

Launch of Buildoffsite Offsite Housing Hub 26 November 2014

Buildoffsite has today announced the launch of the Buildoffsite Offsite Housing Hub

The Hub will focus exclusively on matters relating to the advancement of offsite solutions in the UK housing market. This means improving both the performance of the offsite supply side and at the same time improving client understanding and appreciation of the tangible benefits that the use of offsite solutions can deliver. The fundamental challenge for the Hub will be to implement an action programme that will address the impediments that get in the way of effecting a step-change in the use of offsite systems to deliver quality homes quickly and at scale whilst offering superior quality and value.

It is well understood that for many years there has been a massive gap between the current rate of supply of new homes and the Government target of 250,000 homes each year. This gap is currently around 120,000 homes a year. What is absolutely clear is that the established house-building industry has no prospect of delivering a build programme of that scale using only traditional methods of construction. There is a need to shift to a new form of home building based on the assembly of homes from precision manufactured components of known performance and durability and with little if any waste and much improved productivity.

The Buildoffsite Offsite Housing Hub's action programme will address the real issues and come up with practical solutions. The Hub will be a focus for action.

The initial work-programme will include:

- determining the specific measures that need to be undertaken to create and sustain volume supply, reducing costs and delivering assured value to clients and funders
- promoting improved awareness across the client, supplier, funder and media communities of offsite housing solutions and their benefits
- promoting measures to ensure the quality of offsite solutions
- helping clients and funders to understand that in order to benefit they too may need to modify mind-sets and ways of working
- identifying and engaging with the barriers that impede the ability of offsite manufacturers and suppliers to compete on equal terms with traditional housing providers
- engaging with client concerns regarding the life time value of offsite solutions, performance in use, ongoing maintenance and repair issues and the resilience of offsite suppliers
- facilitating exchange of information on technical matters between clients and suppliers
- acting as a conduit for 2-way communications between the offsite supply side and the professional bodies including valuers and surveyors
- addressing the skills issues to be addressed in order to sustain a rapid increase in offsite home building.

The Members of the Hub will come from within the Buildoffsite Membership and will include a cross section of interests including clients, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, professional service providers, funders and insurers.



The Buildoffsite Housing Hub will start work early in the New Year after essential preparatory actions to more precisely define the priority work programme and to recruit the initial members of the Hub.

Why set up a Buildoffsite Offsite Housing Hub?

Politicians of all parties recognise the scale of the housing shortage but are much less effective at taking decisive action. The scale of the housing shortage is getting worse not better. Something has to change and we believe that the essential change that is needed is to bring about an evolution in the process of house-building through the intelligent use of offsite construction methods.

The role of the Buildoffsite Offsite Housing Hub will be to provide the mechanism to enable an effective engagement between the client, supply side and funding communities in order to ensure that offsite housing is able to deliver both the volume and the quality that is needed to deliver new homes at the levels required to match National need.

Currently there is no UK organisation undertaking the tasks that need to be addressed and Buildoffsite has stepped in to take on the lead role.

We hope that as many clients and supply side organisations as possible will want to talk to Buildoffsite about joining with us to carry out the much needed work.

For more information

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