



# **ZERO CARBON HUB – PROGRESS REPORT**

2016 Taskforce – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012

## **1. Purpose**

This progress report covers the period from 14 February 2012 to present.

## **2. General**

Notable achievements during the period have included:

- Publication of various guide documents, including a guide to the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard (FEES) and Part L 2013 guide documents (setting out example specifications for achieving requirements for different dwelling types).
- Production of a new guide publication 'Building New Business Through Sustainable Homes' with SummitSkills and launch event on 14 May in London.
- The RSA 2020 Public Services Hub (2020 PSH) has developed and published 'A collaborative approach to policy – a case study of the Zero Carbon Hub'. This study is one of a number that the 2020 PSH have taken forward as contributions to inform the Government in the development of a new form of industrial policy. It was launched at a seminar event at RSA on 10 May.
- A very successful 'Nearer to Zero' event for planners and builders was held in Manchester on 25 April. Speakers included Andrew Stunell MP and feedback from the event has been excellent. The next 'Nearer to Zero' event will be in Peterborough on 3 July and will be attended by Jack Dromey, Shadow Housing Minister.
- Presentations at a series of eleven NHBC 'Building for Tomorrow' roadshow events across United Kingdom reaching nearly 1,000 people from the house-building industry.
- Exhibition and speaking opportunities at Ecobuild during 20-22 March.
- Exhibition and speaking opportunities at Greenbuild EXPO in Manchester during 9-10 May.
- Three half-day training courses in Brighouse, Huddersfield and Swindon for residential surveyors in collaboration with Bluebox Partners and Allied Surveyors.
- Further to the consumer research launched by NHBC Foundation in February, the Hub and NHBC Foundation have followed up on one of the recommendations by issuing information and press releases which quantify the anticipated lower running costs of new homes (2010 and 2016 regs) compared to older homes.

### **3. Corporate and People**

Board Members are the Chairman, Paul King (UK-GBC), Mike Freshney (HBF and Robust Details Ltd), Bob Ledson (CLG), Ray Morgan (LGA) and John Tebbit (CPA). The Executive Directors are Neil Jefferson, David Adams and Rob Pannell. The Board has met once since the last report, on 6 April.

During the period, Imtiaz Farookhi has left NHBC and has also left the Board of Zero Carbon Hub Ltd. From April, Neil Jefferson has taken up a new role as a Main Board Director at NHBC responsible for Standards, Customer Relationships, Marketing, Corporate Communications and NHBC Foundation. Neil will continue in his role as Chief Executive of the Zero Carbon Hub, although the time he spends on Hub business will continue to reduce.

The Hub 'core' team comprises: Neil Jefferson, David Adams, Rob Pannell, Clive Turner, Robert Macdonald, Sarah Downes, Anastasios Kougionis, Madeline Logan and Sarah O'Toole. Two consultants are retained by the Hub on an ongoing basis: Tessa Hurstwyn (Mott MacDonald) and Saryu Vatal (Richards Partington Architects).

### **4. Business Plan, Finance and Funding**

Funding has been secured from NHBC and Robust Details Ltd for the current financial year 2012-13, but the biggest priority remains - to identify how the Hub will be funded in future years.

Income and expenditure for the 2011/12 financial year was in line with the Business Plan (expenditure was approximately £750k). Income for the year 2012/13 is budgeted at £612k and expenditure at £672k - we plan to spend some of the small amounts retained from previous years to counteract reduced levels of funding this year.

### **5. NHBC Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub**

The NHBC Foundation continues to support the Zero Carbon Hub by carrying out research and publishing guidance documents. During the period, *A survey of low and zero carbon technologies in new housing* was launched which complements recent other NHBC Foundation/Zero Carbon Hub projects including *Today's attitudes to low and zero carbon homes*. Carried out by the University of Reading with input from the Zero Carbon Hub, this has two parts:

- an examination by questionnaire of the types of low and zero carbon technologies currently being installed on different types of new build site across the UK;
- a detailed examination of the experiences of those living with low and zero carbon technologies.

Solar technologies appear prevalent, with MVHR also appearing fairly widely used. Findings on the consumer side generally reinforce those of previous research, with a lack of information provided about use of the technology to occupiers who appear uncertain how their energy bills are affected.