



# Introducing the South-East Construction Technical Excellence College



Mark Andrews

Deputy Executive Principal - North Kent College - CTEC Lead



# SECTEC covers a large and diverse region



- A population of nearly 10million.
- House building targets of c.70,000 a year.
- Over 35 major developments.
- 23 FE Colleges/College Groups with construction provision.
- 30+ stand alone campuses.
- Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, IoW, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire.
- Organised into 7 LSIP Areas





# Objective 1: Understanding the Sector and the Region

## Sector Market & Skills Analysis

Will tell us the:

- ✓ sector demand for skills
- ✓ scale of large infrastructure requirements
- ✓ current skills provision in place and any gaps

## Skills Solutions to House Building

Will tell us the:

- ✓ key barriers for developers
- ✓ related labour and skills challenges
- ✓ specific skills offer that would support the industry





## Objective 2: **The Regional Knowledge Centre**

Unite providers, employers and universities to support teacher recruitment, development and retention.

Industry co-designed upskilling and curriculum resources

FE Teacher Industry Exchange (FE TIE) – from June 2026.

FE Reservist – pilot co-developed with Associates from WMG (Warwick University).



# Objective 3: **New Models of Employer Engagement**



**Industry 4 Council: industry, providers and strategic bodies**



**Industry Skills Hubs - Employer convened Group Training Model**



**Supply chain Accountability Frameworks**



**Support resources for SMEs.**



**Anchor employers onboarded.**





## Objective 4: Regional Partnerships for the Construction Sector

- Supporting Industrial priority for housebuilding, and infrastructure.
- Regional action plans - informed by market assessment and co-designed with Authorities, Local/Strategic Authorities, LSIPs, ITPs and employers.
- 6 Sub Regional Partnerships - Anchor Colleges/Bodies and Delivery Partners(aligned with LSIP's)
- Surrey FE and Kent & Medway FE to be pathfinders





# Objective 5: Promoting Career Pathways in Construction

- Interactive digital Careers Tube Map, based on real life career journeys.
- SECTEC supporting providers with materials and resources to promote careers.
- Site based taster events and Teacher Encounters: Year 10 SEND, NEET prevention, Post 16 transition.





# Consistent Themes – Delivery Challenges

- Construction courses are oversubscribed.
- Demand and provision is heavily weighted to Level 1/2.
- Most colleges have physical space issues and shortages of teachers.
- There is a limited offer at Level 3+ and in Civil Engineering - linked to shortage of lecturers.
- Progression from study programmes to apprenticeship is limited.
- Challenges with employer engagement, apprenticeships delivery model, and the teaching and assessment at level 3.
- Some colleges are limiting or stopping provision because of delivery issues and staffing shortages.





# Curriculum Developments

Specialist curriculum researched and co-designed with industry

- Civil Engineering – Major Project Resources (LTC) and Skills Competitions
- Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)
- Accelerated pathways in Electrical Apprenticeships.





# Focus on the MMC conundrum

Do developers support the government target to build 1.5M homes in this parliament?

Is there sufficiency capacity in volumetric MMC to significantly help us get there?

To what extent is this influenced by skills shortages?

Given that MMC targets are largely constrained to Section 106 stock, and HA's are not buying the output, does the margin warrant the investment?

Do reclassification of MMC typology, insurance uncertainty, and quality issues help?

Are there any effective levers Government could pull to change this?





# MMC - Do's and Don'ts (for now...)

## Don't:

- Invest in a hangar to train volumetric MMC assembly or install
- Develop technology specific short courses

## Do:

- Introduce the typologies, preassemblies and structural panels
- Make sure learners understand why MMC requires quality improvement and tighter tolerancing
- Instill a culture of waste reduction and efficiency
- Design programmes which develop skills with digital assistive technologies
- Create multi-skill pathways





Any Questions?





# SECTEC Team

- **Mark Andrews**      SECTEC Lead      [Mark.andrews@northkent.ac.uk](mailto:Mark.andrews@northkent.ac.uk)
- **Neil Bates**      Interim Regional Director      [Neil.bates@sectechub.co.uk](mailto:Neil.bates@sectechub.co.uk)
- **Helen Russell**      Interim Project Director      [Helen.russell@sectechub.co.uk](mailto:Helen.russell@sectechub.co.uk)
- **David Wells**      Group Training/Employers      [David.wells@sectechub.co.uk](mailto:David.wells@sectechub.co.uk)
- **Louise Aitken**      Community of Professionals      [Louise.aitken@sectechub.co.uk](mailto:Louise.aitken@sectechub.co.uk)
- **Lucy Clark**      Regional Knowledge Centre      [Lucy.clark@northkent.ac.uk](mailto:Lucy.clark@northkent.ac.uk)
- **Brad Levy**      Career Pathways      [Brad.levy@sectechub.co.uk](mailto:Brad.levy@sectechub.co.uk)
- **Davis Soloman**      IT/Digital/Website/CRM      [Davis.soloman@sectechub.co.uk](mailto:Davis.soloman@sectechub.co.uk)
- **Sonya Mallin**      Regional Partnerships      [Sonyamallin.outlook.com](mailto:Sonyamallin.outlook.com)

