



# ZERO CARBON HUB PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce Meeting  
to be held on Tuesday 27 January 2009

## 1. Purpose

A progress report was provided at the previous Taskforce meeting held on 21 October. This paper provides a report on progress since then and also outlines the basis of an extension to the interim arrangements agreed by Zero Carbon Hub Board at its meeting on 21 January 2009.

## 2. Corporate and People

- The Interim Board has met on three occasions since the previous Taskforce meeting and has agreed a Business Plan. A copy of the Executive Summary, together the Contents page showing how the document is structured, is attached for information.
- 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.
- Trevor Beattie, Corporate Director for Strategy, Policy, Performance and Research at the Homes and Communities Agency will join the Board from February 2009.
- The Zero Carbon Hub team now comprises of six people:
  - Neil Jefferson, seconded from NHBC
  - David Adams, part-time, seconded from Knauf Insulation
  - Rob Pannell, full-time
  - Matt Robinson, full-time, seconded from EST
  - Clive Turner, full-time, seconded from BRE
  - Madeline Logan, full-time, seconded from NHBC
- Rob Pannell joined the Hub in November from Taylor Wimpey where he was UK Director of Production.
- The Business Plan allows for two to three more staff and discussions have commenced with organisations with a view to filling the first of the these roles – an 'energy' expert – on a secondment basis.
- CLG has laid the legal instrument needed to make grant payments to the Hub, which came into effect on 23 January 2009.
- Financial reports have been developed to present budget plans and provide regular reports to the Board.

### **3. Workstreams**

- Significant progress has been made towards getting all of the workstreams up and running. The first meeting of the Energy Efficiency Steering Group was held on 12 December 2008 and Energy Efficiency and Consumer Engagement Steering Groups will meet within the next fortnight.

### **4. Communications**

- A communications strategy has been developed and PR support is provided by an independent agency.
- Three news releases have been issued since the previous meeting and the Hub has been quoted in other releases, including CLG's announcement of the definition consultation and TSB's announcement of funding for projects for the first low-impact buildings competition.
- Our website, [www.zerocarbonhub.org](http://www.zerocarbonhub.org), has been launched. This first phase development provides a good platform for dissemination of our work.

### **5. CLG Consultation – Definition of Zero Carbon Homes**

- CLG launched its consultation on the Definition of Zero Carbon Homes on 17 December 2008 and that has been the focus of much of our work during the past month. The consultation document refers to consultation events to be held by the Zero Carbon Hub and eight events have been arranged across England during February – see item 6 below.

### **6. Events**

#### PassivHaus Study Tour

The Hub has arranged a study tour to Frankfurt to be held on 4 and 5 February 2009 and all twenty places have been filled, plus a few more. This is a good opportunity to find out more about PassivHaus standards and how they are applied. CLG's Definition of Zero Carbon Homes consultation makes reference to PassivHaus and question 2 on energy efficiency reads, '*Government is minded to require very high levels of energy efficiency in 2016, broadly equivalent to some of the most demanding standards currently published by third parties (such as PassivHaus and EST).*'

#### Defining Zero Carbon Homes – Have Your Say

The Hub has arranged a series of events running from 8 February to 27 February aimed at all those involved in the development of low and zero carbon homes. More information is available at [www.zerocarbonhub.org/event00001.php](http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/event00001.php). All organisations represented on the Taskforce (and many others) have been asked to assist with marketing these events.

#### Zero Carbon – Milton Keynes Event

The Hub is hosting an event on the morning of 13 February 2009 focussing on zero carbon development in Milton Keynes. Milton Keynes has a legacy of energy efficient housing and development and is home to numerous organisations (and people) active in this area.

#### Ecobuild

The Zero Carbon Hub will be at Ecobuild at Earls Court from 3 to 5 March 2009, with a continued focus on the definition consultation.

## **7. Research**

The NHBC Foundation supports the Zero Carbon Hub and has ring-fenced funding for research purposes. To date, in conjunction with the Hub, the Foundation has delivered:

- Funding for the first twenty 'exemplars' being produced by BRE, which will be featured on the Hub web-site soon.
- A Housing Research Symposium and Workshop, held on 16 December 2008 at the Crowne Plaza, Birmingham.

Looking forward, the Foundation has committed to supporting production of:

- Zero carbon homes – a housebuilder's guide – this introductory document, produced by the Foundation and the Hub, will be available at the definition consultation events.
- Zero carbon compendium – a desktop study enabling comparisons across countries and continents of how climate change is being tackled through housing policy.
- Research looking at how the 'Allowable Solution' for existing stock referred to in the CLG consultation document might work in practice. This work has been agreed in principle by the Foundation Advisory Board.

In addition to providing a secondee to the Hub, EST is also supporting our work through funding for a consumer engagement research project.

## **8. Extension of Interim Arrangements**

The focus of the early months of the life of the Hub has been on establishing relationships with key stakeholders, dealing with set-up arrangements and recruiting staff. Moving into the next phase the Board agreed a number of proposals at its meeting on 21 January 2009 which are set out below:

- i. Extend the interim arrangements relating to the appointments of the Chairman and 'Executive Directors' from March 2009 until June 2010.
- ii. Carry out a full-scale 'Strategic Review' in June 2010.
- iii. In the meantime, drop all reference to the term 'interim' for the purposes of external communication.
- iv. Hold Board Meetings on a bi-monthly rather than monthly basis, with a chief executive's report provided to the Board in the intervening month.
- v. Finalise the Memorandum and Articles of Association, appoint the Members of the company and make up the Register of Members.
- vi. Appoint the Directors, deal with notification and approval of conflicts of interest.
- vii. Adopt the Business Plan for 2009/10, subject to its approval (it was approved at the same meeting).
- viii. Enter in to a new Management Agreement.

In effect, the only 'interim' arrangements that are ongoing are regarding the appointments of the Chairman, Paul King, and the 'Executive Directors', Neil Jefferson and David Adams. All other arrangements have been set up on a permanent basis.

## **9. Recommendation**

Taskforce members are asked to note this report.

Neil Jefferson  
23 January 2009