

Questions and answers arising from the Sustainability Checklist workshops

Q: Following on from the presentation, it seems that BREEAM and Ecohomes assessments come under category 4 in the presentation.

A: The SEEDA checklist is more comprehensive.

Q: There is a concern that one size fits all with the sustainability checklist eg facilities management not considered at the outset

A: (answer from delegate): An EU funded study is currently being undertaken: SUE-MOT, details available online. Partners are Dundee and Caledonian Universities. It was set up to look at overall scheme but found it is not achievable. It looks at using a whole range of tools, not just a development plan. BREEAM and Ecohomes won't do everything that's needed.

Q: To what extent does the BREEAM model take on board the Scottish context?

A: Always feeds back to the BREEAM office eg elements that need to be improved. Agreed that there's a disparity between Scottish Building Standards and English. Perhaps use a suite of BREEAM tools together with a teamwork approach to Local Authorities' requirements.

Q: (East Renfrewshire Council). Does the group have experience in Sustainable Construction? Many checklists seem to reinvent the planning system. What does the group think. The issue in East Renfrewshire is the volume of householder activity.

Q: Do you have information from councils as to whether they are developing planning policy in relation to Sustainability?

A: Not sure, no information is available. Does the group have any information on this? A key issue is that there seems to be little co-operation between local authorities.

Q: the problem is this is done at a professional level – maybe the Sustainable Scotland Network can address that?

A: (answer from delegate): This year's Sustainable Scotland Network annual conference is looking at planning and sustainable development.

Workshop 2

Q: We are considering sustainability checklists and are finding it hard to get the easiest way to implement checklists for applicants and development control officers to submit/review.

A: Depends on what you want to achieve from it. The ticklist is the easiest but is not the best – recommend the SEEDA checklist.

Q: We wouldn't want numerous different checklists

A: It would be ideal to have one for everybody. To achieve that would require interaction between Local Authorities – not sure how much interaction is going on at present. It may be a waste of money and duplicate effort if Local Authorities go to consultants. Suggest LAs get together to develop checklist

specific for Scottish LAs. Sustainability Checklist is for LAs for over and above BREEAM.

Q: There should be a lot of common areas/core items that could transfer across

A: Agreed, but need to take differing areas into consideration eg Rural and Urban

Workshop 3

Q: One has to say what you are intending to do in BREEAM – but how is what you have done verified?

A: Ideally the Scottish Executive would specify the minimum criteria that had to be met in Scotland. BREEAM and ECOHOMES are national. Properties are judged on an equal level. Independent assessors do the verification.