



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Wednesday 17th October 2007, 10.00 am – 12.30pm

To be held at GOEM offices, Talbot Street, Nottingham – for location details go to <http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/contacts/location/>

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
2. Notes from Previous Meeting
3. Regional Housing Strategy Review - presentation by Strategic Solutions & Three Dragons consultants.
Consultation paper available at <http://www.emra.gov.uk/files/rhs-review-consultation-options-paper1.pdf>
4. Links with Sustainable Development Commission – discussion with Alice Owen, SD Commissioner
5. Embedding Sustainable Development into Local Area Agreements – presentation by Kris Ambler, Regeneration East Midlands
6. Climate Change Updates
 - Sustainable Design & Construction
 - Programme of Action
7. IRS Refresh - Update
8. East Midlands Expo 07 – Feedback
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of Next Meeting

Promoting Sustainable Development Group Meeting

17th October 2007

Briefing Note on Sustainable Design and Construction

Background

Climate Change has long been seen as a priority for the Regional Assembly. In 2004 an opportunity arose for potential funding in the DCarb Programme. One region was to be identified to take forward work in cutting carbon. In this region we identified sustainable design and construction as a vital area, not just to address emissions through low carbon buildings, but also to include flexibility in design so that buildings could still function in a future climate. Unfortunately we were not selected for the programme, but we decided to go ahead with a partnership based approach to developing work on sustainable design and construction.

This region already had some exemplar work in low energy buildings. Phase 1 of the project mapped out the good and best practice across the region, leading to a portfolio of 29 case studies. Many of these case studies have been included on the EMRA website as success stories.

Phase 2 brought together a number of partners from a range of backgrounds as the Sustainable Design and Construction Steering Group. This Group identified the need to ensure that sustainability is embedded in the design at the earliest stage as it is often not possible to add on later. Following on from this a project was devised to target design teams through a regional competition coupled with training provided by the region's universities. The competition ran through 2005. Eighteen design teams entered the competition and received training. Four teams were shortlisted to tender for the Sustainable Construction Training Centre that was to be sited at Sherwood Energy Village.

Sustainable Design and Construction Steering Group

The SD&C agenda has now been largely mainstreamed, with Regeneration East Midlands (REM) taking a very significant role in its delivery. The competition helped to build relationships across the region and across sectors. Key successes have been:

- The continued delivery of training on low carbon buildings by Opun in conjunction with University partners.
- Closer links between partners in construction and design
- Increase awareness on design across partners
- Links to green Infrastructure

In addition there have been a number of developments that have given further impetus in this area.

- Emda are construction lead for the RDAs and liaise with DBERR and other departments

- Regeneration East Midlands (REM) are the regional delivery agent for the Academy of Sustainable Communities and are leading on sustainable development in the growth areas
- Opun have developed their Design Review Panel to improve design
- The Ozone project in Nottingham has reached the final round for lottery funding
- East Midlands Centre for the Built Environment is working closely with emda on sustainable construction and deliver an annual conference at EXPO.
- REM and Opun are working closely with the Assembly on planning issues
- REM are leading on the Building Schools for the Future programme
- The East Midlands has become the first UK region to develop a UN Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE) for Education in Sustainable Development, which has sustainable design and construction as an important area of work

The SD&C group have continued to meet and have been working on a guide to support the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). A draft of this was made available during the review of the RSS and the earlier research has informed the policy on sustainable design. In particular, draft RSS includes a carbon neutral policy for new development. The draft guide has been further developed, following comments through the review process. This work will be completed during this financial year.

Future Work

The group also continue to monitor where value can be added at the regional level. For example a workshop is being held at EXPO that will also help to build the network in the growth areas, aiding the work being led by REM. The group has identified the importance of clients in demanding climate friendly buildings and is planning to devise a project to deliver on this area and support other regional work.

The UN RCE are keen to engage in education on sustainable buildings at a variety of different levels and projects are likely to come forward in the near future, particularly in relation to showcasing good practice.

The Group is also working with the Energy Saving Trust, as they are keen to progress the carbon zero development. We will be looking to identify potential developers to engage directly with the EST on their new project. We will also disseminate information on best practice across the region.

Helen Chadwick
Regional Energy Co-ordinator