



# PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce Meeting  
to be held on Tuesday 21 October 2008

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## 1. Purpose

At the previous Taskforce meeting held on 5 June it was reported that agreement had been reached for the establishment of the Zero Carbon Hub. The Hub was launched on 28 June and this paper provides a report on progress since then.

## 2. Background

The Callcutt Review of House-building Delivery identified the need for this new independent private-public partnership to take day-to-day operational responsibility for co-ordinating delivery of low and zero carbon new homes. The context for the launch of the Hub is an unprecedented performance step change in the environmental performance of new homes. An ambitious timetable has been set for the progressive tightening of building regulations (Part L) in 2010 and 2013, with the aim of achieving zero carbon new homes by 2016.

## 3. Purpose and Strategic Objectives

The purpose of the Hub, as agreed by its Board, is to 'facilitate the mainstream delivery of low and zero carbon homes'. A Business Plan is nearing finalisation which provides the strategic objectives and direction for the Zero Carbon Hub together with the key action plans to ensure the achievement of the strategy. To support the achievement of our Purpose, we have set three strategic objectives:

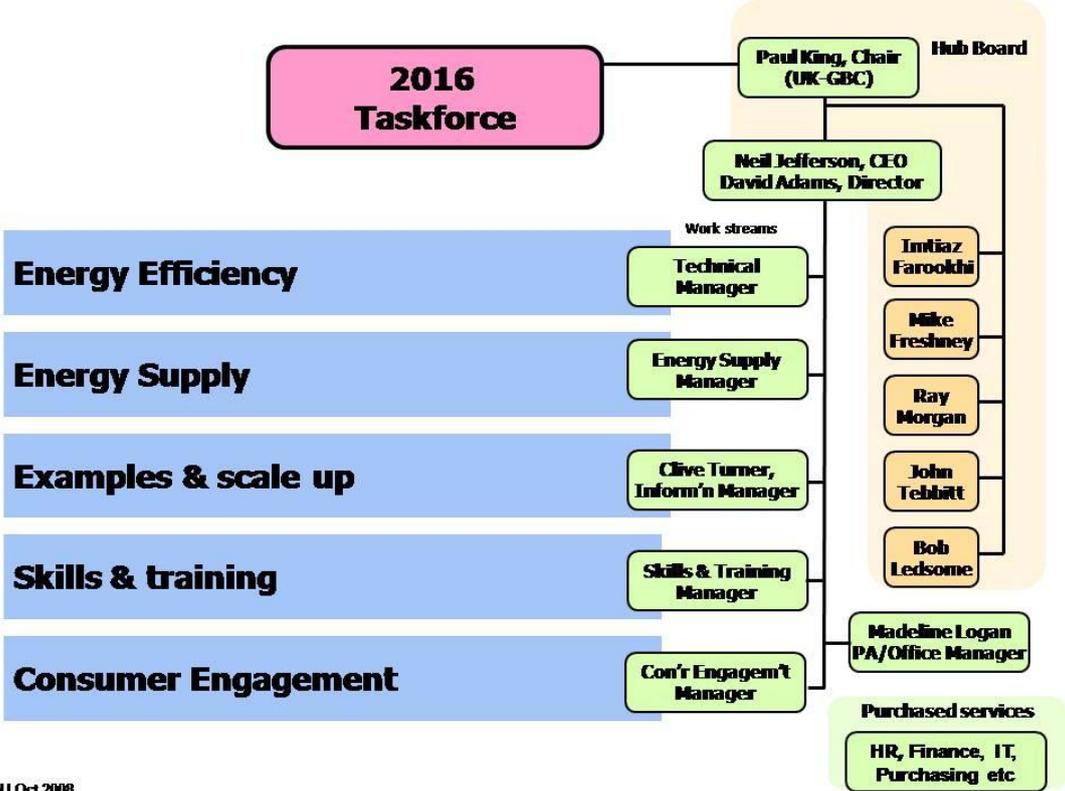
1. provide leadership and create confidence
2. reduce risk and clear obstacles
3. disseminate information

## 4. Organisational Structure

The Zero Carbon Hub supports and reports to the 2016 Taskforce and will fulfil its purpose by monitoring, co-ordinating and guiding the zero carbon programme and engaging organisations active in low and zero carbon homes in various workstreams as set in Figure 1 below.

**5. Corporate and People – Progress Report:**

- Zero Carbon Hub Ltd has been incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, a bank account has been opened, etc.
- Revised Articles have been agreed and will be adopted in November. A Management Agreement will also come into effect at the same time.
- The Interim Board has been established and has met on five occasions since the launch, on 25 June, 9 July, 18 August, 3 September and 6 October.
- Interim Board Members are from CLG, Construction Products Association, Home Builders Federation, Local Government Association, National House-Building Council (NHBC) Robust Details Ltd and UK Green Building Council.
- Monthly Board meetings have been planned for the remainder of 2008 and throughout 2009.
- Offices have been established in London (space provided by Fulcrum Consulting) and Milton Keynes (in NHBC’s offices) and are fully operational.
- Neil Jefferson is seconded from NHBC on a full-time basis and David Adams is seconded part-time from Knauf.
- Madeline Logan has been seconded as PA/Office Manager.
- Clive Turner has joined the Hub as Information Manager on secondment from BRE, initially until the end of December 2008.
- An offer has been made (and verbally accepted) for a Technical Manager to run the Energy Efficiency workstream.
- Energy Savings Trust has offered support to lead one of the workstreams.
- We have been working closely with English Partnerships and planning to ‘embed’ a number of their staff within the various workstreams.
- Corporate branding and guidelines have been developed.
- Support services, such as IT and accounts, are being provided by NHBC.



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Figure 1. Zero Carbon Hub structure

## **6. Communications – Progress Report**

- The Hub's launch was covered by the trade press.
- A communications strategy has been developed and PR support is provided by an independent agency.
- An interim web-site has been set up pending development of a fully operational site end – this work is about to go out to tender.
- A significant amount of time over the past period has been spent with stakeholder organisations and their meeting groups introducing the Hub and discussing our role. These meetings, which have included contact with government and organisations in Scotland and Wales, have gone well and we have received significant levels of interest and support.
- The Hub issued a press release in response to the OFT Market Study of House-building which stated, *'In our view, the Zero Carbon delivery hub is a crucial step in the right direction. There are efficiencies to be had from homebuilders and suppliers co-ordinating research and developing a response to the zero carbon target.'* The report also recognised CLG's positive contribution in supporting the Hub and stated that the *'burden falls especially heavily on smaller homebuilders and self employed builders who have fewer resources to dedicate to the necessary research and development.'*

## **7. Workstreams - Progress Report**

- The key areas are the five workstreams shown in Figure 1: Energy Efficiency, Energy Supply, Examples and scale up, Skills and training and Consumer Engagement. Within each work stream there will be a number of sub work streams providing focus on specific challenges. The work streams are the only area in the Hub where the programme strategy is developed and executed.
- These workstreams are currently being established and, in time, each of these groups will be headed up by a full-time manager, some of whom are seconded from stakeholder organisations.
- Our initial focus has been on establishing the Energy Efficiency and Energy Supply workstreams.
- Examples and Scale Up – work has commenced with partners to source the first twenty examples to feature on the Hub web-site.
- Skills and training – it has been agreed that this workstream will combine forces with a UK-GBC group and an initial piece of work is being scoped.
- Consumer Engagement – we are grateful for an offer or support received from EST and will be looking to progress this during the period between now and the end of the year.

## **8. Zero Carbon Definition – Industry Sounding Group**

- As agreed at the previous meeting, the Hub will seek to assist CLG and industry with the consultation on zero carbon definition which is currently being developed.
- A cross-cutting industry sounding group meeting was organised by the Hub and held on 14 October which brought together stakeholders to help CLG colleagues frame consultation questions.