



ZERO CARBON HUB PROGRESS REPORT

Item 7 - 2016 Taskforce Meeting to be held on
Wednesday 27 January 2010

1. Purpose

This paper provides a report on progress since the previous Taskforce meeting held on 21 October 2009.

2. Corporate and People

Key points:

- The Board has met twice since the previous Taskforce meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 15 February 2010.
- The Board comprises of the Chairman, Paul King (UK Green Building Council), Trevor Beattie (Homes and Communities Agency), Imtiaz Farookhi (NHBC), 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.
- The 2016 Taskforce has previously 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. In view of the likely timing of a General Election, it was agreed at the Hub Board Meeting on 18 December 2009 that secondments should be extended further until December 2010 and a review carried out at the same time.
- Ross Holleron has been seconded to the Hub from BRE on a part-time basis as Head of Energy Supply. Ross is well known to us and has worked on consultation events and as technical author of the Energy Efficiency Standard.
- Energy Saving Trust has confirmed that it wishes to extend its involvement and support for our Consumer Engagement work through 2010-11. Details are to be agreed, but the basis for the agreement means that EST will provide managerial and meeting resources to the Hub, which forms 'in-kind' support.
- Robert Macdonald has joined the Zero Carbon Hub on secondment from NHBC and is focussing on communications, planning activities for 2010 and working on the development of the Zero Carbon Hub website.

At the Hub Board meeting on 18 December 2009, the following themes for next year's business plan were agreed. The business and budget plan will be presented to the Board for approval at its February meeting.

- a) **2016 Timeline** – monitor and report progress against overall programme plan. An objective for next year is to get more 'buy-in' from industry to it, starting with an event and workshop on 2 February 2010.
- b) **Energy Efficiency** – we are hopeful that the Hub's recommendation for a fabric energy efficiency standard will be adopted through Building Regulations and Code for Sustainable Homes, but there is still a lot for us to do next year in a few key areas, such as ventilation, overheating and indoor air quality.
- c) **Carbon Compliance** – what does 70% mean? What are the solutions? How do we do it and how much does it cost?
- d) **Allowable Solutions** – Task Group to be formed to consider how Allowable Solutions will work and also development of fund-type solutions.
- e) **Consumer/Marketing** – implement marketing plan (which will be launched in January 2010), including web-site and work on innovative funding solutions.
- f) **Skills and Training** – the current programme of work (with NHBC, HBF and ConstructionSkills) is due to report in April 2010 – there will be recommendations from this work that will need to be followed up.

The current funding agreement for the Hub is due to end in March 2011 and a timetable has been agreed by the Board for further discussions to ensure future funding for following years. Further to the meeting, Imtiaz Farookhi has written to the Minister to offer ongoing funding from NHBC (copy of letter attached).

3. Workstreams

The Zero Carbon Hub has developed five workstreams to provide a focus for industry engagement with the key issues and challenges:

- Energy Efficiency (led by Rob Pannell, Head of House Building)
- Energy Supply (led by Ross Holleron, Head of Energy Supply)
- Examples (led by Clive Turner, Information Manager)
- Skills and Training (led by Annie Hall, consultant)
- Consumer Engagement (led by Energy Saving Trust)

Energy Efficiency

The submission of the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard last November has been perhaps our most notable milestone since launching. After three months of intensive work, members of the Task Group presented the proposals to the Housing Minister, John Healey, on 10 November 2009. The work was completed on-time and the proposals were set out clearly and agreed unanimously by the Task Group.

On 24 November, John Healey announced his decision on the minimum standard for the energy efficiency of zero carbon homes, a decision which he said was strongly informed by the specialist Task Group lead by the Zero Carbon Hub. The requirements were then included in the CLG consultation on revisions to the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Skills and Training

The Skills workstream led a well attended workshop on 26 and 27 November 2009 which brought together a wide variety of leading industry representatives. to identify the skills and knowledge needed to deliver zero carbon homes.

Consumer engagement

The consumer engagement workstream has finalised its report which sets out a framework for building a more informed understanding of how zero carbon homes can be successfully marketed. This report will be launched at an All Party Parliamentary Group meeting to be held on 3 February 2010.

4. Communications, Events and External Affairs

A launch event was held by UK-GBC to launch findings of new research carried out on behalf of the Zero Carbon Hub, UK-GBC and funded by the NHBC Foundation which shows strong public support for 'green' infrastructure and utility schemes such as district heat networks, vacuum waste disposal and water harvesting.

HBF have agreed for the Hub to present at a whole series of events in 2010, including MD and Technical Dinners across the regions and a meeting of the Majors Sub-Group in January. Stewart Baseley has also agreed to co-host a dinner for industry chief executives to be held on 11 February 2010. Relationships with other trade federations also remain strong.

An event has been arranged in partnership with Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes on 2 February to launch the 2016 timeline to industry. Richard McCarthy from CLG has accepted an invitation to speak at the event.

5. Low Carbon Construction IGT Housing Team

In September this year Peter Mandelson announced a review of the construction industry to ensure it was 'fit for purpose' for delivering a low carbon future. The review will assess the strengths of and opportunities for the UK construction industry in a low carbon economy and is led by Paul Morrell, the new Chief Construction Adviser. It will follow the 'Innovation and Growth Team' model which has worked successfully in the past in a number of industry sectors. Paul King has recently met with Paul Morrell to discuss the IGT.

There are five workstreams on the IGT and Neil Jefferson has been invited to join the Housing - new and existing team which is chaired by Mark Clare, Chief Executive of Barratt Developments. Trevor Beattie and John Tebbit are also members of the group.

6. Recommendation

Taskforce members are asked to note this report. Members are also asked to ratify the Board's decision to extend current arrangements until December 2010 and carry out a full strategic review at that time.

Neil Jefferson
20 January 2010