

## 1. Homes School Overview

The "Homes School" is the latest addition to the Supply Chain School's offering following an application by Action Sustainability and Wates (lead partners) to CITB in June 2015. To date the Homes School has 10 employer partners, who have met on a total of three occasions (excluding conference calls, workshops and the launch event) to steer the strategic direction of the School under the Chairmanship of Rachel Woolliscroft, Sustainability Director, Wates. The creation of the "Homes School" has required the development of the following:

- Development of a "Homes School" section of the existing supply chain school website.
- A new homes specific self assessment tool containing 114 questions based around the school sustainability issues. Note, the question set is 'intelligent' by trade category so each user of the site is not asked every single question. This question set has been developed in conjunction with the partners in the school.
- A new homes specific question / trade category priority matrix.
- A new homes specific resource library, containing over 400 resources tailored specifically for subcontractors in the homes sector. These resources have also been appropriately linked to the new self assessment question set, which subsequently generates School member's action plans.
- A revised set of homes specific sustainability issues in synergy with the Construction, FM and Infrastructure parts of the Supply Chain School.
- A new set of homes specific video resources for the website and e-learning modules.

## 2. Progress against objectives

### Objective 1: Development of 4 E Learning Modules and 200 downloads

The subjects and titles for the Homes e-learning resources were a key topic of debate during leadership group meetings. A process was followed whereby partners agreed the four topics and the e-learning structure. Once this had been agreed the development of each module became the responsibility of Action Sustainability working in conjunction with a member of the leadership group who had a particular interest in this topic area, where appropriate an external topic expert was also brought in to provide content. More detail on this is provided in the flow diagram overleaf.

Consultation with the employer partners in the school was critical to ensure that the e-learning resources developed covered the key issues which are most relevant for employers in the sector at the moment. It was also felt that all e-learning modules should be at beginner level. The leadership group decided on the following:

- **Introduction to Sustainable Homes:** The introduction to sustainable homes e-learning module provides an introduction to the wide range of sustainability issues affecting the homes sector and also explains how and why subcontractors in the homes market should improve their sustainability performance and introduces the different drivers associated with private and public sector housing projects. This module was developed by Action Sustainability and reviewed by school partners Linden Homes.
- **Overheating:** Overheating is becoming a key issue in the homes sector, especially with respect to new build properties. A key challenge for the sector is ensuring the construction of homes that are more efficient, retaining heat in the winter but also being able to keep cool in the summer. This module provides an overview of what overheating is, and what subcontractors

can do to prevent problems occurring. The module was developed by school partners Zero Carbon hub and reviewed by Action Sustainability.

- **The Performance Gap:** Another key issue in the housing sector is the fact that in recent years there have been a significant technical advances in terms of the systems and techniques used to construct and renovate homes. These new technologies come with design specifications which indicate their performance level (from u values, to lumens to kWh etc...), and these values can be of great importance at the design stage or for achieving certain criteria such as BREEAM or EPCs. However, equipment often does not perform “as it says on the tin” leading to discrepancies between designed performance and real life. This performance gap can be down to a number of factors, from incorrect installation to manufacturer testing or maintenance, all of which are addressed in this e-learning module. Developed by school partners Zero Carbon hub and reviewed by Action Sustainability.
- **Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS):** The leadership group also put forward the issue that the legislative framework around SuDS has recently changed and needs to be communicated to subcontractors as the statutory responsibilities for SuDS have recently changed. Drainage is also a really key issue in the housing market, especially in regard to the location of new build properties and the potential impacts of climate change. The issue has been brought into sharp relief with the recent floods in Northern England following storm Desmond. Developed by Pitman Associates in conjunction with Action Sustainability and reviewed by school partners Kier Homes and the Home Builders Federation.

The e-learning development process is outlined below.

### *E Learning Development Process*

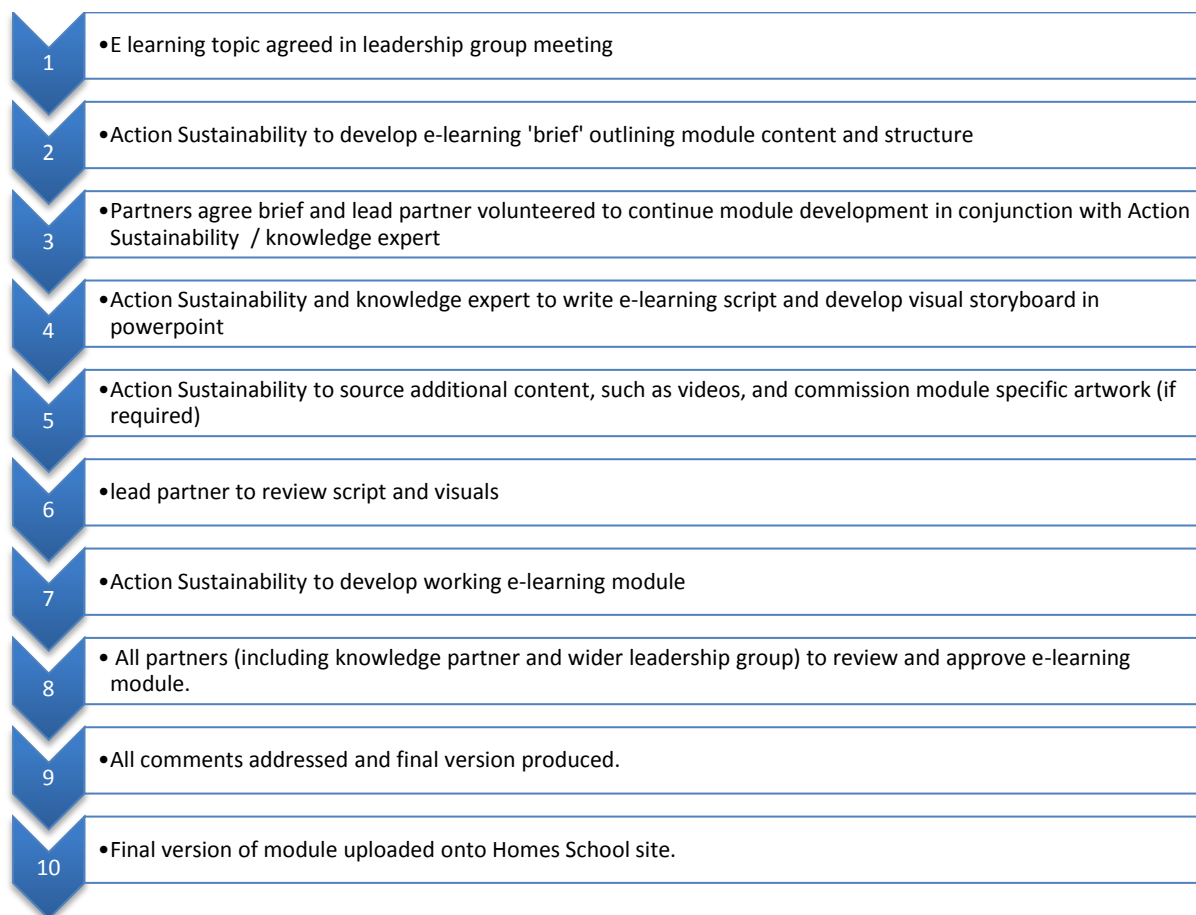


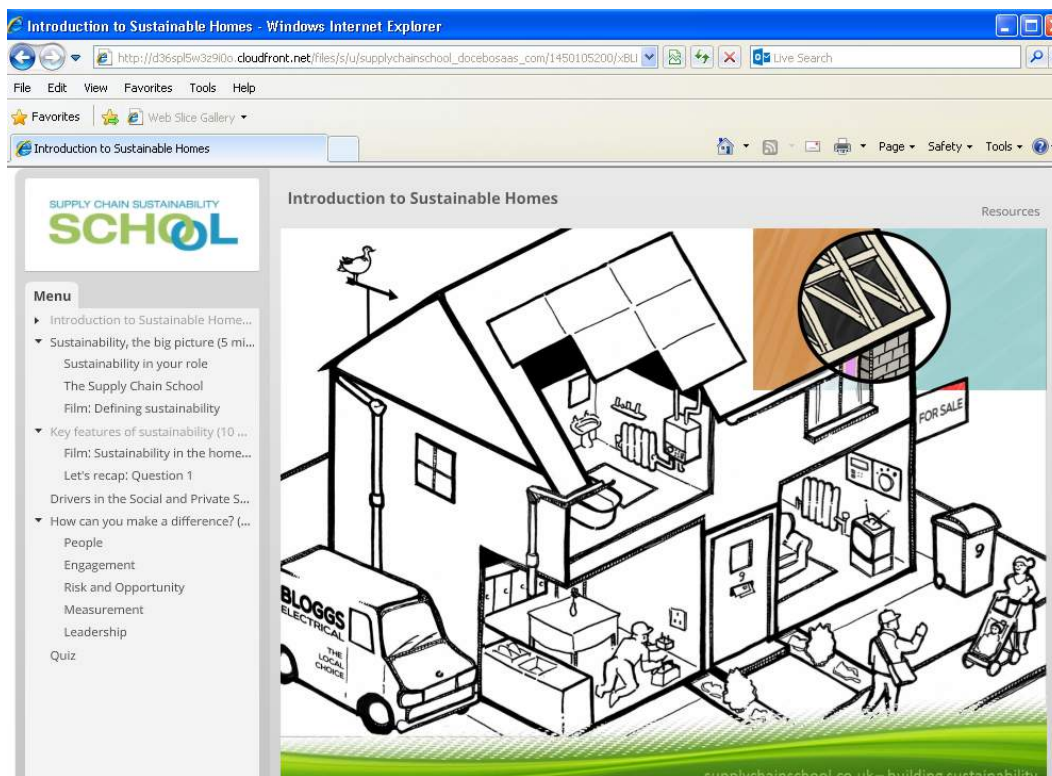
Table 1: Homes E Learning Summary

| Module Title                      | Level    | Authors   | Reviewer                                    | Employers piloted to date (10/12/15) |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Introduction to Sustainable Homes | Beginner | Ross Primmer (Action Sustainability)                                    | Caroline Johnstone (Galliford Try)          | 26                                   |
| The Performance Gap               | Beginner | Tessa Hurstwyn (Zero Carbon Hub)  | Ross Primmer (Action Sustainability)        | 7                                    |
| Overheating                       | Beginner | Nicola O'Connor (Zero Carbon Hub)                                       | Ross Primmer (Action Sustainability)        | 14                                   |
| Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) | Beginner | Karl Pitman (Pitman Associates)<br>Ross Primmer (Action Sustainability) | Paul Voden (Kier)<br>Stephen Wilebski (HBF) | 10                                   |

At the time of writing (10/12/15) these resources have been piloted a total of 57 times by employers, which is falling short of the 200 stated our initial grant application. Whilst unfortunate, it is important to note that the number of downloads has increased markedly in the past two weeks as the ongoing roadshow workshops have been rolled out across the country (see Objective 3). We are already in discussions with school partners to facilitate their own private 'offline' use of the modules, which will also greatly increase use, and we expect to surpass the 200 mark in early 2016.

In addition it is worth mentioning that we have taken a slightly different approach with the e-learning modules for the homes school and have included more interactive exercise to more effectively engage the learner. Taking this into account we have also received excellent feedback from those who have completed the modules and think that they represent a real step forward in how we develop e-learning for the supply chain school as a whole. For example, in the introduction to sustainable homes e-learning module we commissioned some artwork depicting a cutaway house; the user must then click on aspects of this house to find out about the key sustainability issues in the homes sector – see screenshot below.

Figure 1: Screenshot from the interactive exercise in the sustainable homes e-learning module:



## Objective 2: x1 Supply Chain Engagement (Launch) Day

The Homes School was launched at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Approximately 100 attendees were present; contributors provided speeches on the opportunities and challenges that are facing the housing sector, and how the Homes Supply Chain School can help the industry rise to and meet these challenges.

An additional aspect of the day was to provide a perspective from the private sector (provided by Wates, lead partner for the school), public sector (provided by Catalyst Housing) and some next level thinking from the cutting edge of sustainable homes development (BBM Architects), who have worked on a variety of projects including the design of Kevin McCloud's 'house that Kevin built'.

Key external contributors included:

- Duncan Baker Brown (BBM Architects): *What are the key sustainability challenges within the Homes Industry*
- Julia Moulder (Catalyst Housing): *Housing Association, Client Driver – what is driving them to build sustainable homes*
- Gwyn Roberts (BRE): *Introduction to the BRE Home Quality Mark.*

Figure 2: Photograph from the engagement day



### Objective 3: x5 Workshops, engaging 150 suppliers

Following the engagement day a decision was made in conjunction with the leadership group to roll out a series of 'homes roadshow' workshops with each partner in the school. The target number of attendees for each workshop is 30, meaning that our overall target of 150 will be achieved. Initially our tender stated that we would arrange 5 workshops, however, this has now been extended to 6 to cater for additional partners in the school signed up since the launch.

Each workshop is hosted by one of the partners in the school, to which their key supply chain partners are invited. To date 4 workshops have been delivered, reaching a total of 128 supply chain partners to date, with a further 2 in the pipeline, with each workshop only needing 11 attendees for us to surpass the engagement target. It is therefore anticipated that the 150 attendee target will be easily exceeded.

In addition there has been a conscientious effort to host workshops around the country to ensure suppliers based in differing regions for the convenience of suppliers based in differing regions of the country. Final location is determined by the partners of the school.

As a result of partner time constraints and venue availability two workshops will be hosted in early January and not before Christmas. From a logistical perspective a January date is a much better proposition than in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays.

A summary of delivered and planned workshops is provided in the table, you can also see a photograph of the school's director Ian Heptonstall in action at the Willmott Dixon workshop below!

*Table 2: Homes Workshop Summary*

| Date                           | Partner        | Location       | Registered for event | Attendance |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 | Wates          | London         | 42                   | 31         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2015  | Lovell         | Tamworth       | 57                   | 47         |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2015  | Willmott Dixon | Birmingham     | 64                   | 36         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December      | Linden Homes   | Caterham       | 36                   | 14         |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> January       | Barratt Group  | Birmingham     | Tbc                  | Tbc        |
| January (date t.b.c.)          | Kier           | Cambridgeshire | Tbc                  | Tbc        |

*Figure 3: Photograph from the Willmott Dixon Homes Roadshow Workshop*



Feedback forms are completed as part of each workshop, and feedback from partners and suppliers to date has been overwhelmingly positive. A selection of feedback forms from workshops to date is provided at the end of this document.

### **Objective 4: Disseminate Learning**

Objective 4 of the homes school was to provide a final school report (duly noted!), two case studies, which have been provided by Lovell and Willmott Dixon and are attached to this report, and a dissemination meeting which is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.