### Jason Challender

with Peter Farrell and Peter McDermott

# COLLABORATIVE TRUST IN CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES



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I	Building Collaborative Trust in Construction	n Procurement Strategies	

# **Building Collaborative Trust in Construction Procurement Strategies**

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#### **Author Biographies**

#### **Dr Jason Challender (Lead Author)**

Jason Challender has acquired 30 years 'client-side' experience in the UK construction industry and procured numerous successful major construction programmes during this time. He is the Director of Estates and Facilities at the University of Salford, member of its Senior Leadership Team, and responsible for overseeing a large department of approximately 350 estates and construction-related staff. He is also a construction researcher with 10 published academic journal and conference papers in the last three years, all of which have been dedicated to his studies around trust and collaborative procurement in the construction industry. Furthermore, he has previously participated as a book reviewer



for Wiley. He has also attended many national construction and institutional conferences as a guest speaker over the years and is a Fellow and Board Director of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

#### Dr Peter Farrell

Peter Farrell has 16 years' industry experience and over 25 years in higher education. He is a Reader in Construction Management at the University of Bolton, and has over 90 publications, including four textbooks. His early industry work was as a quantity surveyor; then as contractor's site manager, responsible for multi-million pound new-build construction projects. He has been an External Examiner at seven institutions, including internationally, and is academic journal referee and book reviewer. Peter is a Fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Building (FCIOB) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS), and formerly acted for three years as Chair of the CIOB Greater Manchester Branch.

#### **Professor Peter McDermott**

Peter McDermott is Professor of Construction Management and Procurement in the Built Environment at the University of Salford. He has over 60 publications including one book. For many years, he has been instrumental in leading research for work commissioned by the former Department of Trade and Industry and Cabinet Office (Construction Strategy). He is currently Chair of the North West Construction Hub and working with the Treasury on 'Infrastructure UK'. He is a founder member and now Joint Coordinator of CIB (International Building Research Council) and Chair of the Shadow Infrastructure Construction Review Implementation Group of the North West. Furthermore, he has led Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) research work in the area of procurement systems.

#### **Foreword by Mark Farmer**

My 2016 report for the Construction Leadership Council 'The Farmer Review of the UK Construction Labour Model, Modernise or Die' highlighted starkly that the construction industry and its clients have non-aligned interests reinforced by traditional procurement protocols and a deep-seated cultural resistance to change. This has partly contributed to extremely poor levels of productivity when assessed against other industries. Previous calls to arms have not really drawn any wholesale reaction, certainly not on any real scale to make a difference. Resistance to change and lack of integration and alignment of project team players has become accepted de facto norms for the industry. Inefficiency and poor predictability of delivery against success factors of time, cost, and quality have led to an inability to produce successful outcomes and deliver to clients requirements. One of the critical symptoms of failure and poor performance has been identified as lack of collaboration and improvement culture. The added fuel for this burning platform is the unprecedented and growing structural skills crisis that looks set to drive a long-term decline in competent resources across all parts of our industry markedly increasing future delivery risks. Put simply, as a consequence of these inherent difficulties, there is an absolute imperative for long-term transformational change. The construction industry and its clients, I believe, are now at a critical juncture. It is worth also noting that this is not just a UK issue. According to the World Economic Forum and the McKinsey Global Institute amongst others, this is a generic and global 'construction problem', something I have seen first-hand from my international travels over the last 12 months.

This book is not the first to outline some of these shortcomings in the construction industry, but does, I believe, offer what many in the construction industry have been waiting for. The book focuses strongly on the lack of trust in the construction industry which has been highly documented by authoritative sources over many years as a barrier to the success of construction projects. It addresses the needs of the wider project team to collaborate through prescribed trust building mechanisms. The methodology in doing so, is facilitated through the creation of a collaborative framework, supported by the introduction of a 'partnering toolkit'. The book draws on case studies from the lead author's experiences and interviews with construction practitioners. It provides its readers with a practical guide to address this ongoing dilemma and should act as a catalyst for improvements to collaborative procurement processes. This is designed to raise productivity and add value by increasing integration, innovation, transactional efficiency, and changing mind sets. This would represent a big challenge for the industry in changing

old traditional working practices, mostly derived from commercially focused perspectives and potentially adversarial behaviours and attitudes. It is also wholly necessary if we are going to move construction towards more of a manufacturing type process.

I hope this book offers the inspiration for building more trust and collaboration and taking a different view of the roles of the project team participants, in the overall pursuit of modernising the industry we work in. If it creates a new perspective of understanding and dialogue, then it will have served its purpose.

> Mark Farmer CEO Cast Consultancy and author of The Farmer Review of the UK Construction Labour Model Modernise or Die (2016)

#### Foreword by Emeritus Professor Peter Brandon

This book is important to all those who wish to see productivity, trust, and fairness enhanced in the construction industry. It is also a 'must read' for all those who wish to take a pragmatic view to construction improvement and it is written in a style that makes it accessible to all students and practitioners in the industry.

The true importance of the construction industry to national economies is appreciated by few. According to the Office of National Statistics (ONS 2017) the value of all new construction work in 2016 was £99 266 million in the United Kingdom, which represented 6.1% of gross domestic product (GDP). Furthermore, construction employment in the United Kingdom has been rising steadily since 2011, employing 4.1% of the total workforce in 2016 (ONS 2017). Notwithstanding its importance, the productivity in construction has been consistently the slowest to change when compared to all the UK manufacturing sectors. The Farmer Review of the UK Construction Labour Market highlights that if we do not address how the industry operates and delivers, it could lead to an inexorable decline to its fortunes. Alongside this report, there have been many other repeated calls over many years for the construction industry to deliver better value for money for clients. These calls are in response to the criticisms of the industry by clients, who complain that they do not always get what they ask for. Furthermore, poor productivity has brought the sector under the scrutiny of successive governments. One example is Construction 2025 (HM Government 2013) which identifies that fractious qualities are embedded in the UK construction industry. The report stresses that collaboration and trust across the entire supply chain are crucial to deliver successful projects. There is an apparent consensus that improved performance of the construction industry is dependent upon increased collaboration and joint working between clients and the whole supply chain. The behaviour of project team individuals is arguably one of the most important ingredients for improving performance and trust, leading to more successful outcomes for the construction industry.

The authors seek to address the above inherent problems of the sector in a practical way. Accordingly, they consider the dilemma from the perspective of project teams moving towards a more integrated way of working. Since the lack of trust in the construction industry has been highly documented by authoritative sources over many years, clients in particular, must on their part, aim to work in a more collaborative and joined-up way with their supply chain, deploying hands-on management and not just making demands. The authors explore the extent to which trust is a viable tool in collaboratively procuring improved construction procurement strategies and provide an important insight into the influence of trust on the success of construction projects

and redevelopment programmes. They address this ongoing paradigm and provide the visionary tools for project teams to act as the catalyst for improvements to procurement processes. The contributions of the authors describe a methodology for embedding trust-building mechanisms as part of a partnering toolkit. The toolkit provides a collaborative framework which is intended as a practical guide to raise awareness of best practice and instil more trust in construction contracting. It provides innovative and unique initiatives for project management to better achieve value for money and more effectively satisfy business objectives. This toolkit is continuing to be applied and embedded into practice in the higher education sector and it will be interesting to see how successful it will be in delivering improved outcomes.

The book is useful for practicing practitioners and also for students as a valuable teaching and learning platform. It represents a unique, inventive, and much-welcomed pragmatic approach to construction management. I hope this book inspires readers to take a different perspective on the procurement of construction services and will encourage transformational real change in practice. It opens new angles for understanding and dialogue and enriches the knowledge and experience of all those involved with construction processes. The authors should be congratulated on providing us all with a book which is not only of real tangible benefit but is well written and engages the reader.

> Peter Brandon University of Salford

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#### **Preface**

The construction industry, especially within the United Kingdom, has for many years become synonymous for having attitudes and behaviours associated with an adversarial culture. Many government and industry reports have aimed to change the industry. These have included Constructing the Team (Latham 1994), Rethinking Construction (Egan 1998) and Accelerating Change (Egan 2002), and have largely focused on reforming procurement strategies linked to partnering and collaborative working. They have sought to encourage a greater sense of team working and integration between clients, consultants, contractors, and supply chains involved in the procurement processes. Such improvements have been promoted as a vehicle to obtain better value and increased level of quality and service delivery. Despite these, however, partnering and collaborative procurement in the construction industry have suffered through organisations not fully committing to the fundamental principles and philosophies which underpin them. Aspirations and ambitions to revolutionise the industry with expectations of more successful time, cost, and quality outcomes have in most cases simply not materialised. This has given rise to evidence of low levels of client satisfaction, owing mostly to lack of trust between project stakeholders. Possible explanations why organisations fail to trust their partners sufficiently include scepticism of realisable benefits, opportunism, and inequitable working relationships. These underlying problems are explored widely in the book, and trust is identified as one of the major barriers to successfully implementing successful partnering strategies. In some reported cases, clients may feel that the only way to assure themselves that they are not paying too much money for their projects is to market test bids in highly competitive environments. This reflects a movement back to traditional procurement and is regarded as a worrying trend for the future of the industry. The report commissioned for Government in 2016, Modernise or Die (Time to Decide the Industry's Future) by Mark Farmer has identified and articulated a 'collaboration problem' at the root of change inertia in this regard. Furthermore, Mark has written the foreword to this book and fully supports the approach to transformational industry change that has been proposed.

Trust has been identified widely as one of the most important drivers for relationship management and the success of partnering strategies in many other industries. Manufacturing represents one sector where industry has led the way in creating and developing strategic partnerships build on trusting relationships. This has generated improved project outcomes and created environments which encourage joint problem-solving and win-win scenarios. Despite this, however, the construction industry has been slow to

embrace trust building strategies. Furthermore, the study and practice of trust has not received the attention level it requires in an environment dominated by technical knowledge and skills. To respond to this dilemma, the main focus of this book is to provide a suitable context for paradigm shifts in practice with measures to increase collaboration and trust as catalysts for increasing the success of construction procurement strategies. The partnering toolkit, as part of a collaboration framework, created as part of this book will seek to educate practitioners and students in practical ways of embedding partnering philosophies within construction projects. The partnering toolkit is currently being used on a live project for the University of Salford, with construction partners Morgan Sindall. In this regard, it is intended that the whole project team will be committed to embedding its mechanisms and guiding principles in each of the construction procurement stages. Action research will be conducted on the toolkit to enable an evaluation of its usefulness in practice, gain lessons learn from it, and hopefully shape future construction procurement best practice.

The research for the book has been derived from a combination of sources which include the authors' own experiences, interviews with a wide range of construction professionals, and literature. The book is mainly intended for construction practitioners, including employers, design teams, contractors, subcontractors, and lower levels of the supply chain. It could also be useful for teaching and learning and suit a wide target audience including under and post-graduate students and academics. The authors are hopeful that it will make a constructive and useful contribution to the field.

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Special thanks goes out to the lead author's family, Margaret, Kristin, and Bobby Challender for their support and proof reading provided throughout the book's development.

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#### Introduction

Sir Michael Latham was told 'there is no trust in this industry anymore'.

Latham (1993)

Latham in titling his interim report to government 'Trust and Money' (Latham 1993) was signalling the importance he attached to the lack of trust in the UK construction industry. In Constructing the Team (Latham 1994), he described trust as being the gate-keeper to any real progress in improving contractual relations in the United Kingdom. Other commentators, such as Cox and Townsend (1997) were of the view that cultural change would not be easy:

... it is unlikely that trust (based on dependency) will be volunteered in such a deep-rooted traditionally adversarial culture as that of the construction industry. (Cox and Townsend 1997)

The progress since these observations by Latham is the focus for this book. The intent is to describe the state of development and to attempt to change current working practices and improve project outcomes in the construction sector. The meaning of trust has been re-enacted on many construction projects over the years according to professional practitioners, and therein typifies the need to consider measures to improving practice through trust generation. In this regard, the book explores the extent to which trust is a viable tool in collaboratively procuring successful construction projects. In addition, it will provide an important insight into the influence of trust on the success of construction strategies and redevelopment programmes. Trust will be considered in this context from an inter-organisational rather than individual perspective. The terms 'collaborative working' and 'partnering' will be used interchangeably through the book, and both are intended to promote mutual benefits of cooperation, team working, and problem-solving (Larson 1997, p. 190; Wong and Cheung 2004). Their definitions and meaning are more fully explained in Chapter 3. Furthermore, the book investigates current partnering arrangements that exist within the global construction industry, to create a comprehensive understanding of problems of trust which are hindering its overall effectiveness. The book also reviews the overall commitment of organisations to partnering philosophies. The main focus of the book is, however, intended to provide a suitable context for paradigm shifts in practice with measures to increase collaborative trust and act as a catalyst for increasing the success of construction procurement strategies. Calls for changes in working practices have been predicated by perceptions that