



ZERO CARBON HUB PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce – March 2010

1. Purpose

Taskforce members are asked to note this report which provides a report on progress since the previous Taskforce meeting held on 27 January 2010.

2. Corporate and People

Key points:

- The Board of Zero Carbon Hub Ltd has met once since the previous Taskforce meeting. At that meeting, the Board approved the Business and Budget Plan for 2010-11. The next Board meeting is on Monday 19 April 2010.
- The Board comprises the Chairman, Paul King (UK-GBC), Trevor Beattie (HCA), Imtiaz Farookhi (NHBC), Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledsome (CLG), Ray Morgan (LGA) and John Tebbit (CPA). Neil Jefferson and David Adams are seconded to the Hub as Chief Executive and Executive Director respectively.
- The 2016 Taskforce has previously agreed to extend the secondments of the executive directors and other key staff until the end of 2010 and to the carrying out of a full review by December 2010.
- Funding from CLG is claimed quarterly in arrears and payment has been received for the period ending 31 December 2009. An additional payment of £37k has also been received from CLG in respect of unbudgeted expenditure relating to the delivery of the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard. Also, £40k has been received from DECC to support ongoing work on the 'Carbon Compliance Tool Policy Assumptions Task Group' (which is reported elsewhere).
- The current funding agreement for the Hub is due to end in March 2011 and a timetable has been agreed by the Board for further discussions to ensure future funding for following years. Imtiaz Farookhi has written to the Housing Minister to offer ongoing funding from NHBC and a reply has been received from the Minister. Copies of both letters have been circulated to the 2016 Taskforce separately by Mary Edmead of CLG.

- Eon, with the support of UK-BSCE, has agreed to second Marco Marijewycz to the Hub as Project Manager for an initial period of nine months commencing 6 April 2010. Marco is well known to colleagues and it is planned that he will co-ordinate the Hub's role in helping develop Allowable Solutions.
- Energy Saving Trust has confirmed that it wishes to extend its involvement and support for our Consumer Engagement work through 2010-11.
- Robert Macdonald's secondment to the Hub from NHBC has been extended until the end of 2010.

3. Workstreams

The Zero Carbon Hub has developed five workstreams to provide a focus for industry engagement with the key issues and challenges:

- Energy Efficiency (led by Rob Pannell, Head of House Building)
- Energy Supply (led by Ross Holleron, Head of Energy Supply)
- Examples (led by Clive Turner, Information Manager)
- Skills and Training (led by Annie Hall, consultant)
- Consumer Engagement (led by Energy Saving Trust)

Energy Efficiency

Information about the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard (FEES) and other aspects of the Hub's work has been disseminated widely across the industry. Meetings have also been held with CLG and others to discuss the additional work resulting from the FEES.

Energy Supply

The main focus continues to be on the Carbon Compliance Tool Policy Assumptions, the future of a compliance tool. A report to members of the 2016 Taskforce has been provided separately.

The joint report between the Hub and UK-GBC on Sustainable Community Infrastructure was launched at an event held on 18 February. The Executive Summary of the report has also been provided separately to members of the 2016 Taskforce.

Work has started on '70% Carbon Compliance – what does this mean?' and future work on Allowable Solutions is also being considered.

Examples

The Examples and Scale up workstream is continuing to identify examples and promote successful low and zero carbon homes. A new batch of Profiles based on projects close to the 70% carbon compliance level is shortly to be commissioned. A series of intermediate level reviews of low carbon homes have been received from AECB and a prototype is currently under development for a cluster profile.

HCA funding has been secured for the development of three more detailed project reviews incorporating monitoring work.

Skills and Training

The external consultation on our work to date was launched at Ecobuild on 2 March 2010. A micro website (www.homebuilding-skills.org) has been developed to front the consultation and will also be used as the home site for the eventual outputs from this project. The consultation will close on 31 May 2010 and a final report, with recommendations, will be launched in early July.

Consumer engagement

A milestone was reached with the publication of 'Marketing Tomorrow's New Homes', launched at a House of Commons All Party Parliamentary Group meeting hosted by Energy Saving Trust on 3 February. This report, which is a culmination of this workstream's activities through 2009, has potentially wide repercussions for how we market low and zero carbon homes, setting out recommendations for priming consumers and ensuring developers build the right messaging into their propositions.

Following the launch, meetings have been held with numerous organisations, including the New Homes Marketing Board Committee, to gain support for the next phase of work. The report also caught the attention of colleagues at the EU Commission and Neil Jefferson accepted an invitation to attend and speak at a European Consumer Summit held in Brussels on 18 March.

4. Communications, Events and External Affairs

Following the launch of the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard, the Hub has presented at HBF Principals and Technical Directors meetings across the regions. A dinner meeting was held on 11 February with chief executives and main board directors of eleven of the UK's biggest housebuilders, including Barratt, Persimmon, Bellway, Bovis and Miller. The discussion was featured in the March edition of Housebuilder magazine.

The 'Timeline' launch event held in conjunction with EEPH on 2 February went well and the Timeline to 2016 was also a particular focus for the Hub at Ecobuild this year.

On the 'zero carbon non-domestic' front, the Hub attended and helped support UK-GBC's consultation events held during January and February in Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and London.

A priority for the next period is to engage with those involved in local planning and we will be speaking to key stakeholders (LGA, POS, CLG, etc.) to devise a strategy for communication.

5. Low Carbon Construction Innovation and Growth Team

The 'Emerging Findings' of the IGT were published on 17 March and includes several acknowledgements and references to the Zero Carbon Hub. One of the propositions in the report is for an 'Existing Homes Low Carbon Hub' to be put in place to provide the leadership to start planning for delivery.

Neil Jefferson
18 March 2010