



SCOPING SURVEY - WELSH ZERO CARBON HOUSING PERFORMANCE HUB SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

The survey has questions on four themes:

- Hub remit
- Hub activities
- Hub technical
- Hub practicalities

We envisage it taking approximately 30 minutes to complete, depending on how many comments you wish to make.

We would appreciate if comments are kept quite brief at this stage.

Please note that we have used the term “low energy/zero carbon” to refer to the spectrum of different current standards and approaches. This term is also intended to cover “net zero carbon.”

Once you begin the survey you can:

- Leave the survey and your answers will be saved for you to come back later.
- Download the full survey so it can be shared with colleagues (**Click here to download in PDF format {link TBC}**)
- No need to click any “back” and “forward” buttons to move around in the survey, just keep scrolling.
- You can provide general comments at the end of each section.

All of the questions must be answered before pressing “submit” (just click “no comment” if the question is not relevant for you).

Please be assured that all responses will be kept in the strictest confidence and the information published in our scoping report in Spring 2021 will be anonymised.

We welcome the views of all interested parties by **5 March 2021**.

Find out more information and read an introduction to the survey here - <https://goodhomes.org.uk/news/scoping-survey-welsh-hub>.

If you have any questions about the survey please contact Richard Broad at

SECTION A - GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of organisation or your name *(if you are responding as an individual)*

2. Are you responding on behalf of: *(please choose 1 option)*

- A government department
- An agency, NDPB, committee or taskforce linked to national government
- A local authority
- A housing association/registered provider
- A private housebuilder/developer
- A design firm or architects
- An academic or research institution
- A trade association
- An energy efficiency/environmental membership organisation, charity or NGO
- An energy efficiency/environmental consultancy
- A manufacturer/supplier (including BPE products and services)
- An installer company
- A certification body/organisation
- A private financial institution
- Other (please state)

3. Does your organisation operate, build or sell in Wales? (*please choose 1 option*)

- Yes
- No
- Other

SECTION B – HUB REMIT

Geographical Scope

4. In terms of the geographical scope of the future Hub’s activities, which of the following would you prefer? (*please choose 1 option*)

- A “Welsh Hub” intended for Welsh organisations only
- A Welsh-based Hub, which prioritises the support of Welsh organisations, but also shares knowledge and influences across the UK and internationally
- No comment
- Other – please provide comments

Sector Scope

5. After reading the introduction to this survey on the GHA's website, which proposal for the Hub's remit do you most agree with? (please choose 1 option)

Here is the link to the introduction - <https://goodhomes.org.uk/news/scoping-survey-welsh-hub>.

NB: we have not included the option to cover all new build and all existing homes in Wales at this stage, but considering the viability of this could be a potential early Hub work programme. There is also the opportunity to comment on this option below.

- The Hub's sole focus should be on supporting affordable new build housing providers in Wales in meeting future low energy/zero carbon standards (acknowledging that private housebuilders may also find the Hub's activities helpful)
- The Hub's initial focus should be on supporting affordable new build housing providers in Wales in meeting future standards, but then extended to cover existing social housing too, after the first few years
- The Hub's initial focus should be on supporting affordable new build housing providers in Wales in meeting future standards, but then extended to cover all of the new build sector in Wales after the first few years
- No comment
- Other (please comment)

Role

When the former UK Zero Carbon Hub was set up in 2008 it was conceived as a joint government-industry body, with funding from both. This model helped to demonstrate clear government backing, and provided a recognised, collaborative forum for industry, NGOs and academia to contribute to and help develop recommendations for government. The decision was ultimately taken not to go ahead with the zero carbon policy in 2016, but the model itself was very effective.

6. Which of the following possible structures for the Hub do you think would be most effective in preparing Wales to build low energy/zero carbon homes at scale? (please choose 1 option)

- The Hub should be the primary Welsh Government endorsed entity in which industry, academia and NGOs collaborate to share research, debate issues, and help to shape future Welsh low energy/zero carbon housing policy?
- The Hub should be an independent industry, academia and NGO-led forum for researching and disseminating housing ‘best practice’ guidance to those wanting to voluntarily adopt low energy/zero carbon standards ahead of mainstream policy changes
- No comment
- Other (please comment)

7. Any other comments on Section B – Hub Remit?

SECTION C - HUB ACTIVITIES

Prioritising Activities

Please categorise how important it will be for the Hub to carry out the following activities in terms of High (month 0–6), Medium (month 6–18) and Low (month 12– 24) importance (please choose 1 option for each potential activity)

8. Strategic Clarity

HIGH Month 0-6	MEDIUM Month 6-18	LOW Month 12-24
Working with housing providers to agree whether to adopt a <u>single</u> definition of “zero carbon” and what it should be (drawing on existing work where possible – see Question 14)		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking and summarising policy and regulation on low energy/zero carbon homes		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking and sharing relevant information on recent and new sector-led zero carbon frameworks and standards		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying skills and knowledge gaps and making recommendations to tackle these		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working with housing providers to agree possible timelines for the mass roll-out of low energy/zero carbon new build homes (using agreed definitions, and drawing on recommendations of advisory bodies such as the UK Committee on Climate Change)		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Knowledge Sharing

HIGH
Month 0-6

MEDIUM
Month 6-18

LOW
Month 12-24

Showcasing and summarising research, demonstrators and case studies related to the design and delivery of low energy/zero carbon homes

Tracking and showcasing studies where the energy performance of low energy/zero carbon homes has been measured and verified

Tracking and sharing relevant industry reports and best practice guidance on essential elements of delivering low energy/zero carbon homes e.g. minimising embodied carbon and on building performance evaluation

Identifying and sharing research on the cost of constructing low energy/zero carbon homes, plus information on funding sources and bodies

Tracking and sharing guidance on potential technical risks such as overheating and how zero carbon ambitions must dovetail with health and well-being goals

Providing a facility on the website for Hub users to ask specific questions about low energy/zero carbon delivery, with answers developed by experts and shared on the website as Q&A

Running industry surveys to gain insights into delivery challenges and gage progress

Running webinars, workshops, events and seminars on emerging themes, policies, opportunities and challenges (virtual and physical, once it safe to do so)

10. Capacity Building

HIGH Month 0-6	MEDIUM Month 6-18	LOW Month 12-24
Working with housing providers to identify and decide how to overcome remaining technical, practical and funding challenges related to each potential “element” of low carbon/zero carbon delivery (see Question 15)		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying and disseminating information on potential opportunities for the Welsh economy related to delivering low energy/zero carbon homes e.g. for the timber industry		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking and showcasing studies on the use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and Off-site Manufacturing (OSM) and their contribution to delivering low energy/zero carbon homes		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking and sharing links to established lists of trusted Welsh suppliers and tradespeople		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Interaction with Current Policy

11. After reading the introduction to this survey on the GHA's website, how should the Hub's activities interact with planned government policy on new build energy and carbon standards? (please choose 1 option)

Here is the link to the introduction - <https://goodhomes.org.uk/news/scoping-survey-welsh-hub>.

NB: We have asked you to choose just one option. The Hub may end up doing a little of all of this, but we would like to know what you think its primary role should be in relation to Welsh Government policy for housing providers within the Hub's remit. This question overlaps with Question 6.

- Where government policy is concerned, the Hub's role should be limited to disseminating information and helping users keep up to date with changes
- The Hub's role should include the first option, plus officially supporting housing providers with preparing to meet the Welsh Government's 2025 standard (whatever it ends up being)
- The Hub's role should include the first option, plus officially supporting housing providers who want to go further and faster before 2025, i.e. going beyond national standards voluntarily, with a view to all new build housing potentially achieving similar stretching standards at a defined point in the future
- The Hub's role should include the first option, plus be the official forum for collaboration between industry, academia, NGOs and government with a view to making recommendations about how far the 2025 standard could go, based on a sector-wide view of what is feasible at scale (and assuming the 2025 energy standards are not already fixed)
- No comment
- Other (please comment)

Website Content

**12. In terms of information on the Hub’s website which option would you prefer?
(please choose 1 option)**

- The content primarily relates to Wales (i.e. Welsh-specific case studies, research projects, guidance etc.)
- The content is drawn from across the UK
- The content is drawn from across Europe
- No comment

13. Any other comments on Section C – Hub Activities?

SECTION D - HUB TECHNICAL

Defining Zero Carbon

There have been a number of definitions of “zero carbon” for new build homes developed over recent years, including:

- *The definition produced by the former UK Zero Carbon Hub in preparation for planned legislation in 2016, which included a fabric standard, a target emissions rate, and the ability to off-set remaining carbon known as “allowable solutions”. The definition focuses on regulated energy. See [Zero Carbon Policy | Zero Carbon Hub](#).*
- *Definitions developed by the London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI), Woodknowledge Wales, Home-Grown Homes and the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) which are very similar to each other. They include stretching operational energy use standards and other elements not included in the UK Zero Carbon Hub’s definition, such as on embodied carbon, unregulated energy, and performance measurement and verification requirements. See: <https://www.leti.london/one-pager>; [Net-Zero targets for Wales - Woodknowledge Wales](#); [Home-Grown Homes Project / Prosiect Cartrefi o Bren Lleol - Woodknowledge Wales](#); [Net Zero Carbon Buildings: A Framework Definition - UKGBC - UK Green Building Council](#).*

The Welsh Hub can build on this work.

14. In terms of whether and how the Hub addresses the question of defining “zero carbon”, which of the following options would you prefer to see happen - with a view to the Welsh Government adopting the definition for the sector? (please choose 1 option)

- The Hub initially adopts the former UK Zero Carbon Hub’s definition and updates and expands it to meet the present-day aspirations of Welsh housing providers
- The Hub initially adopts the LETI/Woodknowledge Wales/UKGBC definition and works with Welsh housing providers to identify any specific barriers or challenges to delivery and provides structured support on how to overcome these
- The Hub does not initially adopt any single definition of “zero carbon”, but focuses on knowledge-sharing and support on key themes of relevance to any definition: operational energy use/demand, up-front and embodied carbon, the use of renewable energy, off-setting, and performance measurement and verification
- The Hub does not initially adopt any single definition of “zero carbon”, but instead supports all Welsh housing providers within its remit who are working towards delivering either “low energy” or “zero carbon” schemes
- No comment
- Other - please briefly describe your preferred approach

15. The five themes mentioned in Question 14 are considered in recent definitions to be essential elements of “full” zero carbon. Which of these elements do you consider to be the least, through to most, challenging in terms of technical delivery on site (*please rank each element with 1 being the least technically challenging and 5 being the most*), and should therefore be prioritised for support by the Hub?

Use the drop down menu to choose the ranking, or you can physically move the options using the three lines to the left.

NB: We recognise the challenge may be to deliver all the elements below simultaneously, but for now, we would appreciate views on each of them separately.



Achieving very low operational energy demand (regulated and unregulated energy, fabric and core building services performance)



Achieving low upfront and embodied carbon, and taking a whole life carbon approach



Supplying nearly all remaining energy needs from renewable sources (on-site)



Verifying ‘real-world’ energy performance with suitable verification techniques



Finding and using suitable carbon off-setting methods and verification techniques

16. Any other comments on Section D – Hub Technical?

SECTION E - HUB PRACTICALITIES

Business Model

17. Which of the following business models do you think would make the Hub most successful in fulfilling its objective to drive up the delivery of low energy/zero carbon new homes in Wales? (please choose 1 option)

- The Hub is a not-for-profit organisation
- The Hub is a social enterprise
- The Hub is a for-profit organisation
- No comment
- Other (please comment)

18. Which of the following approaches to set-up do you think would make the Hub most influential within the new build sector? (please choose 1 option)

- The Hub is set up as part of an existing organisation in the construction sector
- The Hub is set up as part of an existing organisation in the environmental sector
- The Hub is set up as a brand-new independent organisation
- No comment
- Other (please comment)

19. Should the Hub have a physical base (in Wales)? (please choose 1 option)

- Yes – a physical base (in Wales) is ideal
- No – a virtual presence is sufficient, plus the hire of venues for events
- No comment

Funding Model

20. Which of the following financial models do you think will help the Hub be accepted as a source for unbiased support and advice? (please choose 1 option)

NB: your answer to this question may link to your answer about the role of the Hub in Question 6. See also Question 21.

- 100% funded/sponsored by the Welsh Government
- Part funded/sponsored by the Welsh Government and affordable housing providers
- Part funded/sponsored by the Welsh Government, affordable housing providers and private housebuilders
- 100% privately funded/sponsored by a range of construction sector organisations
- No comment
- Other (please comment)

21. Alternatively or in addition to the options in Question 20, do you think the Hub should be able to charge a fee for some of the services it provides? (please choose 1 option)

- Yes, if this means it can offer better quality support
- Yes, but only if the income is invested in defined activities
- No, this should be a free-to-use service for the sectors covered by the Hub's remit
- No comment

22. Any other comments on Section E – Hub Practicalities?

CONTACT DETAILS

23. If you would like to be take part in the Hub's future activities please provide your name and email address and tick the relevant topics

Name

Email Address

Phone Number
(optional)

24. Topics

- Potential sponsor/funder/help-in-kind
- Potential venue provider
- Work for the Hub/member of the Board
- Take part in detailed work on low energy/zero carbon themes once the Hub is operational
- Join the mailing list (be the first to hear about the launch event)

If you have any questions about the survey please contact Richard Broad at richard@goodhomes.org.uk.

If you have any questions about the Hub please contact Julian Brooks at julian@goodhomes.org.uk.