

ZEDHOMES WELCOMES GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO ZERO CARBON HOMES

ZEDHomes, today welcomed the Prime Minister's determination to push ahead with new "eco-towns" across the country. However the company called on the Prime Minister to ensure that exciting and visionary approaches to zero carbon homes are not squeezed out by red tape and by low quality approaches from volume house builders.

Gordon Brown's announcement at lunchtime today set out bold new plans to build a total of three million new homes by 2020, underpinned by new legislation to be introduced over the next year. He committed the government to consulting on the use of the New Towns Act to speed up the construction of eco towns – with low and zero carbon housing.

Use of the New Towns Act is likely to involve the transfer of powers from local planning authorities to new development corporations, specifically empowered to promote the construction of the eco towns. ZEDHomes has long argued that local planning authorities do not have the experience or expertise to assess innovative low and zero carbon developments.

ZEDHomes Managing Director, Michael Shwartz, commented:

"With the urgency of the problem of climate change, the government should have been driving ahead with eco-developments. Instead, we have faced many years of frustration from a planning system that cannot properly assess the importance of low and zero carbon developments. Our schemes face delay and rejection, while traditional developments are nodded through. The government must ensure that progress is speeded up urgently."

ZEDHomes have cautioned the government against the dangers of squeezing out innovative developers. Large scale developments benefit volume house builders, who set low minimum standards and often pay mere lip service to the need for more low and zero carbon housing.

Michael Shwartz added:

"Any new measures must recognise that pioneers like us cannot compete on the scale of the volume house builders, yet we can offer affordable, genuine zero carbon homes. The government must avoid the mistakes of the past – including the large monotonous estates of some of the original new towns – by encouraging innovation and vision on a smaller scale".

ZEDHomes have a range of case studies available on the challenges of developing new low and zero carbon homes.

For more details, contact Ameeta Sharma
ZEDHomes LTD, Suite 2, Third Floor, Congress House, Lyon Road, Harrow,
Middlesex HA1 2EN Telephone: 0845 1228656
Email: ameeta.sharma@zedhomes.com