Sustainable Refurbishment of Victorian Housing: Guidance, Assessment Method and Case Studies

Title: Sustainable Refurbishment of Victorian Housing: Guidance, Assessment Method and Case Studies

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This informative booklet is packed with useful information for the built environment practitioner and academic. The material for the publication has been gathered from work funded by the BRE Trust. The Trust has as its mission the aim of promoting and supporting excellence and innovation in the built environment and its support for this work has enabled a publication to be produced that contributes to each strand of its stated mission statement.

The contents of this publication address the assessment of refurbishment in the context of sustainability and pre-1919/Victorian housing that accounts for 17 per cent of the UK national housing stock. The publication is well set out with an easy to read style that presents factual information in a readily digestible format. Its major sections cover both the background and context of the refurbishment of such property as well as the detailed consideration of a methodology that could be used to help the evaluation of differing strategies for the achievement of sustainable refurbishment. The publication includes useful case study sections that provide practical guidance on the implementation of such assessment frameworks.

The assessment methodology takes the Ecohome XB environmental assessment tool, which was developed by the Housing Corporation as its base, and develops an Ecohome XBC model for application in heritage project scenarios. The framework sets out differing benchmark profiles that practitioners can use when forming judgments on the appropriate strategy for the delivery of refurbishment projects within the constraints of limits related to conservation, regulation and sustainability. The work reported in the publication moves the practitioner on from considering issues related to sustainability as part of a development policy or checklist towards it becoming part of a proactive management approach that is focused on delivering sustainable housing projects, albeit in this narrow genre. The work of providing a complete tool for practitioners to use to fully integrate all aspects of sustainability into project delivery strategies still remains to be developed and academics must now refocus their efforts to devising approaches that will fully embed such approaches in practice and thus enhance professional service levels in this area. One of the remaining challenges in this field is to develop a usable tool that will reliably allow a sustainable

benefit planning approach to the determination of project budgets to become established. This publication marks a significant stage along the way to generating such a tool.

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