

# Construction Employers Federation support training initiative



## **CITB-ConstructionSkills NI and Construction Employers Federation - Addressing key performance management issues in the local construction industry.**

As an Industry Training Board and Sector Skills Council, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI has the remit of encouraging training across the range of occupations within the Northern Ireland construction industry. The economic climate and the overall downturn in industry activity have meant a change in way people train and think about training. This has been reflected in the new tiered grant system implemented by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI to address the budget available and to make their support more effective and relevant to construction employers.

Tier 2 grants are targeted at areas identified by the industry representative bodies as critical to their members in dealing with the current economic climate. Tier 2 helps fund demand led training within the local construction industry and is a more proactive and flexible way of supporting the industry.

Since the inception of Tier 2 grant funding, the Construction Employers Federation (CEF) have promoted a Performance Improvement Programme to provide construction companies with

proven, practical methods for reducing costs and improving profitability. Since 2010 over 30 companies have participated in this training which involves 6 individual workshops and mentoring sessions.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI said, “Helping companies work together to improve

profitability in this current climate is exactly what we envisaged our funding to do. CEF have been working closely in partnership with us regarding this training initiative and have embraced Tier 2 funding to facilitate additional training on sustainable construction, setting strategic direction and pre-qualification questionnaires.”

John Armstrong Managing Director, CEF said, “Construction companies have never experienced a downturn as bad as the current one and tailored training programmes will help develop their skillsets to address the current difficulties and grasp new opportunities. The Tier 2 funding made available from CITB-ConstructionSkills NI has made it possible for us to assist our members by running the Performance Improvement Programme and other high value, high impact training. All participants have had the determination to face challenges head on and embrace change for the benefit of their organisation.”

For further information on the forthcoming Performance Improvement Programme contact CEF on 028 9087 7143.



Barry Neilson and John Armstrong launching the Performance Improvement Programme.