

# CMG presents workplace solutions

The Commercial Moving Group and its partners at the Building Futures Group organised a well-attended workshop in London recently.



➔ CMG Chairman, Sarah Cole, provided the keynote presentation at the workshop

The workshop theme was *Workplace relocation: A catalyst for change* and focused on best practices and market trends in office relocation. Sponsored by the CMG, the workshop highlighted how a successful move can be transformative for an organisation in bringing about positive change for the benefit of the business, productivity and its employees.

Sarah Cole, Chairman of the CMG, provided the keynote presentation at the workshop, in which she discussed not only the practical aspects of commercial relocation but also the tangible and intangible benefits of moving to a better designed workplace.

## Moving towards smarter working

The contemporary office should reflect and support the culture the organisation is aspiring to for its business, Sarah told representatives from facilities management bodies and associated sectors such as the cleaning, fire safety, air conditioning services and trade press. "Today's workers are looking for positive environmental and working conditions, and best workplaces demonstrate more abstract values such as trust, respect and fairness," she said. New workplaces can help improve an organisation's culture and make it leaner, more flexible and smarter. Space can be

used more effectively and the workspace can be designed to promote better working and to connect employees and encourage collaboration and communication. A dynamic, high technology office can also serve to reduce absenteeism and staff turnover rates.

Sarah also spoke to participants about sustainability in the new workplace and initiatives to enhance the wellbeing of a building's occupants. There was a lot of interest in what is known as 'biophilic' design; many contemporary buildings draw on nature, such as incorporating trees or having fresh plants growing on walls, to make for a more relaxing and productive environment. All of these innovations in workplace design can help an organisation enhance its brand and attract the best talent.

Relocating to a modern workplace can also save costs, by eliminating unnecessary space and improving energy efficiency. Members of the CMG play a key role in achieving this, Sarah said. A successful commercial move will involve strategic planning across departments, a road map, collaboration with service providers and a high level of engagement and communication with the workforce.

BAR Vice President Mark Herrington, whose company Pickfords is a Member of the CMG, then spoke about best practice in commercial moving, and what companies should look for in their relocation partner. Mark took the opportunity to highlight the strengths of CMG Members, who are all certified specialists in the field and who operate more as experienced partners than as one-off suppliers.

Geoff Prudence, Chairman of CIBSE Facilities Management, also provided a brief session on the work of CIBSE FM, BIM4FM and his views on the building performance gap.

Feedback from the event has been positive. Ian West of Vinci Facilities stated: "A great evening which was very informative. Discussions with potential and existing suppliers was also very useful for the future elements of our business."

"The event proved to be a great opportunity for us to raise our profile with the facilities management and building management industry and with the specialist media," Sarah told R&S. "After the presentations there was time set aside for networking, so we had the chance to meet a lot of people and talk about the CMG. We were able to show how our Members go beyond just relocation and can really add value for customers."

For more information, see [www.barcommercialmovinggroup.co.uk](http://www.barcommercialmovinggroup.co.uk)

