The sustainable neighbourhood concept
– a strategic response to CRC

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Commissioner, CABE
24 March 2009

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

The government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space

Challenges

- Government buildings are often poor performers
- Building services managers have many demands on their time
- Lack of corporate priority for reducing energy demand and improving efficiency

Opportunities

- There are a number of policy incentives to make carbon reduction and energy efficiency a corporate priority
  - Challenging national carbon reduction targets
  - Delivery of national indicators 185 and 186
  - CRC provides a financial incentive

Opportunities

- Sustainable neighbourhood approach can deliver multiple benefits
  - Provide cost and efficiency savings by procuring at scale
  - Stimulate local green businesses and employment
  - Promote neighbourhood refurbishment and energy reduction
  - Provide opportunity for delivering other sustainability benefits

CABE advice for local authorities on sustainable place making

- CABE Sustainable Cities programme launched 5 March 2009
- Provides advice, priorities for action and good practice to help towns and cities prepare for a changing climate
  - Two years research and development
  - 30 sustainability and built environment experts

CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Website
  - www.sustainablecities.org.uk
- Publication
  - Hallmarks of a sustainable city
- Four policy asks
  - National and local government
- Learning programme
  - With eight English Core Cities initially

CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Website
  - Six themes
  - Seven spatial scales
  - 15 priorities for action
  - Local authority leadership
  - Good practice
- Promotes linkages

CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Energy
  - Benefits
  - Leadership
  - Policy and planning
  - Good practice
- Priorities
  - Reduce energy demand
  - Develop a low carbon and renewable portfolio

CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Priority - Reduce energy demand
  - Thinking differently - the energy hierarchy
  - Improving the energy performance of existing homes
  - Reducing energy use in new buildings
  - Avoiding overheating
  - Valuing reduced energy demand
  - Choosing low-energy lifestyles

CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Related priorities to reducing energy demand of buildings
  - Moderate the urban heat island
  - Maximise the potential of public space
  - Integrate green infrastructure into urban areas

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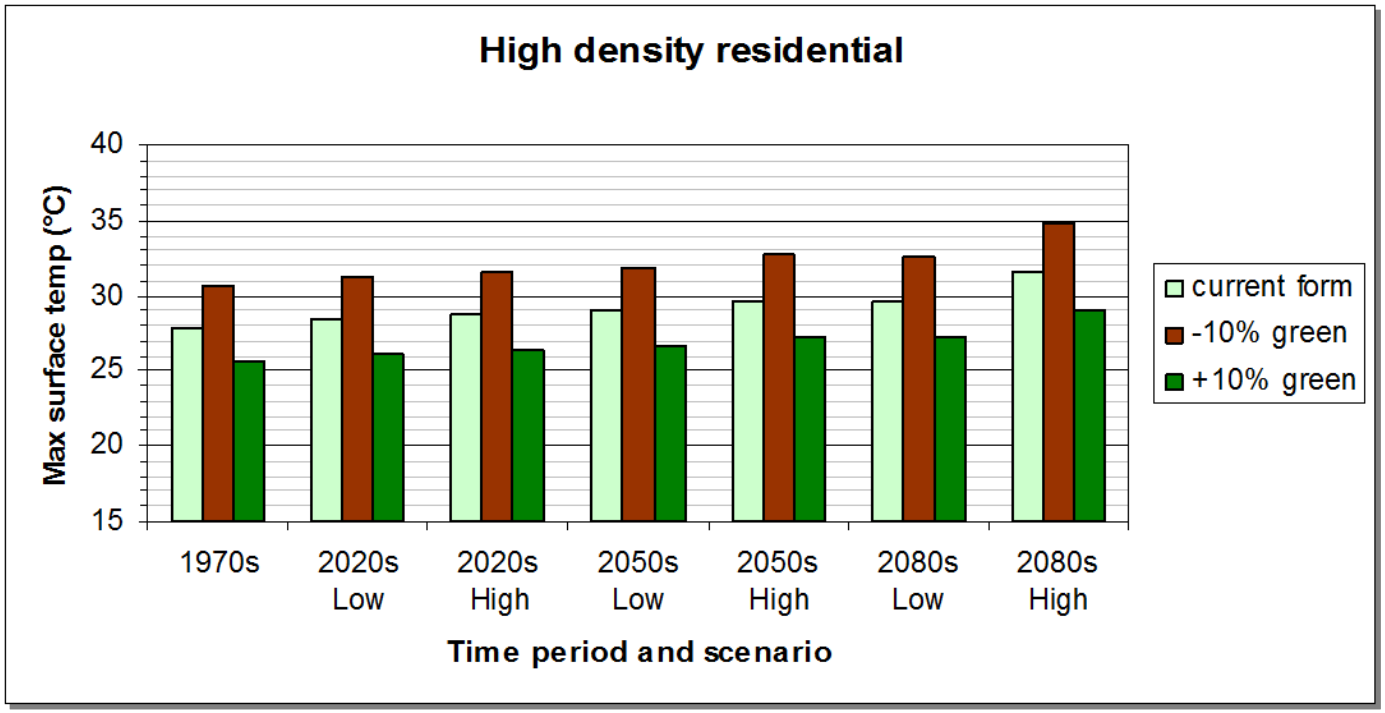
CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Moderating urban temperature extremes through greening

Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Urban Environments (ASCCUE), University of Manchester



CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- Neighbourhoods are a key scale at which we can develop effective and efficient responses to the climate change challenge - whilst simultaneously creating successful, sustainable communities and places to live and work.
- At this local scale, it’s possible to bring together planning, design and management holistically to achieve a step change, for example through the integration of resource management, transport and green infrastructure strategies.

CABE Sustainable Cities programme

- CABE policy ask on sustainable neighbourhoods
  - CABE recommends CLG and DECC co-create a sustainable neighbourhoods scheme.
- Local authorities can plan for low carbon resilient and sustainable neighbourhoods by:
  - Designation of low carbon neighbourhoods
  - Development of area-based refurbishment programmes

Sustainable neighbourhoods

- Where several council buildings, schools and larger businesses are all working to the same objective in a neighbourhood:
  - How can they benefit from working together?
  - What are the cost efficiencies for procurement?
  - What are the opportunities for extending energy efficiency and demand reduction strategies to other businesses and homes in the neighbourhood?
  - How can joint action promote low carbon alternatives?

Sustainable neighbourhoods

- What are the opportunities for addressing other sustainability objectives?
  - Fuel poverty
  - Developing low carbon energy alternatives
  - Promoting multiple benefits of well-managed public space and green infrastructure
  - Stimulating local green businesses and employment
  - Linking to sustainable community strategy
  - Local development framework
  - Local area agreement

In conclusion

- Sustainable neighbourhoods offer a strategic response to the Carbon Reduction Commitment
  - Joint action by local authorities, businesses and schools can bring benefits to neighbouring homes and businesses
  - Working at a neighbourhood scale on energy can provide opportunities to address other sustainability objectives
- CABE Sustainable Cities programme offers support to local authorities on integrated thinking

Thank you.

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