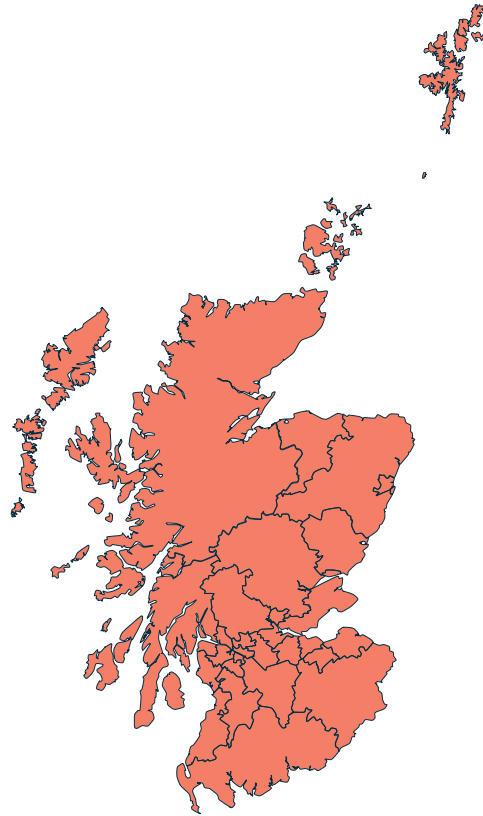


Supporting the hub Programme as a test bed for innovation



LOCATION: Scotland wide

DATE: ongoing

OUTCOME:  Delivery

Background

Driving improvement across the construction sector requires more than developing standards and guidance. It requires a safe, collaborative environment where new ideas can be tested on live projects, refined through experience and demonstrated to deliver real value.

Through its long-term role in managing and supporting Scotland's [hub Programme](#), the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) has helped create this environment. Working with public sector clients, the five hub companies and the wider supply chain, SFT has supported the Programme to trial, evaluate and embed new approaches that have influenced construction quality, digital information management, environmental performance and regulatory compliance.

Actions undertaken

SFT identified suitable hub projects to test emerging initiatives in real-world delivery, providing programme support, capturing lessons and refining approaches before wider implementation.

Improving construction quality

SFT introduced the Construction Quality Assurance Initiative (CQAI) on early adopter hub projects to strengthen quality throughout design and construction. The experience gained helped inform



the development of the [Construction Quality Improvement Collaborative \(CQIC\)](#), placing quality at the heart of project decision-making and supporting a culture of continuous improvement.

Standardising digital information handover

Through [Learning Estate Investment Programme \(LEIP\)](#) projects, SFT introduced the [Standard Information Management Plan \(SIMP\)](#) to improve the consistency and quality of digital handover information. SFT supported project teams to adopt structured information management, including '[uniclass coding](#)', while helping clients identify the information needed to operate and maintain their assets effectively.



Dedicated Client Information Managers supported implementation and shared lessons across all five hub territories.

Demonstrating Passivhaus delivery at scale

SFT supported the delivery of [Scotland's first Passivhaus-accredited school](#) through the hub Programme and LEIP. The project demonstrated that the Passivhaus Classic standard could be delivered successfully in public sector education and provided valuable experience as one of the first significant steel-frame Passivhaus buildings.

Testing Building Standards compliance

SFT worked with Building Standards to use hub projects to trial the emerging Compliance Plan and Compliance Plan Manager role. Testing different approaches, including integrating compliance into quality meetings with Building Control involvement, generated practical evidence and feedback to inform wider implementation.

Results achieved

Using live projects as test beds has enabled improvements to be developed and refined before wider adoption. Key outcomes include:

- CQAI evolved into the CQIC, with more than 100 organisations now signed up to the Quality Charter and committed to continuous improvement in line with the [Scottish Construction Accord](#).

- SIMP has been adopted more widely as a standard approach to Exchange Information Requirements for public sector projects, improving the consistency and usability of digital asset information.
- Increased confidence in Passivhaus delivery has supported widespread adoption across Scottish public sector projects. The hub Programme has since delivered the world's largest non-domestic Passivhaus project, alongside numerous Passivhaus-accredited schools and community facilities.
- Testing of the Compliance Plan approach has provided evidence to inform national policy and support future legislation on building quality in Scotland.

Lasting impact

SFT's input to hub, along with that of our Programme partners, shows how long-term collaboration and a willingness to innovate can create value beyond individual projects in big delivery programmes. By providing a trusted environment to test new ideas, we have helped accelerate innovation while reducing implementation risk.

Many initiatives that began as pilots are now established practice, contributing to better construction quality, improved digital asset management, higher environmental performance and stronger regulatory compliance across Scotland's wider public sector construction industry.

As Quality Champion and Compliance Plan Manager for the Dunfermline Learning Campus, I was delighted to work closely with, and benefit from the expertise and support of hub East Central. 

Across a number of our recent projects, the hub team has played a central role in supporting Fife Council's participation in pilot and early-adopter initiatives, including the delivery of Passivhaus-designed secondary schools, the implementation of construction quality best practice, and collaboration with the Building Standards Division in developing the new Compliance Plan requirements.

JOHN PEDEN, LEAD PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECT AT FIFE COUNCIL