

# WORKSHOP SESSION - Review of Sustainable Design and Construction SPD

Code for Sustainable Homes and Low/Zero Carbon Energy Schemes

Issue for discussion	Discussion comments	Prioritise top 3
<p><b>Sustainable Design and Code for Sustainable Homes -</b></p> <p>List the top 3 most important aspects for the SPD to focus on to guide new development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Group felt that each of the aspects identified in the Code for Sustainable Homes was important in its own right.</li> <li>It was noted that the cost of sustainable design and construction would be an issue in terms of the viability of development. This may have an impact on design quality.</li> <li>One member of the Group highlighted the issue of flooding on local communities arising out of the impact of new development. Changing weather patterns need to be factored into the design and layout of new developments.</li> </ul>	<p>The Group prioritised the top 3 aspects as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy / CO<sub>2</sub> was seen as a priority due to the targets for carbon reduction</li> <li>Surface water run-off was identified as a problem however the Group felt that the solution might be to link this with water supply. Opportunities for grey water recycling should be exploited wherever possible.</li> <li>Waste was also identified as being important and should be considered as a resource. Energy from Waste plants / local pyrolysis plants should be incorporated into new developments wherever possible.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Low/Zero Carbon energy schemes -</b></p> <p>What information would be useful for developers designing renewable energy schemes to support new development?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Group agreed that it might be useful for the Council to provide information on appropriate technologies for low/zero carbon energy schemes. However it was more important to ensure that this information or research is acted upon and implemented.</li> <li>Developers must look at standard house types to ensure that they can adapt to new technologies.</li> <li>It was recognised that developers need to realise some value from the incorporation of low carbon energy schemes to ensure new developments are viable.</li> <li>It was noted that a culture change was required where renting was more acceptable or desirable than home ownership. The flexibility that renting offers would ensure that people can move homes as their lifestyle changed to reduce their need to travel. Adapting existing properties to reduce carbon emissions would also be easier if they were under local authority or housing association control.</li> <li>Future water supply was identified as an issue.</li> </ul>	<p>No comment.</p>

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Energy Assessments and improving the effectiveness of the SPD

Issue for discussion	Discussion Outcomes
<b>Are Energy Assessments appropriate for all types of Development?</b>	<p>The Group felt that Energy Assessments were appropriate for all types of development. It is important that developers and the local planning authority act on the outcome of these assessments. It was agreed that the preparation of Energy Assessments should be mandatory and that this should be enforced by the Borough Council. Monitoring in the long term would be critical to the effectiveness of the assessments.</p>
<b>Should any type of development be excluded from an Energy Assessment?</b>	<p>The Group felt strongly that no type of development should be excluded from the requirement for an Energy Assessment.</p>
<b>How could the SPD ensure clear, good quality energy statements are submitted with planning applications?</b>	<p>It was suggested that the Borough Council prepare a form or template detailing precisely the information it required. This must be completed in full by developers before a planning application can be registered.</p>
<b>Ideas to increase the effectiveness of the SPD.</b>	<p>Advertising and promotion on the benefits of sustainable design and construction was seen as paramount. The SPD should be circulated to Parish and Town Councils and included on the Council's website, although it was noted that not everybody had access to the internet. Leaflets and information in local libraries could also be made available.</p> <p>The issue of sustainable design and construction could also be promoted in schools, linked into the climate change agenda.</p> <p>In order to bring about a culture change, the implications of sustainable design and construction should be quantified in financial terms.</p>
<b>How could the wider issues of achieving more sustainable design be tackled?</b>	<p>Grants should be made available for incorporating or developing new technologies.</p> <p>Other suggestions included apprenticeships in sustainable construction and the creation of a post in the Borough Council to specifically monitor and enforce targets for energy efficiency.</p>