



# ZERO CARBON HUB - PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce – 2 November 2010

## 1. Purpose

This progress report covers the period from 23 July 2010 to present.

## 2. General

The focus has remained firmly on developing the definition for zero carbon homes. On 27 July, the Housing Minister, Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP made an announcement regarding zero carbon homes which included several points in support of the 2016 Timeline and the Zero Carbon Hub, including:

- a) Confirmation that the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard (FEES), developed by a Task Group led by the Zero Carbon Hub, will be adopted in future building regulations.
- b) Work to be carried out testing the 70% on-site Carbon Compliance level, led by the Zero Carbon Hub.
- c) Confirmation that the Minister would explore the potential for a buy-out mechanism (funding local energy schemes) for Allowable Solutions.
- d) Confirmation of £600k grant funding for the Hub for this financial year.

A progress report on b), the Carbon Compliance Standard Task Group, will be presented at the meeting. This work has taken forward a number of the recommendations of the Carbon Compliance Assumptions Task Group's report, *Carbon Compliance for Tomorrow's New Homes*, which was launched in July.

The current priority is clearly to complete work on the Carbon Compliance Standard, but the Hub continues to provide vital support to industry partners, promote achievements and meet targets set in our Business Plan, such as following-up on actions arising from the development of the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard (FEES).

At Board level, the focus is very much on developing a viable Business Plan for the Hub beyond March 2011, when current agreements end. The Chairman of the Hub, Paul King, wrote to Grant Shapps on 11 October 2010 regarding future funding and support. A copy of the letter is appended to this report.

### 3. Corporate and People

The Board of Zero Carbon Hub Ltd has met twice since the previous report and the next meeting is on Wednesday 15 December 2010. The Board comprises the Chairman, Paul King (UK-GBC), Trevor Beattie (HCA), Imtiaz Farookhi (NHBC), Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledsome (CLG), Ray Morgan (LGA) and John Tebbit (CPA). Neil Jefferson and David Adams are seconded to the Hub as Chief Executive and Executive Director respectively.

The Hub team now comprises nine people (four of whom are seconded from other organisations on a part-time basis): Neil Jefferson, David Adams, Rob Pannell, Clive Turner, Robert Macdonald, Sarah Downes, Marco Marijewycz, Madeline Logan and Jayde Lucas. All contracts and secondment agreements have been extended until March 2010. The only consultants retained by the Zero Carbon Hub on an ongoing basis are Tessa Parnell (Fulcrum Mott Macdonald), Ross Holleron (BRE) and Saryu Vatal (Richards Partington Architects), all of whom are working on the Carbon Compliance Standard.

The 2016 Taskforce has previously 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

The CLG Grant Funding Agreement and revised Business Plan for 2010-2011 were agreed and signed on 29 September. Funding from CLG is claimed quarterly in arrears and payment has been received for the period ending 30 June 2010.

The following key areas of work are set out in our Business Plan and work is underway in all areas. Following budget cuts, however, core funding is not available to support work on Consumer Engagement and Skills and Training:

- a) **2016 Timeline** – monitor and report progress against the overall programme plan to the 2016 Taskforce. Achieve greater visibility of the Timeline and its relevance to the broader industry.
- b) **Industry and stakeholder engagement** – deliver relevant information through meetings, events, website, media, etc, based on a communications plan and calendar of activities.
- c) **Energy Efficiency** – communicate the scope and requirements of the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard (FEES) and deliver a programme of work which has arisen from the development of the Standard.
- d) **Carbon Compliance** – carry out work to determine what a 70% level of Carbon Compliance look like, identifying solutions and providing cost information.
- e) **Allowable Solutions** – form a Task Group to consider how Allowable Solutions will work and also development of fund-type solutions.
- f) **Consumer Engagement and Marketing** – communicate the recommendations of the Year 1 report *Marketing Tomorrow's New Homes* and gain support and funding to implement recommendations through a collaborative national marketing campaign.
- g) **Skills and Training** – deliver the recommendations of the current programme of work (with NHBC, HBF and ConstructionSkills).

## 5. Events and Reports

On Skills, the final report *Homebuilding Skills 2020* has been posted to [www.homebuilding-skills.com](http://www.homebuilding-skills.com). This work was collaboration between the Hub, NHBC, HBF and ConstructionSkills. A press launch is pending awaiting finalised quotes from industry figures.

Taskforce members are asked to note dates of the following events:

### a) **'Nearer to Zero' Planning Conference, Woking - 24 November**

Working with Woking Borough Council and HBF, this one-day conference will bring together planners and house builders in the first event of its kind. The conference is CPD Certified and is £35+VAT. Further details are available on the dedicated website [www.nearertozero.co.uk](http://www.nearertozero.co.uk)

### b) **Carbon Compliance 'Have your say' consultation events**

These events, which use the latest handheld interactive voting technology, provide an opportunity for those interested in how homes will be built from 2016 to express views, discuss implications of the policy and ultimately influence final decisions on where the level of carbon emissions allowable from a home should be set. The interactive events will be held in:

**Manchester                      30 November**

**London                              1 December**

**Milton Keynes                  2 December**

If you are would like to attend, please register your interest by emailing [events@zerocarbonhub.org](mailto:events@zerocarbonhub.org)

Neil Jefferson  
28 October 2010