



ZERO CARBON HUB - PROGRESS REPORT

2016 Taskforce – 13 September 2011

1. Purpose

This progress report covers the period from 6 June 2011 to present.

2. General

The targets set in the Hub Business Plan for the period July to August have all been achieved, other than one (finalisation of a FEES guidance booklet) which has been temporarily delayed by others.

Notable areas of work for the Hub during the period have included:

- Launch of the Allowable Solutions report prior to the summer holiday period. Further work is required in September and October to more effectively engage the broader industry in order to keep momentum going.
- Finalising the report for a DCLG work group to develop the 'Standards and Calculation Methods' for Part L 2013 (new and existing homes).
- Rowner Renewal Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard Project – this £250k project is progressing well and according to plan.
- In partnership with HBF and NHBC, we successfully bid for £160k of CITB ConstructionSkills funding for the next phase of the Skills and Training work. The Hub also successfully bid for £55k of funding to run Nearer to Zero events.
- A UK Study Tour was held on 15 and 16 June 2011. Further similar events will be arranged in the future.
- Planning and arrangements for the Zero Carbon Hub Annual Conference, to be held on 2 February 2012, are underway.
- Work on Consumer Engagement has restarted and the next phase of this work is being scoped. In the meantime, the Hub is collaborating with NHBC Foundation as it revisits its 2008 research '*Zero Carbon: what does it mean to homeowners and housebuilders?*'. We are also partnering with the New Homes Marketing Board and Housebuilder Media Ltd to produce information for the industry which will be available in October. This will include a supplement to the October edition of Housebuilder magazine.

3. Corporate and People

The Board of Zero Carbon Hub Ltd has met twice since the previous report and the next meeting is on 20 October 2011. This meeting includes a Board Strategy workshop to consider the future direction and business model of the Hub.

Board Members are the Chairman, Paul King (UK-GBC), Imtiaz Farookhi (NHBC), Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledsome (CLG), Ray Morgan (LGA), Stephen Muers (HCA), and John Tebbit (CPA). The Executive Directors are Neil Jefferson, David Adams and Rob Pannell.

The Hub 'core' team comprises: Neil Jefferson, David Adams, Rob Pannell, Sarah Downes, Clive Turner, Robert Macdonald, Alex Uregian, Madeline Logan and Jayde Lucas. Three consultants are retained by the Zero Carbon Hub on an ongoing basis: Tessa Parnell (Fulcrum Mott MacDonald), Ross Holleron (BRE) and Saryu Vatal (Richards Partington Architects).

4. Business Plan, Finance and Funding

The full year budget expenditure for the Hub is forecast at £753k. Small amounts of additional funding have been secured and costs are being managed very closely.

At end of July, we were £40k underspent against budget expenditure, but this mainly relates to the Rowner Project due to timing of payments, rather than a change to cost estimates.

The Business Plan objectives for 2011/12 are:

- **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.
- **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'. 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. NHBC Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub

The NHBC Foundation research project supported by the Zero Carbon Hub, '*Zero Carbon: what does it mean to homeowners [and occupiers]*' is proceeding well and remains on plan to deliver findings by November (with a launch event to be held in early 2012).

Work on the 2011 edition of the 'Zero Carbon Compendium' is also progressing well and the report is being finalised.

At its July meeting, the NHBC Foundation Advisory Board approved three proposals (with a total cost of £104k) for work that will be undertaken with the Zero Carbon Hub, subject to support being received from DCLG:

- Carbon Compliance – A development level approach
- Carbon Compliance Standards for High Rise Apartments and How to Achieve Them
- NHBC guide to overheating in new dwellings (Richards Partington Architects).

Neil Jefferson
8 September 2011