

News Release



February 2015



*This release and image can be downloaded at:
www.nextstepmarketing.co.uk/press*

B&ES BUSINESS MANIFESTO ADDRESSES 2020 CHALLENGE

3 February 2015 – The Building & Engineering Services Association (B&ES) has published its *Business Manifesto* in order to highlight the issues it believes the 2015-to-2020 Government – whatever its political colour – must address if UK construction is to remain genuinely fit-for-purpose in the years ahead.

Speaking at a New Year press briefing, B&ES president Andy Sneyd explained that the *B&ES Business Manifesto*, which had been drawn together in advance of the May general election, focused to a great extent on commercial matters – on “the iniquity of late payment, the elimination of waste from the procurement process, and the maximisation of efficiency throughout the supply chain”.

“But it also highlights the growing importance of vocational education and training – at every level of the workforce – in ensuring that we employ the required calibre, and the required number, of highly skilled and highly motivated individuals, who are fully capable of meeting the challenges of an increasingly complex industry,” the president insisted.

And he added that the Association was currently engaged in a sector-wide consultation on the new qualifications standards and new training arrangements which have been drawn up by employers themselves, and which address such issues as: the appropriate duration of apprenticeships; the competences which apprentices must have achieved on completion of their training; and the specific knowledge and skills they must acquire during the apprenticeship programme.

“There is no doubt that these new standards will have a significant impact on every organisation and individual engaged in building engineering services – and on the shape and structure of the sector as a whole,” said Mr Sneyd.

The final strand in the manifesto refers to what the president described as “the perennial debate that continues to surround sustainability, energy efficiency, emissions reduction and the low-carbon economy”.

“B&ES has long taken a lead in the development of sustainable building engineering services – recent research having confirmed that the vast majority of our members are already involved in sustainable contracting, with many assuming a project management role,” he told his audience.

Mr Sneyd went on to recall that UK legislation required that carbon emissions be reduced by 80% by 2050 – and that Government had targeted a reduction of 50% by 2025.

“Given that as much as 60% of UK carbon emissions are from buildings, it follows that B&ES members have a key part to play in working with their

public and private sector clients in ensuring the intelligent use of the technologies that are crucial to this process," he concluded.

Copies of the *B&ES Business Manifesto* can be downloaded from the Association's website at www.b-es.org.

Ends

Issued on behalf of B&ES (the Building & Engineering Services Association) by Next Step Marketing Ltd

Media enquiries to: Heather Lambert. Tel: +44(0)1256 472020;
Fax: +44(0)1256 471010; E-mail: heather@nextstepmarketing.co.uk

Note to Editors

Since its formation in 1904, B&ES, the Building & Engineering Services Association (formerly the HVCA) has represented the interests of companies engaged in a wide range of building and engineering services disciplines.

B&ES helps its members to build successful businesses by being the leading trade association for integrated building and engineering services and renewable technologies. It is a unifying force that promotes and monitors excellence; provides quality advice, guidance, training and support; generates market-leading thinking; and shapes the commercial environment through active representation.

B&ES members are subject to regular, third-party inspection and assessment of their technical competence and commercial capability, carried out by an independent certification body at least every three years.

Picture Caption:

"President Andy Sneyd addresses the B&ES New Year press briefing 2015."