

Monday 25 February 2013

Chancellor Should Use Construction to Drive Growth

The Construction Products Association has called on the Chancellor to recognise the potential construction and product manufacturing has to drive short-term growth and enable long-term prosperity for the UK. It is vital government spend the £4.69 billion capital investment boost announced in the 2011 Autumn Statement and the additional £5.5 billion announced in December. Together these investments would provide at least an additional 0.8% growth in GDP if delivered.

Commenting, Chief Executive of the Construction Products Association, Diana Montgomery said, 'We support the government's need to address the UK's mounting debt and growth is essential in tackling this. The latest ONS figures highlight that construction output fell 8.4% during 2012 and is forecast to fall a further 2.2% this year. With the general economic outlook continuing to look uncertain, we are urging government to do more to drive growth by building on the recent increase in capital investment for repair and maintenance of roads and extending this to other parts of built environment, such as housing, schools and hospitals.

'We also want to see the UK improve on its current ranking of 24th in the world for the quality of its infrastructure. For the UK economy to remain internationally competitive in attracting inward investment, it is essential that there are significant improvements in its infrastructure.

Montgomery concluded, 'Government frequently states it is aware of the importance of the construction industry and its product manufacturers and suppliers. In these challenging times for the UK economy, the opportunities that we provide to drive economic growth and build

a more sustainable future for the UK need to be prioritised. We can only hope the Chancellor does indeed recognise this.’

To read the full draft of the letter from the Construction Products Association to the Chancellor, click [here](#).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Construction Products Association represents the UK’s manufacturers and suppliers of construction products, components and fittings. The Association acts as the voice of the construction products sector, representing the industry-wide view of its members. The sector has an annual turnover of £50 billion and accounts for 40% of total construction output.

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