

H I V I Z

Southern Construction Framework News

ISSUE 1
Summer



- Spotlight
- Latest News

- Contractor Profile
- Events - Awards - Workshops

Welcome...

To the first edition of HI VIS.

This publication brings you the latest news from the Southern Construction Framework (SCF), including features from the South East, South West and London Construction Frameworks. It also provides current industry news and updates on events, awards and workshops. Our aim at SCF is to bring you the very latest and most relevant information.

Contents

- Spotlight	3
- Latest news	4 - 7
- Contractor Profile - Midas	8 - 9
- Events, Awards, Workshops	10 - 14
- Useful Contacts	15

Exciting times ahead!

The new £4bn Southern Construction Framework launch was an opportunity for the new framework contractors to meet the framework management team, representatives of public authorities from the South West, South East and London Regions, and to commit to the objectives and strategies of the new framework.

The day saw the launch of the new SCF brand superseding the past generations of SECE, iESE, CFSW and LCF supported by a new video explaining the operation of the framework and case study presentations. The day was attended by more than 70 people, representing the framework itself, 18 public authorities who will benefit, and the 11 framework contractors.

The event received very positive feedback. Delegates felt it was a big step forward in the professional approach to the operation of frameworks, with many welcome improvements.

Since the launch of the framework on 29 April 2015, the framework has been going from strength to strength. Almost £50m of construction work has been procured so far and together with the forward pipeline of construction work across the SCF region we are on target to procure circa £400m in the first year proving that SCF is becoming the best and fastest route to public body procurement.

We have introduced a new, streamlined, faster Contractor Selection (Mini Competition) process which has been well received by the contracting authorities and their project teams who have used the process. This is supported by a new suite of Practice Guides, which is available on request by emailing info@southernconstructionframework.org.uk.

Following the launch, the first continuous work groups have made some good progress reviewing how the financial control, handover and aftercare and pre-construction processes may be improved and simplified.

Demand plans for the framework level apprentices have been submitted. Work is underway with CITB and the Shared Apprenticeship Schemes to appoint the first cohort of over 40 site technician apprentices in the autumn of 2015, in response to the SCF Employment and Skills Strategy.



Latest News

On the alert for fraud

Work has begun to raise awareness of a national problem of fraud, which is not just limited to the construction industry. Southern Construction Framework (SCF) contractors have already taken steps to ensure clients don't get caught out and how to prepare should any fraudster call you while working at your desk.

Please continue to be on the alert for bogus and fraudulent attempts by organised criminals into tricking you into changing the bank details you hold in relation to payments to your contractors and clients. Much of the time project information is found by criminals on-line or within publications/alerts or in newspapers articles.



Warning signs:

Telephone call



To local bodies asking (phishing) staff for information which will then be used to increase their chances of success. This includes asking for the names or direct telephone numbers of people in your accounts payable department, or the supplier reference number for a particular supplier.

Fake Letter



Soon after a fake letter will then be sent pretending to be from the company who are actually doing the work. These letters look genuine and have the correct logo and company directors signature. The letter asks if their bank details held on your systems can be changed.

Bogus email



Occasionally this will be followed up by a bogus email.

All our contractors follow these simple rules which will help you tackle this low risk but high impact problem across the UK in all areas of procurement and business.

SCF and our contractors recommend that all notifications of a change in bank details are validated before processing. Ray McAuley Framework Director for Morgan Sindall and Southern Construction Framework advises people when obtaining validation to:

NOT assume that the notification is real simply because it is on a letter headed paper or even where it provides detailed contract or invoice information.

DO NOT use the phone number or email provided on the notification – this may be unconnected with the genuine company. Particularly look out for similar looking email addresses.

ALWAYS use the phone number obtained from the company's website or a number/email address that you have previously validated. Ideally speak to someone within the organisation with whom you already have a relationship.

ALWAYS make a note of the call and share it with your team.

DO NOT shortcut your validation process because the notification is marked 'urgent' or is accompanied by pressuring phone calls.

LOOK OUT for poor spelling and grammar in the notification. This is not a guarantee that the notification is fraudulent but should raise alarm bells.

If you are suspicious always contact the contractor at their head offices so any requests can be verified, and report the matter to your line manager who will follow up using established reporting procedures.

What's new in the procurement industry?

New rules for procuring goods and services

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2015/february/public-procurement-reforms-come-into-force-across-most-of-the-uk/>

The Public Contracts Regulations

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/102/contents/made>

The New Public Contracts Regulations 2015

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/PDF/New-Public-Contracts-Regulations-2015.pdf>

Changes to health and safety regulations:

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

New to CDM or unsure what it's all about?

Watch the CITB short video which explains the basics of CDM 2015 at <http://www.citb.co.uk/health-safety-and-other-topics/health-safety/construction-design-and-management-regulations/>

What's new in the construction industry?

There has never been a better time to use CFSW and SCF. UK building firms reported bulging order books in June to defy previous forecasts of a slow and steady recovery after the general election.

The Office for National Statistics said construction was not such a struggle for the wider economy in the first quarter of 2015.

Previous figures resulted in economic growth rising to 0.4% in the first quarter of the year rather than the 0.3% previously estimated.

Evidence linked greater new business volumes to rising client confidence and improving business conditions across the UK economy as a whole. Also an upturn in job creation across the construction sector was also a prominent factor in June.

Stefan Friedhoff, a spokesman for Lloyds Bank's commercial lending arm, said the industry was struggling to reap the benefits of the recovery as skills shortages and rising input prices squeezed profit margins.

"There is confidence in the market, particularly given the business environment has become more stable over the past two months. Despite this and record order books, however, on going price sensitivity continues to put margins under huge pressure," he said.

"Unfortunately, the causes of this – a shortage of suppliers and labour, project delays and demanding clients, among other things – are long-term industry issues likely to ensure slim margins remain for the foreseeable future."

SCF and CFSW are ensuring a lasting construction employment industry legacy by raising the profile of the industry across all levels by encouraging and enabling the next generation to join this rewarding and innovative career.

More details can be found in the next issue of HI VIZ.



State-of-the-art higher education facilities



Construction Framework South West are currently working with Petroc College to deliver state-of-the-art higher education facilities worth £10.8m at their campus in Barnstaple, North Devon.

The project sees ISG working to deliver two new buildings, a new engineering facility and a new-build lifestyle and tourism centre, containing a walk-in salon and training restaurant.

Reaching an important milestone, the framework recently celebrated the engineering block becoming watertight, holding an open evening event with attendance from local businesses and students at the new facility.

Delivering four schools for Dorset County Council

Using Construction Framework South West (CFSW) SCF are working with Dorset County Council to deliver four schools worth a combined value of £12.4 million, as part of a major investment in local education provision.

The new schools have been developed with a baseline design methodology to maximise build and cost efficiency and have enabled us to share our expertise delivering both baseline and model school projects (Class Space). Several versions of Class Space have now been delivered in the SW for the given budget, meeting with universal praise from the end user schools, making this a proven product. For more information please contact the South West office on 01392 382444.

Contractor Profile:

COMPANY DETAILS

Midas Construction Limited currently provides a complete range of construction related services – refurbishment, new build, design and build, project management – across numerous sectors, including industrial, commercial, education, health, leisure, and residential, for private and public sector clients.

SCF AND MIDAS

Midas brings to the SCF Framework a breath of knowledge and professional expertise ranging from complete design and construction solutions across a wide range of sectors. They have 7 offices operating in the South West.

The contractor will be collaborating with the South West and South East on Lot 1 and 2.

Benefits to the Framework will be their commitment to provide:

- Industry leading levels of customer service
- Long-term partnerships with customers at a local level
- Consistent delivery of leading edge performance
- Positive legacies in the communities and the environment in which works are undertaken

Using their local knowledge and skills, Midas will enable SCF to work in close partnership with the local supply chain partners to give our clients a highly personalised service. This will also allow the Framework to deliver tailored solutions for every customer and project.

Key team members include:

Derek Quinn - Framework Director
Martin Bailey - Framework Account Manager - Key Contact SW
Jon Gates - Key Contact SE

FINANCIAL FACTS

Most recent revenues:

- Year ended 30 April 2015 – Turnover of £180m (draft unaudited)

Most recent profits:

- Year ended 30 April 2015 – Profit before Tax - £0.8m (draft unaudited)

- 2012 - 2015 Business growth of 45%

COMPANY SPECIALISM

Since the 1970's, the Midas Group has been trusted to deliver a diverse range of projects, including refurbishments and fit outs, construction projects, interior and retail schemes as well as property development and energy solutions, across a variety of sectors.

As a regional contractor with a local supply chain, employing local people and a long standing commitment to the local communities in which we work, we are able to create a positive lasting legacies for future generations. Our unrivalled levels of customer service and uncompromised quality has resulted in the Midas Group going from strength to strength, despite sometimes harsh market challenges.

Every Midas employee is fully committed to delivering industry leading performance and customer service, and our customers are at the heart of everything we do. We survey customer satisfaction at three key project stages to ensure we meet and exceed expectations and currently the average score at Practical Completion is 83%, measured against our target benchmark of 80%. The fact that over 3/4 of turnover results from repeat business is testament to our customer commitment.



COMPANY VISION

“To be widely acclaimed for industry leading performance and customer service”

LOCATION

Midas House, Bristol BS3 2LF (Head office)
Midas House, Cardiff CF15 7AB
Vanbrugh House, Southampton SO30 2AF
Midas House, Taunton TA1 2LR
Midas House, Exeter EX2 5WS (Registered office)
Midas Buildings, Newton Abbot TQ12 5ND
Ensign House, Plymouth PL6 8LR
Midas House, Indian Queens TR9 6T

CONTACT INFORMATION

W: www.midasgroup.co.uk
T: 01726 76304

Events - Awards - Workshops



The SCF Framework had its first Framework meeting, in Swindon on 14 July 2015. The eleven Framework contractors formally signed four charters pledging their joint commitment to some key aims and objectives of the SCF. The charters are the first of a series planned for the lifetime of the framework as demanded by its users and cover:

- Health and Safety
- Fair Payment
- Environment and Sustainability
- Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP)

The Framework will continue to be focussed on the needs of public authorities, and the drive for efficiency and value whilst respecting local social and environment requirements.



Balfour Beatty

mace

bam

midas

BOUYGUES

MORGAN SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE

GallifordTry

wates
CONSTRUCTION

isg

WILLMOTT DIXON

KIER



Highly Commended in the Leadership and People Development Award

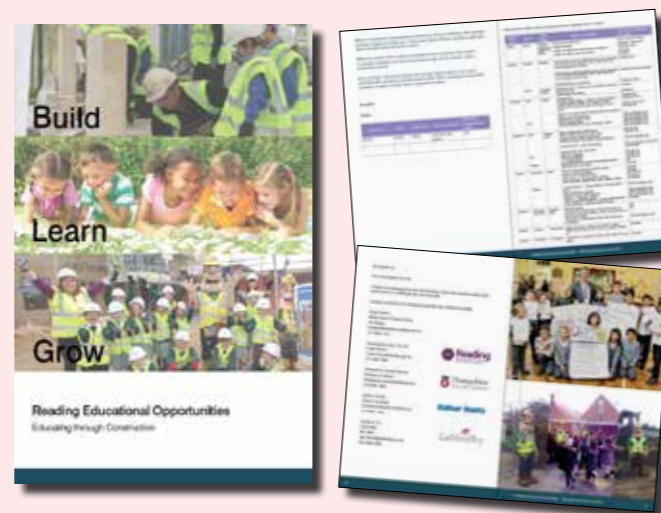
An Educational Opportunities initiative led by Hampshire County Council and Reading Borough Council has been highly commended in the 2015 Constructing Excellence Awards in London, in the South East Leadership and people development category. The ceremony was held in London on the 2nd July.

The awards focus on some of the most important issues for the sector and recognise the very best companies, collaborations and projects – sharing best practice and inspiring others to adopt new and better ways of working that deliver outstanding results. Over 540 construction industry professionals attended the awards ceremony.

The team have created an impressive educational 'Build – Learn – Grow' toolkit for schools (as illustrated below). This toolkit can be utilised by any contractor or any school. It provides a process for engagement with schools during construction activity, and an implementation plan.

It includes:

- Process maps for outline engagement strategies
- Agreed activities for the project delivery and site teams to work with the pupils
- Templates to support school timetabling



CONSTRUCTING EXCELLENCE
in London and the South East
AWARDS 2015
HIGHLY COMMENDED
LEADERSHIP AND PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

“ A school building project will not only enhance the educational provision for pupils at its completion but has the potential to be a learning opportunity from the onset of planning and throughout the build itself.

Children will acquire knowledge through the various processes and trades and, at the same time, will be able to apply this knowledge, deepen understanding and develop skills across the curriculum. ”

Val Preston - Head teacher,
Alfred Sutton Primary School

The toolkit is user-friendly, jargon free and offers activities that can be understood by pupils. This has been a cultural shift for those working in the construction sector, and both teachers and site teams collaborated closely to achieve an appropriate and successful solution.

For more information about the toolkit, please contact:

Reading Borough Council
Linda Church
Linda.church@reading.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council
Philippa Lau-Brown
Philippa.lau-brown@hants.gov.uk



Avoidance of underground services Workshops in the South West

Construction Framework South West (CFSW) and the CFSW Health and Safety forum, organised and ran another successful construction site educational workshop this time at the Rugby Football Club in Bridgewater. Their latest initiative was aimed at contractors who will or may in the future work with CFSW and their 11 principle contractors, in particular those involved in commissioning, planning, managing and carrying out work on or near underground services, as well as the owners and operators of such services.



The workshop was divided into five parts with Jon Williams (CFSW) Framework Manager introducing the speakers, who were qualified health and safety professionals from our contractors:

- Balfour Beatty - Shawn Webber: who set the scene and explained what can go wrong and the main reasons for services strikes.
- Willmott Dixon - Steve George and Mark Mortell: who worked with the delegates to agree "what good looked like" on site.
- Midas - Brian Smith: who covered the right behaviours when excavating around services.

The day included some shocking case studies that gave everyone a clear picture of the risks, but also provided delegates with the knowledge and procedures that will keep those risks to a minimum.

The day ended with a question-and-answer session facilitated by Keith Heard from SCF. Keith also noted that by running these events, CFSW continues to promote, share best practice and raise the high standards already in place across South West construction sites.

The top 12 suggestions from the workshop will be introduced across the SCF regions, with aim to be a national leader in site Health and Safety.

For more information and guidance please visit:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pUbns/priced/hsg47.pdf>
and <http://www.mappingtheunderworld.ac.uk/>



Account managers given SCF insight into two-stage open-book procurement

On 17 June the framework contractors' account managers gathered in Basingstoke for a workshop lead by Professor David Mosey, to enable them to train their colleagues on how to best implement the two stage open book procurement process and raising the standards across the framework suppliers. He was also able to address and correct the misconceptions some professionals have about the use of the two stage process for example relating to the length of time it takes to deliver projects.

Professor David Mosey is the country's leading exponent of two stage open book procurement of major works contracts. Based at King's College London David supports the Cabinet Office and the construction industry in the development and implementation of two stage open book procurement.

This train-the-trainer day covered the fundamentals of two stage open book, techniques for delivering successful projects, approaches to managing design, supply chains and risk, and how to bring it all together.

It was a very successful day at the end of which all participants were issued with a SCF Passport qualifying them as exponents of the two stage open book procurement process, "licensed" to train all staff who will be engaged in delivering SCF projects.

Keith Heard, SCF Framework Manager, thanked David for his continued support of the framework.

“**Having all framework contractors staff trained in two stage open book before they join a SCF procured project ensures a robust delivery and quality management system is in place delivering outstanding value for money for SCF clients.**”

Keith Heard
SCF Framework Manager





South West Construction Summit

The Southern Construction Framework (SCF) made a big impression at the Constructing Excellence (CE) South West Construction Summit held in Bristol on 12 June. SCF sponsored the event programme and presented one of the largest stands there.

The day was a great opportunity to network with organisations newly interested in the framework, and also with established contacts.



Facilitated by Andrew Carpenter, Chief Executive CE South West, informative and entertaining presentations centred around the projected rise in construction projects planned for the South West and the resulting pressure this is inevitably going to put on resource, material availability, social values and current skills shortages.

The most notable presentation came from Alison Watson from Class of Your Own, who discussed the traditional image of construction and the proposition that contractors might 'adopt a school' they were designing / building, with the view that they then input to the education programme introducing career opportunities in construction. The day was rounded off with a celebration dinner and award presentation.

The Central Framework Management Team based at Winchester offices of Hampshire County Council:

SCF Team:

Tel: 01962 845942

Email: info@southernconstructionframework.org.uk



The Regional Framework Management Teams for each lot are based as follows:

Lot 1

Construction Framework South West (CFSW) based at Devon County Council in Exeter:

Tel: 01392 382444

Email: cfswadmin@devon.gov.uk



Lot 2

South East 7 (SE7) represented by Hampshire County Council in Winchester:

Tel: 01962 845942

Email: scfadmin@hants.gov.uk



Lot 3

London (LCP) based at offices of Haringey Council:

Tel: 0208 489 1073

Email: LCP@haringey.gov.uk



Contact us:

For more information about how the Framework could help you with your construction plans, please contact the team.

E: info@southernconstructionframework.org.uk

T: 01962 845942

W: southernconstructionframework.org.uk

