****

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR PRESENTATION AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING ON 24thApril 2017**

**Date of Reported Meeting:** 5 April 2017

**Date of Next Meeting:** 6th July 2017

**2017 Strategic Priorities**

The FPS Executive met after the last Quarterly meeting and set out the areas of focus and specific activities against them. These were subsequently reviewed and refined so that they can presented to the Quarterly Committee for discussion and approval. (See agenda item.)

**Labour agencies**

The intention is to agree a standard of ethical business practices that can be used as a stating point for approaching labour agencies with a view to them improving their operations to meet Member expectations.

**Terms of Reference for Committees**

These are being produced by the Executive member responsible for their respective committee, and will be reviewed by the Quarterly Committee.

**Trailblazer Apprenticeship/NOS review**

An update was given. The CITB are essential to deliver the apprenticeship as there are no other registered training providers able to provide it. FPS Members will then need to provide elements of the training as a Supporting Provider, which shall require them to tender for the work from CITB. The Trailblazer development group has therefore asked that the FPS write to the CEO of the CITB and formally ask what their intentions are in relation to being a delivery partner for the Apprenticeship and what support they are considering for the External Quality Assurance process.

**Learning & Development Forum**

The suggested course of action is to form a small group that ideally consists of an MD and 3-4 others that can contribute, ideally Carl Hassell and Colin Williams. They will be tasked with setting out the current position in relation to training and development within the industry and ask Members to respond to key questions. The second stage shall be looking at the future development in line with Members priorities.

**NVQ in Geotechnical Installation**

The work for putting together a National Occupational Standard via the CITB has been formally requested. However as the CITB are being slow to assign a developer, it was proposed that the FPS move ahead with defining the course content and structure.

**Clients**

HS2 have been in contact and asked the FPS to provide the numbers of Large Bored Piling Rigs owned by Members. We have pushed back on this request and asked them for a deeper discussion on the delivery plan. (See agenda item.)

**Website**

Progress was reviewed – to be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Associate Members**

Discussion was held on the future of the scheme. The general consensus among the Executive is that we now have enough AMs. Some governance is to be drafted to set out the basis for new admissions. The proposed policy is to approach those that we wish to include who have significant value to the FPS but reject future applications from less important applicants. Current AM participation is to be kept under review in order to ensure they remain actively engaged. The AM AGM is to be held on the 6th July.

**Retention**

Martin Blower attended a breakfast meeting on retention. Build UK are seeking to end the practice by 2025 and are setting out a path to achieving this. There was a useful discussion where main contractors set out their issue in being caught in the middle between the client being slow in paying them. Some methods that are being considered on the route to 2025 include elemental retention release and smaller percentages being held at the end of a project.

**Other issues were also discussed but shall be picked up on the AGM agenda.**