

DRAFT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

- **A catalyst to achieve a step-change in the sustainability of the:-**
 - procurement
 - design
 - construction
 - operation**of all built assets.**

- **Pressing need to make real progress (with monitoring and evaluating, and then reporting on achievement) and be clear on:-**
 - shared aspirations
 - priorities
 - responsibilities
 - actions, implementation plans and workable solutions
 - milestones
 - deliverables and barriers to delivery

- **An agreed partnership is required between Government and industry, including both public and private sector clients, in order to drive forward the sustainability agenda, with more effective use of Government procurement 'buying power' as an enabler.**

- **The vision for a sustainable construction industry includes:-**
 - reducing the environmental impacts from the use of energy, finite and/or limited resources, and hazardous substances, by designing better, new and more sustainable products and services
 - reducing and ultimately eliminating waste in construction
 - re-using existing built assets

- constructing new buildings and structures that are:
 - * durable
 - * energy conscious
 - * adaptable and flexible
 - * 'whole life' value for money
 - * easy to maintain, operate and de-construct

□ **Agenda issues/challenges include:-**

- minimizing carbon emissions during construction
- procuring construction based on 'whole life' value
- aspiring to achieve 'zero carbon' buildings
- dealing with 'climate change' challenges
- conserving water resources
- preserving other natural resources
- creating, managing and enhancing wildlife habitats and natural landscapes
- working in an environment of zero accidents and incidents
- educating and training, and then retaining a skilled workforce, and not least in respect of new skills to deliver new technologies
- encouraging innovative solutions
- driving down the cost of sustainable technologies and solutions
- allowing the complete supply chain to participate and collaborate
- designing for; environmental, social and economic sustainability
- making existing regulations work better
- realising the competitive advantage to be gained from sustainable construction
- sharing knowledge, lessons, experiences, and 'best practice' across the supply chain
- recognizing and applauding successes and achievements

- **Key improvement 'headings' are:-**
 - energy choices and uses (within the 'zero carbon' agenda)
 - water efficiency and management (potable and surface water)
 - bio-diversity impacts, conservation and managed solutions
 - waste reduction and elimination
 - sustainable materials and resource efficiency

- **Priority efforts (with measured outcomes) need to be placed in:-**
 - client and industry improvement in project procurement

NB : The public sector to take the strong lead by meeting the agreed sustainability standards in design, construction and operation
 - supply chain integration
 - design (and success/performance 'benchmarking')
 - simplification, and balancing regulation with protection with cost
 - innovation, process improvement and competitiveness
 - people agenda, including skills and training initiatives

- **Greater use of offsite construction techniques for measurable benefits and improvements in:-**
 - quality and performance
 - cost and time predictability
 - improved health and safety performance
 - waste reduction
 - management of available resources

- **Delivery of the Strategy (and its Targets)**
 - Developing Implementation Strategies
 - Embedding the Strategy within Regional Economic Strategies, Regional Special Strategies and Regional Housing Strategies

- Embedding the Strategy within procurement practice by the public sector
 - Making Sustainable Development a 'No. 1 priority'
 - Using the EMCBE to facilitate and enable awareness programmes
- **East Midlands Sustainability Forum (Eclipse)**
- Survey Recommendations
 - * meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Communities Plan
 - * the contribution of specific features – especially CHP and district heating, waste management, modern methods of construction, and renewables – to make buildings more sustainable/adaptable to climate change
 - * access to proven examples and best practice case studies for sustainable construction, sustainable communities and climate change
 - Workshop Recommendations
 - * formulation of a policy delivery framework
 - * leadership of the resultant implementation programmes
 - * provision of a centralized body – perhaps the EMCBE – to act as a single portal for knowledge transfer
 - * actions on skills and training on both the demand and supply sides of the sector
 - * support of cost reduction (for example, through economies of scale and mass production).

DJW/SMC/21.09.07