



# ZERO CARBON HUB - PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce – 16 March 2011

## 1. Purpose

This progress report covers the period from 2 November 2010 to present.

## 2. General

The Zero Carbon Hub's major achievement in the period since the previous report was the publication of *Carbon Compliance - Setting an appropriate limit for zero carbon new homes*. An interim report was published in December 2010 and the final report was posted to Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP on Friday 18 February and published the following Monday. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting and the findings and recommendations will be presented.

On 24 November, a *Nearer to Zero* conference for planners and housebuilders was successfully piloted in Woking. The event attracted more than 120 delegates, with more than 70 on a waiting list. This is the first of what is planned to be a series of events across the country during the next financial year.

With sponsorship from NHBC Foundation, the Hub hosted a roundtable event on Allowable Solutions on 26 January which also went well and has helped provide a better focus on issues to be resolved, as well as highlighting areas of consensus.

Our inaugural Annual Conference was held on 1 February at Kings Place and was attended by more than 340 delegates. At the event, we were pleased to announce that we had managed to secure additional funding from NHBC to help close the gap left following the end of grant funding from DCLG.

Another highlight of the recent period has been continued success in gaining support for the Hub's monitoring and post-occupancy project at Rowner in Gosport, Hampshire. Taylor Wimpey is well underway with building an apartment block to the 'Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard' (FEES) and its performance will be compared to an equivalent block built to current building regulations. We have secured £150k project funding from several organisations and have now heard that our bid for funding from the Technology Strategy Board has been successful, although we are yet to find out how much this will be (we bid for £170k).

We are very grateful to Taskforce members and their colleagues for their support and for helping deliver successful outcomes for all the above projects.

### 3. Corporate and People

The Board of Zero Carbon Hub Ltd has met twice since the previous report and the next meeting is on 6 April 2011. The Board comprises the Chairman, Paul King (UK-GBC), Imtiaz Farookhi (NHBC), Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledson (CLG), Ray Morgan (LGA), Stephen Muers (HCA), and John Tebbit (CPA). Neil Jefferson and David Adams are seconded to the Hub as Chief Executive and Executive Director respectively.

The Hub 'core' team comprises: Neil Jefferson, David Adams, Rob Pannell, Sarah Downes, Clive Turner, Robert Macdonald, Marco Marijewycz, Madeline Logan and Jayde Lucas. Former intern, Alex Uregian, is now employed on a fixed contract basis. E.ON has agreed an extension to Marco's secondment until 31 May 2011.

The 2016 Taskforce agreed to the carrying out of a progress review of the Hub to be completed by the end of 2010. This item will be covered elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting.

### 4. Business Plan, Finance and Funding

As we approach the end of the financial year, income and expenditure are both broadly in line with forecast and the 'risk areas' are being managed appropriately. We have secured additional funding of £200k from NHBC for the next financial year which will help plug some of the gap arising from the ending of CLG grant funding.

The final claim for CLG grant funding (for the three months ending 31 December 2010) has now been paid, which was for £192k. We have now claimed the full £600k available for the year.

The Zero Carbon Hub Board has reviewed the draft Business Plan for 2011-2012 which includes the key themes below:

- **2016 Timeline** – Monitor and report progress against the overall programme plan to the 2016 Taskforce.
- **Industry and stakeholder engagement** – Improve the awareness and knowledge of planners, architects, construction products companies, housebuilders (management level) and Building Control. This will include CPD events, conferences, workshops, case studies, web-site content. As defined on the 2016 Timeline, a particular focus will be to roll out a series of 'Nearer to Zero' events for planners and housebuilders.
- **Energy Efficiency and Carbon Compliance** – Communicate the scope and requirements of the Fabric Energy Efficiency and Carbon Compliance Standards and follow up relevant recommendations from Task Group, including work on ventilation and indoor air quality, overheating, site aggregation for Carbon Compliance, etc. and to enable these to be incorporated in DCLG's future work programme on building regulations. A particular focus for the year will be 'Closing the performance gap' with work being undertaken on build testing and occupancy monitoring.
- **Allowable Solutions** – Facilitate practical implementation of 'Allowable Solutions' and 'Community Energy Funds'. Support DCLG as it develops proposals.

- **Consumer/Marketing** – Help create the consumer proposition. Create plans to implement recommendations made in *Marketing Tomorrow's New Homes* including web-site and work on innovative funding solutions.
- **Skills and Training** – Lead in identifying skills and knowledge needed to deliver low and zero carbon homes. Help build capacity and skills. Collaborate with others to implement the recommendations in *Home Building Skills 2020*, including provision of a skills portal.

## 5. Workstream updates

A new cluster of 'Profiles', our series of case studies, was published in January included a range of house types (small and large houses and apartments) and aimed to show traditional and contemporary designs and a range of approaches to delivering emissions reductions. We achieved a good spread of projects across the country and all are recent projects completed in 2010 or for early completion in 2011.

The Hub now has a very good forward list of Profiles (over 35 titles being developed) and is developing plans to carry these on a UK map with links to company material, walk through videos/interactive views and any greater details. During 2011 the plan is to launch at least five new Profiles every month and to use these to support site launches, whenever possible.

## 6. Media activity and opinion

The couple of months since December 2010 have been a busy time and there has been significant interest in the Zero Carbon Hub's activities. At this time, the majority of press activity is being handled in-house. Cuttings are numerous and cover a range of subjects from the wider sustainability agenda to the more technical Energy Efficiency and Carbon Compliance standards and span both trade and national titles.

Requests for Zero Carbon Hub involvement in articles and at industry events remain strong. The Hub exhibited at Ecobuild 2011 and participated in numerous conferences, discussions and fringe events.

## 7. NHBC Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub

Recent NHBC Foundation publications which have supported the work of the Hub have included the *Milton Keynes Prospectus*, and *An Introduction to Feed-in Tariffs*. Imminent publications with Zero Carbon Hub involvement include:

- Low or Zero Carbon Cooking Appliances
- Energy Efficient Appliances and Controls
- Small Builders guide to achieving Part L 2010

Two new reports, *Exploring the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard* and *Zero Carbon Compendium II* are being developed for publication later in the year.

Neil Jefferson  
10 March 2011