



# ZERO CARBON HUB - PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce – 15 November 2011

## 1. Purpose

This progress report covers the period from 13 September 2011 to present.

## 2. General

The Hub has continued to meet the targets set in its Business Plan and has produced some notable outcomes in the past period. These include a revised 2011 edition of the Zero Carbon Compendium and a supplement to the October edition of Housebuilder magazine, 'The Road to Zero Carbon', which was published in partnership with the New Homes Marketing Board.

The Board Meeting held on 20 October was extended to include a half-day Strategy Awayday. Discussions included future business models for the Hub and actions were agreed for further work and exploration. The agenda included updates on zero carbon new non-domestic buildings and existing homes (the 'Green Deal'), as well as the 2016 Timeline for newbuild homes. Guests for the strategy session included Paul Morrell, Government Chief Construction Adviser, Jon Bright, Director, DCLG and Isabel Hudson, Deputy Chair, NHBC.

Progress is being made on the two workstreams (Skills and Training and Consumer Engagement) that were 'mothballed' during the previous financial year following cuts to DCLG funding. On Skills, the series of Nearer to Zero events aimed at bringing planners and housebuilders together are taking good shape – see [www.nearertozero.co.uk](http://www.nearertozero.co.uk) for more information.

The Consumer Engagement Workstream report published last year by the Hub, 'Marketing Tomorrow's New Homes', set out a strategic approach to marketing and recommendations to raise demand for low and zero carbon new homes. Margaret Egan of Sinclair Barnes Ltd has completed work contacting key influencers (including consumer media, lenders and agents) to gather information and assess current attitudes. Her findings and recommendations will be presented to potential supporters, including NHBC and New Homes Marketing Board (NHMB) over the next few weeks.

Planning is well underway for the Zero Carbon Hub Annual Conference which will be held on 2 February 2012 and which has a great line-up of speakers and a well supported exhibition.

### 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). A vacancy exists for a Director from HCA. The Executive Directors are Neil Jefferson, David Adams and Rob Pannell.

The Hub 'core' team comprises: Neil Jefferson, David Adams, Rob Pannell, Clive Turner, Robert Macdonald, Sarah Downes, Alex Uregian and Madeline Logan. Three consultants are retained by the Zero Carbon Hub on an ongoing basis: Tessa Parnell (Fulcrum Mott MacDonald), Ross Holleron (BRE) 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. Small amounts of additional funding have been secured and costs are being managed very closely.

At end of September (the first six months of the financial year), we were £51k underspent against budget expenditure, but this relates entirely to the Rowner Project and the timing of payments, rather than a change to cost estimates.

### 5. NHBC Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub

The NHBC Foundation research project supported by the Zero Carbon Hub, '*Zero Carbon: what does it mean to homeowners [and occupiers]*' is proceeding well and initial findings have been received.

The Zero Carbon Compendium 2011 edition was launched in September and is an extensive update to the popular publication, including new exemplar projects, updates to national targets and an additional five countries (Brazil, India, Russia, Singapore and South Africa). In addition, a dedicated website has been developed at [www.lowcarbonhomesworldwide.com](http://www.lowcarbonhomesworldwide.com).

In recent months, NHBC Foundation has published a number of other resources directly relevant to the activities of the Zero Carbon Hub:

- NF33 – *Low Carbon Cooking appliances* was launched in October 2011 and examines cooking appliances in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and in terms of consumer preference for use of the appliance.
- NF34 - *Operational and Embodied CO<sub>2</sub> in new build housing - a reappraisal*, published in October 2011 explores the relationship between emissions generated from the lifecycle of housing – transportation of materials, energy consumed in the build process etc. things not currently accounted for within Building Regulations – with emissions generated during use of the building.
- NF35 - *How occupants behave and interact with their new homes* – launched in October, investigates how the interaction of a consumer with controllable items of a home can impact on its performance.

Neil Jefferson  
8 November 2011