



SME Forum meeting - March 2018

Executive summary

What was discussed?

- Steven Hale (Crofton Design) is the new chair of the SME group for 2018.
- A verbal Brexit and a general policy update was provided by ACE.
- ACE also presented its recent policy report, **Funding Roads for the Future**, which was launched on 24 January 2018.
- ACE reported on the **Skills Summit** on 6 June 2018 where the results of ACE Progress Network's **Reverse Mentoring** pilot and a framework for use by the wider industry will be announced, amongst various other skills issues critical to the industry and particularly pertinent to SME's.
- Several SME's had also entered the **Consultancy and Engineering Awards** also taking place on 6 June 2018.
- SME members were also alerted to the **European CIO Conference** on digital transformation that ACE will be hosting on 20 and 21 June 2018.
- A webinar was held by Penningtons Manches for ACE members in January 2018 on **preparing for GDPR**, and ACE recommended that SME members viewed the webinar recording.
- The open discussion included subjects such as modular construction, issues with the ageing workforce (which is particularly applicable with SME's), insurance for SME's, the impact on SME's of digitalisation in the industry, late payment and procurement issues.
- The guest presentation focussed on Corporate Manslaughter and was delivered by Emma Davies, Senior Associate from ACE Affiliate Penningtons Manches.

The meeting was followed by a networking drinks reception at a nearby All Bar One.

What will be discussed at future meetings in 2018?

- Modular Construction
- CSCS cards
- Getting the right insurance for SME's
- GDPR
- Ageing workforce

When and where will these meetings take place?

- The next SME group meetings will take place on 12 June, 6 September and 21 November 2018. Please mark these dates in your calendar now. Invitations will be sent out to the main SME contacts in our database.
- Unless otherwise advised the meetings will take place in central London between 3 and 5pm, followed by networking drinks at either the same



venue or in a nearby bar. Future meetings will also enable dial-in/Skype options for those who are unable to join in person.

How can SME's contribute to these meetings?

ACE operates an open policy for all SME group meetings, the only conditions being that companies attending must be current ACE members, and a maximum of two persons from each company attend. These restrictions do not apply to the subsequent drinks networking reception. Please encourage your staff at different levels to attend these meetings.

If there are specific topics you would like discussed or if your company wishes to sponsor a meeting and drinks reception, please contact Anil Iyer at aiyer@acenet.co.uk