



# ZERO CARBON HUB PROGRESS REPORT

Item 4 - 2016 Taskforce Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 21 October 2009

## 1. Purpose

This paper provides a report on progress since the previous Taskforce meeting held on 11 June 2009.

## 2. Corporate and People

Key points:

- The Board has met twice since the previous Taskforce meeting and has a meeting next week on Tuesday 27 October 2009.
- Revised Memorandum and Articles of Association have been agreed and the company formation process has been completed. Members and Directors have been appointed and the Board meeting on 24 June 2009 was the first meeting of the Board in its full capacity rather than on a 'shadow' basis.
- The Board comprises of the Chairman, Paul King (UK Green Building Council), Trevor Beattie (Homes and Communities Agency), Imtiaz Farookhi, Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledsome (CLG), Ray Morgan (Local Government Association) and John Tebbit (Construction Products Association). Neil Jefferson and David Adams are seconded to the Hub as Chief Executive and Executive Director respectively.
- Board meetings have moved from a monthly to a bi-monthly basis, which was agreed with the 2016 Taskforce at a previous meeting. The Taskforce also agreed to extend the secondments of the executive directors and other key staff until the end of March 2010 and to the carrying out of a full review in June 2010.
- A management agreement exists between the members of the company and cash funding is provided by NHBC, Robust Details Ltd with match funding from CLG. Funding from CLG is claimed quarterly in arrears and payment has been received for the period ending 30 June 2009.
- Since the previous meeting, the Hub has been independently audited for CLG funding purposes and has been inspected by HMRC for VAT, with positive outcomes from both. Statutory accounts have also been independently audited and will be presented to the Board for approval at next week's meeting.

### **3. Workstreams**

The Zero Carbon Hub has developed five workstreams to provide a focus for industry engagement with the key issues and challenges. All of the workstreams are now up and running and each has a steering group headed up by a manager:

- Energy Efficiency (led by Rob Pannell, Head of House Building)
- Energy Supply (led by David Adams, pending appointment of a manager)
- Examples (led by Clive Turner, Information Manager)
- Skills and Training (led by Annie Hall, consultant)
- Consumer Engagement (led by Matt Robinson, seconded from Energy Saving Trust)

Work on the development of a proposal for a national minimum energy efficiency standard (see separate paper, agenda item 5) has been prioritised over recent weeks, but work has continued in other areas. We have set up groups to look at the implications of 'carbon compliance' following the announcement of a minimum 70% level of on-site carbon compliance for new homes from 2016.

Since the previous meeting, the first phase of work on Consumer Engagement, which included consumer research, has been delivered in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust. The second phase report, which forms a marketing plan, has been approved by the Consumer Engagement Workstream and is currently being designed for publication.

### **4. Research and publications**

The NHBC Foundation supports the Zero Carbon Hub and has allocated funding for research purposes. Since the previous Taskforce meeting and in conjunction with the NHBC Foundation, the Hub has delivered:

- The remainder of the first twenty 'LZC Profiles', details of exemplar homes and developments, which are featured on the Hub's web-site.
- 'A guide to airtightness – a practical guide to building airtight dwellings.'
- 'Indoor air quality in highly energy efficient homes – a review'.
- 'Zero Carbon Compendium' – a desktop study enabling comparisons across countries and continents of how climate change is being tackled through housing policy. This report was launched in July and copies will be available for members at the Taskforce meeting.
- Two research projects have also been undertaken to consider how a number of the proposed Allowable Solutions might work in practice. Early findings from both projects have been presented to colleagues from CLG and DECC.

The following research proposals have been approved by the NHBC Foundation Advisory Board and will be developed in collaboration with the Hub:

- Consumer research (phase 1) to support the work of the UK-GBC/Zero Carbon Hub Sustainable Infrastructure Taskgroup
- Zero carbon homes: LZC cooking appliances
- Building sustainable homes at speed: Risks and rewards
- Lessons from the German PassivHaus experience
- Cellulose based monolithic materials: utility, performance and risk

## **5. Communications, Events and External Affairs**

It is increasingly important that we communicate widely the findings of our work and outputs from our research, events and meetings. The reports we provide to the 2016 Taskforce are now published on our web-site, we have issued three bi-monthly e-newsletters and held an event on 15 July 2009 to launch the Zero Carbon Compendium in conjunction with the NHBC Foundation.

We collaborated with BRE and the Energy Saving Trust to run a series of interactive SAP/Part L events around the country during August which reached nearly 300 delegates. Feedback from the events has been very good and we submitted a report, similar in style to the 'Have Your Say' report produced earlier in the year, to CLG from the events which details respondents' views on Part L and SAP consultations.

The Hub has exhibited at shows and events and has provided speakers to numerous key industry conferences. Meetings have been held with all the key stakeholder organisations and groups, including the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh equivalent of the Zero Carbon Hub. There have also been regular and ongoing meetings with key organisations, such as HBF and HBA. A progress report on the Zero Carbon Hub is a standing item on the agenda of the HBF National Technical Committee and also at the HBA Executive Committee.

In addition to the above, it has been agreed with Energy Saving Trust that the Zero Carbon Hub will host the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes – New Build Group. This will become the Hub's wider stakeholder group to communicate regularly to stakeholders not involved in the workstreams.

## **6. Summary**

This has been an exceptionally busy time for those concerned in the progress towards low and zero carbon homes. In addition to considering the ramifications of a new definition for 2016, the industry has been grappling with a consultation on new SAP 2009 methodology which impacts substantially on design and construction practice. Also, another weighty CLG consultation on Building Regulations Parts F and L (those concerned with ventilation and energy conservation) was launched during the period since the last Taskforce meeting.

As a result, the Hub has made a considerable effort in helping the industry get up-to-speed with current changes, both at our workstream meetings and at events arranged by others. This is in addition to continue to tackle the 2016 agenda, such as by hosting recent discussions about Allowable Solutions.

## **7. Recommendation**

Taskforce members are asked to note this report.

Neil Jefferson  
19 October 2009