

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>Sustainable Design and Code for Sustainable Homes -</p> <p>List the top 3 most important aspects for the SPD to focus on to guide new development.</p>	<p>One of the group members recommended 'An Introduction to Permaculture' by Bill Mollison, to the officers as background reading on this topic. It is all about sustainability and the optimum use of resources and energy (http://www.amazon.co.uk/Introduction-Permaculture-Bill-Mollison/dp/0908228082).</p> <p>The group had a varied debate on this matter and came up with the three important aspects listed to the right.</p>	<p>The group's top three most important aspects for the SPD to focus on are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy efficiency• Water (usage, recycling, flooding, sustainable urban drainage systems and design issues)• Lighting (maximizing the use of natural light, building orientation etc)
<p>Low/Zero Carbon energy schemes -</p> <p>What information would be useful for developers designing renewable energy schemes to support new development?</p>	<p>The group consensus was that examples of best practice and case studies would be most useful.</p>	<p>No comment.</p>

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Energy Assessments and improving the effectiveness of the SPD

Issue for discussion	Discussion Outcomes
Are Energy Assessments appropriate for all types of Development?	<p>The group felt that consistency is important and it is largely inevitable that all developments will be captured by the requirements.</p> <p>The group accepted that extensions to properties may be subject to Energy Assessments but it is not clear whether the assessment should be of the whole property or just the extension, and what role the outcome of the assessment may have in securing planning permission or a refusal.</p> <p>It was felt that there is a danger that the requirements could become onerous and over-controlling.</p>
Should any type of development be excluded from an Energy Assessment?	<p>The group discussed whether smaller householder applications should be excluded from this requirement, but it was generally considered appropriate that no developments should be excluded, but more detailed guidance would be needed.</p>
How could the SPD ensure clear, good quality energy statements are submitted with planning applications?	<p>Best practice examples would be helpful with guidance on how to write them, the recommended scope and what is expected.</p> <p>A number of delegates felt it was important that certain loopholes / get out clauses in the SPD should be closed.</p>
Ideas to increase the effectiveness of the SPD.	<p>Make it less technical and more useable.</p> <p>Identify what is mandatory and what is optional.</p>
How could the wider issues of achieving more sustainable design be tackled?	<p>Lifetime homes were considered to be very important in this respect.</p>