups etc.

Other Themes and Potential Areas for Action

These included making sure that the voice of tenants was heard because our ultimate aim should be to give citizens agency to 'live the lives they have reason to value'.

Action: explore setting up a community of practice to share learning on what organisations are doing to engage with citizens and communities and make informed decisions and work with others already in this space eg TPAS, Wales Copro network, Cwmpas/Can Do;

Other ideas for collaborative action identified that there wasn't time to fully explore included:

- Supporting Anti-Poverty Alliance(s);
- Workforce initiatives eg the four day week;
- Sustainable models for the sector that went beyond 'building our way out of a crisis';
- Ways to free up resources / bandwidth / time / breaking the cycle / sharing system change;
- Joint work with Health and Social Care eg joined up strategies for people exiting hospital;
- Initiatives to break down the silos separating actors like Welsh Government, Colleges etc;
- Managing data and identifying area for further research;
- Community shares / community equity;
- Repurposing unused land and assets;
- Defining the roles of housing associations in regeneration - the 'local presence to anchor-leader' spectrum / dilemma.

Action: Prioritise and plan areas for further work.