

## NWCH: Future – Offering Solutions to Public Sector Construction Challenges

### Afternoon Break-Out Sessions (a summary of discussions held across 2 rooms)

**Q What are the key challenges in the future - within the region and locally? And how do you see them being resourced?**

We have a significant pipeline of work and the key challenge will be the capacity of NW contractors to meet our construction programme [client]

Visibility of the pipeline is essential to plan for work in the future [constructor partner]

Another challenge will be having the confidence that our work will be of interest against other client's projects [client]

There's a need to deliver the early projects well – on time and on budget [guest]

The public sector is changing so quickly that the client needs help – they don't always know what they want [client]

Open discussion of the pipeline means clients can gauge early interest in their project [guest]

Constructor partners do have the option, if declining an Expression of Interest, to say when they would be available if they can't currently resource it.

We will invest if there is a visible pipeline – we need clients to engage with us early on [contractor]

Would clients be prepared to talk about their future projects if an industry day was held? [contractor]

Client organisations have internal challenges which mean different parts have different requirements – and don't always understand the value of partnership and collaboration [client]

Reduced budgets and loss of skills within Local Authorities means there is a need to collaborate more with partners [client]

**Q What are the challenges and opportunities in delivering social value?**

There's a need to recognise that some are just construction projects and that there is no requirement for social value [client]

Some projects just don't warrant apprentices [contractor]

A centrally coordinated approach to apprenticeships with longer term planning for skills requirements is needed [client]

The Liverpool Contractors Group and GTA have been very successful in delivering apprentices [client and contractor]

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There's a need to think about quality rather than quantity with apprenticeships [guest]

Clients need to be clear on their needs for social value, or it just increases the cost (paid for by the sub-contractor) and is ultimately paid for by the client [client]

We need to be sensible about the term 'local' and also not see social value just in terms of apprenticeship creation [client]

Social value doesn't work by just asking for it and expecting it to happen, it needs to be discussed openly and honestly at an early stage of the project, the client needs to resource it, and there needs to be clarity on how it's measured [client]

By 2025 there is likely to be much more off-site manufacture. This may affect social value, but possibly an opportunity for a new generation where working off-site may be more attractive [guest]