

Cashing in on opportunities now

With UK construction and housebuilding output on the rise, there is growing confidence in the sector, and new measures are further increasing investment.

Sector Update

There is also a growing confidence among construction firms. The industry will likely face a further boost in the coming months with the success of the vaccine program and the loosening of lockdown restrictions.

The past year has shown the resilience of the construction industry, and has reinforced its importance to the overall economy, as the government has launched a whole swathe of initiatives and incentives to drive it forward.

Some of the announcements made in the spring budget are designed to further boost the construction and housebuilding industry and forms a key part in the UK's overall economic recovery.

Housebuilding is already returning to pre-pandemic levels, due to being exempted from the constraints of Lockdown 3.

Some of the eye-catching schemes include:

- Tax incentives – companies will benefit from a 130% capital allowance, which will encourage investment
- Green Improvement Scheme – £12bn of funding for the new infrastructure bank in Leeds. The government says the bank will accelerate the UK's progress to net-zero.
- Modern Methods of Construction – £10m of seed funding for this. The aim is to accelerate the delivery of homes built using MMC.
- Stamp Duty extension
- Mortgage guarantee scheme

The pandemic has also forced the entire construction industry to make some major changes. After an initial period of inactivity, where many building sites closed temporarily, much of the construction industry slow returned and has now built-up significant momentum.

Better planning, more health and safety measures and general productivity improvements as well as the use of new technology are just some of the improvements that construction sites have made since the coronavirus outbreak.

These changes have brought about some major benefits and the new approaches will become embedded in the industry, meaning ongoing improvements within the sector.

Early lessons for a new normal

Many sites now implement a regular 'six-week look-ahead' to forward-plan. They also conduct more detailed planning. As a result of fewer workers on site, there are also fewer materials, leading to better housekeeping.

In terms of productivity, where sites have been able to work, it is estimated there is a 50% reduction in workforce, but only a 30% reduction in output. While the aim will be to return to previously high levels of output, efficiency improvements will ultimately prove hugely beneficial. This includes fewer workers 'hanging around' waiting to start tasks. The workflow is also more streamlined, due to staggering start times. Social distancing and one-way systems mean less chatting, which again increases productivity.

The use of remote meetings has increased exponentially over recent months. IT shy people have adapted to using remote meetings to keep in touch.

More sites are using cameras and videos to share information. This technology could be useful for showing absent workers around sites, as well as architects and designers. Builders are also using cameras and videos to update clients and stakeholders on project progress.

All this is good news for the sector, as the way forward is beginning to crystalise. The critical question is – how are positioned to grow your business and grasp the opportunities as they arise?



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Many businesses will be at a crossroads in terms of their financial strength, and how they can grasp new opportunities and maximise the governments new incentives.

If you are in this position, you should contact **The Business Board**. We are experts in providing access to financial advice and funding, as well as professional business support. For many years, our unique approach to financing has allowed us to throw lifelines to countless deals that seemed unworkable.

Company owners and managers need to be aware of the challenges facing them, and fine tune their business models accordingly. Tomorrow is certain to be very different and more challenging, which means you should have the right advice and funding lines to support your financing objectives.

The Business Board will be publishing a series of complimentary White Papers over the next few weeks and months which are clear strategies to assist companies in finding the best sources of funding to suit their specific requirements.

These articles are written by business experts and specialists who have senior management experience across a broad range of sector's, and we hope you find them helpful.

For further information, please contact The Business Board.

We would like to hear from you...

As part of this series, we would like to occasionally interview some of our readers and publish their real-life stories and experiences to benefit the wider construction sector. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact us via the link below:

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