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ZERO CARBON HUB - PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce – 14 February 2012

1. Purpose

This progress report covers the period from 15 November 2011 to present.

2. General

The targets set in the Hub Business Plan for the period November to January have all been achieved, other than production of the '*Zero carbon strategies for new homes - development case studies*' guide which was due in December and which will be available within the next fortnight.

Notable achievements during the period have included:

- Delivery of a very successful second annual conference held on 2 February at Kings Place, London, which attracted a very strong speaker line-up and more than 300 delegates. Feedback from the event has been very positive.
- '*Nearer to zero*' events for planners and builders were held in Woking on 29 November and Hull on 9 February. The next event will be in Manchester in April (likely to be 25 April).
- A series of workshop events held in order to develop more detailed thoughts on how Allowable Solutions could work in practice.
- Meetings of the '*Energy*' and '*Skills and Training*' workstream steering groups
- Publication of interim report of the Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality (VIAQ) group (with NHBC Foundation).
- Publication of the Part F 2010 guidance booklet (with NHBC Foundation)
- Publication of consumer and industry research, '*Today's attitudes towards zero carbon homes*' (with NHBC Foundation).
- The RSA 2020 Public Services Hub (2020 PSH) has developed and will shortly publish '*A collaborative approach to policy – a case study of the Zero Carbon Hub*'. This study is one of a number that the 2020 PSH have taken forward as contributions to inform the Government in the development of a new form of industrial policy.

3. Corporate and People

Board Members are the Chairman, Paul King (UK-GBC), Imtiaz Farookhi (NHBC), Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledsome (CLG), Ray Morgan (LGA) and John Tebbit (CPA). The Executive Directors are Neil Jefferson, David Adams and Rob Pannell. The Board has met once since the last report, on 15 December.

The Hub 'core' team comprises: Neil Jefferson, David Adams, Rob Pannell, Clive Turner, Robert Macdonald, Sarah Downes and Madeline Logan. We have a new administrator, Sarah O'Toole, who is seconded from NHBC and has replaced Jayde Lucas. We also have a new intern, Anastasios Kougionis, who has replaced Alex Uregian who has found employment as an engineer.

Two consultants are retained by the Zero Carbon Hub on an ongoing basis: Tessa Parnell (Fulcrum Mott MacDonald) and Saryu Vatal (Richards Partington Architects). Tom Randall is also acting as lead consultant on behalf of the Hub on the Rowner project.

4. Business Plan, Finance and Funding

The full year budget expenditure for the Hub is forecast at £753k. At the end of October (the first seven months of the financial year), we were £40k underspent against budget expenditure, but this relates entirely to the Rowner Project and the timing of payments, rather than a change to cost estimates.

Please note: *Funding has been secured from NHBC and Robust Details Ltd for the financial year 2012-13, but the biggest priority during the next period is to identify how the Hub will be funded in future years.*

5. NHBC Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub

The NHBC Foundation continues to support the Zero Carbon Hub by carrying out research and publishing guidance documents. The following publications were launched during Quarter 4 of 2011:

- Low carbon cooking appliances
- Operational and embodied CO₂ in new build housing - a reappraisal
- How occupants behave and interact with their new homes
- Part F 2010: where to start
- Interim report of the Hub's Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality (VIAQ) group

The Zero Carbon Compendium 2011, which was launched in September, has proved to be a very popular report, as has the website which can be viewed at www.lowcarbonhomesworldwide.com.

A major consumer and industry research project, *'Today's attitudes towards zero carbon homes'*, will be launched at an event following the 2016 Taskforce meeting on 14 February.

A guidance document, *'Low and zero carbon homes: understanding the performance challenge'* has been developed which will hopefully help inform the debate about design vs built performance of new homes.