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Energy Statement

Residential Development at
Adamstown Boulevard, Phase 1.

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Comments

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Content

1. Introduction

This Energy Statement has been prepared by Waterman Moylan as part of the planning documentation for a proposed residential development at Adamstown Boulevard, Phase 1.

Phase 1 of the Adamstown Boulevard development seeks Permission for 257no. terraced and semi-detached housing units ranging from 2 to 3-storeys in height; open space is proposed including a Pocket Park, and also a Linear Park which stretches from Adamstown Way to Station Road; all associated ancillary site development and landscape works, including internal roads and services, ESB Sub-Stations, landscaping and boundary treatment works. Outline Permission is also being sought for 166no. apartment units in a block ranging from 6 to 9-storeys in height which will deliver a range of unit types. All on a site of c.[redacted]Ha (including lands for Outline Permission).

As the 166 apartments are only subject to an application for Outline Permission and will need a further application where the detail of that development is addressed, this report does not address the energy requirements for the apartments, that will be addressed as part of a future application for those Apartments.

This report identifies the energy standards with which the proposed development will have to comply and also sets out the overall strategy that will be adopted to achieve these energy efficiency targets.

The dwellings will be required to minimise overall energy use and to incorporate an adequate proportion of renewable energy in accordance with Building Regulations Part L 2021, Conservation of Energy & Fuel (hereinafter referred to as "*Part L 2021 Dwellings*").

2. Building Regulations Part L 2021 Dwellings

Compliance with Building Regulations *Part L 2021 Dwellings* is broken down into six distinct categories, known as Regulation 8. parts (a) to (f).

A summary of each of these parts as listed in Technical Guidance Document L 2011 is provided below together with a description of what is required to demonstrate compliance and suggested routes to meeting the required standards.

2.1 Regulation 8 Part (a)

The regulation requires that:

> *Providing that the energy performance of the building is such as to limit the calculated primary energy consumption and related carbon dioxide (CO2) to that of a nearly zero energy building within the meaning of the Directive insofar as is reasonably*

Part (a) is the overarching compliance target which stipulates the required overall reduction in energy consumption and carbon emissions for new dwellings.

This requires that the energy consumption and carbon emissions of every dwelling is assessed using the DEAP software and that reductions of 70% in energy consumption and 65% in carbon emissions are achieved. The baseline against which this reduction is to be measured is considered to be a dwelling which is constructed to perfectly comply with the 2005 version of Building Regulations Part L.

The ratio of the energy consumed by the proposed dwelling to a similar dwelling constructed to 2005 energy efficiency standards is referred to as the "Energy Performance Co-efficient"

2.2 Regulation 8 Part (b)

The regulation requires that:

> *Providing that, the nearly zero or very low amount of energy required is covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby;*

This requires that the all new dwellings are provided with a renewable energy source. The regulations state that 20% of the total energy consumed within the dwelling must be provided from renewable thermal sources (solar thermal, biomass, heat pumps) or renewable electrical sources (Photovoltaic, Micro-wind).

In practical terms, for a multiple unit development, this requirement is usually met by incorporating PV panels at roof level, incorporating air source heat pump technology or by adding an element of biomass or micro-CHP to a district heating scheme.

Where CHP is included, the renewable energy is considered to be the waste heat which is generated as a by-product of the electricity produced. Specific calculation methods are set out within TGD *Part L 2021 Dwellings* which detail how compliance should be demonstrated.

2.3 Regulation 8 Part (c)

The regulation requires that:

> *Limiting heat loss and, where appropriate, availing of heat gain through the fabric of the building;*

This requires that the fabric of the building is designed to minimise heat loss from the building and that the air permeability of the structure limits the unwanted passage of air into the building.

Typical compliant U-Values are as follows.

Pitched roof	0.16 W/m²K
Flat roof	0.20 W/m²K
Walls	0.18 W/m²K
Floor	0.18 W/m²K
Windows	1.4 W/m²K

The u-values of individual elements can be relaxed if required provided that compensatory measures are taken on other elements and that the overall area weighted u-value for the entire dwelling is the same as it would have been if all individual elements had complied.

The thermal bridging details of junctions in the envelope of the building (floor-wall: wall-window; wall-roof, etc) must also be designed and constructed in accordance with the guidance set out in Limiting Thermal Bridging and Air Infiltration – Acceptable Construction Details

Every dwelling must also be subjected to an air pressure test to determine the air tightness. All dwellings must achieve and air tightness of less than 5m³/m²/hour when tested at 50 Pascals. In multiple dwelling developments with repeating apartment types, testing can be conducted on a representative sample of units in accordance with Table 1.5.4.3 of TGD *Part L 2021 Dwellings*.

2.4 Regulation 8 Parts (d & e)

The regulation requires that:

> *Providing and commissioning energy efficient space and water heating systems with efficient heat sources and effective controls;*
>
> *Providing that all oil and gas fired boilers shall meet a minimum seasonal efficiency of 90%;*

These require that gas or oil-fired boilers are at least 90% efficient and that heating controls allow independent time control of the heating (2 zones for dwellings larger than 100m²) and hot water. Heating in each zone should also be controlled by room thermostats (in the case of heating) and cylinder stats (in the case of hot water).

2.5 Regulation 8 Parts (f)

The regulation requires that:

> *Providing to the dwelling owner sufficient information about the building, the fixed building services and their maintenance requirements so that the building can be operated in such a manner as to use no more fuel and energy than is reasonable.*

This requires that information is provided to the dwelling owner which relates to the effective and efficient operation of the systems installed in that dwelling. Instructions on how to control the heating & hot water systems based on time and temperature requirements.

2.6 Requirements for Common Areas

Section 0.1.2.3 requires that:

> *Where a new dwelling forms part of a larger building, the guidance in this document applies to the individual dwelling, and the relevant guidance in Technical Guidance Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Buildings other than dwellings applies to the non-dwelling parts of the building such as common areas (including common areas of apartment blocks), and in the case of mixed-use developments, the commercial or retail space.*

This requires that the common areas of the apartment blocks are design to meet *Part L 2021 BOTD* for Buildings Other Than Dwellings and will require that a portion of the energy demand for the common areas is met by a renewable energy source.

2.7 S.I No 393 of 2021 - Regulation 5 Part (e)

The regulation requires that:

> *For a new building (containing one, or more than one, dwelling), where there are more than 10 car parking spaces, ducting infrastructure, consisting of conduits for electric cables, should be provided for every parking space, to enable the subsequent installation of recharging points for electric vehicles where:*
>
> - *the car park is located inside the building, e.g. a basement car park; or*
> - *the car park is physically adjacent to the building, i.e. the car park is within the curtilage of the site.*

This requires that ducting provision for the future installation of car charging point be made in all carparks with more than 10 parking spaces associated with multi-unit residential buildings.

3. Building Fabric

Before considering efficient building services or renewable energy systems, the form and fabric of a building must be assessed and optimised so as to reduce the energy demand for heating, lighting and ventilation. Target performance levels have been identified by the design team and are presented below.

3.1 Elemental U-Values

The U-Value of a building element is a measure of the amount of heat energy that will pass through the constituent element of the building envelope. Increasing the insulation levels in each element will reduce the heat lost during the heating season and this in turn will reduce the consumption of fuel and the associated carbon emissions and operating costs.

It is the intention of the design team to exceed the requirements of the building regulations. Target U-Values are identified below.

U-Values	**Range of Target Values Proposed**	**Part L 2021 (Dwellings) Compliant Values**
Floor	0.10 to 0.18 W/m²K	0.18W/m²K
Roof (Flat)	0.12 to 0.20 W/m²K	0.20 W/m²K
Roof (Pitched)	0.10 to 0.16 W/m²K	0.16 W/m²K
Walls	0.10 to 0.18 W/m²K	0.18 W/m²K
Windows	0.9 to 1.4 W/m²K	1.4W/m²K

3.2 Air Permeability

A major consideration in reducing the heat losses in a building is the air infiltration. This essentially relates to the ingress of cold outdoor air into the building and the corresponding displacement of the heated internal air. This incoming cold air must be heated if comfort conditions are to be maintained. In a traditionally constructed building, infiltration can account for 30 to 40 percent of the total heat loss, however construction standards continue to improve in this area.

With good design and strict on-site control of building techniques, infiltration losses can be significantly reduced, resulting in equivalent savings in energy consumption, emissions and running costs.

In order to ensure that a sufficient level of air tightness is achieved, air permeability testing will be specified in tender documents. with the responsibility being placed on the main contractor to carry out testing and achieve the targets identified in the tender documents.

A design air permeability target of **3 m3/m2/hr** has been identified for the houses on the site.

The air permeability testing will be carried out in accordance with BS EN 13829:2001 'Determination of air permeability of buildings, fan pressurisation method' and CIBSE TM23: 2000 'Testing buildings for air leakage"

3.3 Thermal Bridging

Thermal bridges occur at junctions between planar elements of the building fabric and are typically defined as areas where heat can escape the building fabric due to a lack of continuity of the insulation in the adjoin elements.

Careful design and detailing of the manner in which insulation is installed at these junctions can reduce the rate at which the heat escapes. Standard good practice details are available and are known as Acceptable Construction Details (ACDs). Adherence to these details is known to reduce the rate at which heat is lost.

The rate at which heat is lost is quantified by the Thermal Bridging Factor of the dwelling and measured in W/m2K. The Thermal Bridging Factor is used in the overall dwelling Part L calculation, this value can be entered in three different ways:

0.15W/m²K	Used where the ACDs are not adhered to
0.08W/m²K	Used where the ACDs are fully adhered to
< 0.08 W/m²K	Used where the thermal details are thermally modelled and considered to perform better than the ACDs

It is intended that the ACDs will be adhered where suitable benchmarks exist and/or that thermal modelling will be carried out for any non-standard junction details within proposed development and that the resultant Thermal Bridging Factor will be less than 0.08W/m2K.

4. Heat Sources & Renewable Energy Options & Proposals

All new dwellings must meet overall energy performance levels (as defined by the Energy Performance Coefficient - EPC) and must have a portion of their annual energy demand provided by renewable energy sources.

The renewable energy source can be thermal energy such as solar thermal collection, biomass boilers or heat pumps or it can be electrical energy as generated by photovoltaic solar panels or wind turbines. The minimum renewable energy contributions defined in Part L 2019 Part (b) is 20% of the total energy consumption for the dwelling.

Two main fuel sources are generally available for developments of this nature, natural gas and electricity. Each present distinct options for compliance with the new standards. Solutions involving gas as the primary fuel source will typically include a solar technology such as PV panels to meet the renewable energy requirements while solutions relying on electricity will include heat pump technology.

The options presented in Sections 4.1 & 4.2 below set out the options for the houses proposed for the site. Each is based on the building fabric performance levels identified in Table 1 in Section 3.

The final selection and combination of technologies will most likely be selected from these options based on a more in-depth technical and financial appraisal of the technologies which will be carried out during detailed design.

4.1 Houses Option 1 - Individual Gas Fired Boilers with Solar Panels.

The use of natural gas to provide heating and hot water to dwellings and commercial buildings is very common due to its convenience and to low fuel prices. There is existing Gas Networks Ireland infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed development and Gas Networks Ireland are aware of the proposed extent of development on the subject lands and have confirmed that there is adequate capacity in the network. High efficiency gas fired condensing boilers convert gas to heat energy with an efficiency of over 90%.

Both Solar PV and Solar Thermal Collection harvest the sun's energy to provide a renewable energy source for the dwelling. In the case of PV, the sun's energy is converted into electrical energy which offsets the use of grid electricity while in the case of solar thermal collection it is converted into thermal energy which is used to heat domestic hot water within the building.

4.2 Houses Option 2 - Air Source Heat Pumps

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) utilise grid supplied electricity to extract thermal energy from a heat source, in this case. the external ambient air. While the electricity consumed is obviously not renewable energy, the efficiency at which a heat pump operates allows a significant portion of the heat delivered to be considered as renewable energy. The amount of heat considered to be renewable is determined by the efficiency of the heat pump and the "primary energy conversion factor" for grid supplied electricity. Typically, approximately 40% to 50% of the heat supplied is considered to be renewable energy.

Air source heat pumps require an indoor and an outdoor component. The outdoor unit is the evaporator which extracts the thermal energy from the ambient air while the indoor unit typically includes the heating buffer tanks and the hot water cylinder for the dwelling. The outdoor unit is typically located in the back garden of a dwelling.

In recent years, the design of ASHPs has improved bringing about higher efficiencies and reduced costs. This, in turn, has led to an increase use of this technology in large scale housing developments. Certified seasonal efficiencies of some models can exceed 500% meaning that the use of this technology can easily deliver compliance with current Part L requirements.

5. Electric Vehicle Charging

All new developments (residential and non-residential) must make a provision for charging electric vehicles. This applies where more than 10 parking spaces are provided.

For residential buildings, the regulations state that future provision, in the form of cable ducting and capacity on distribution boards and meters etc. be made for at all parking spaces associated with multi-unit developments with more than 10 parking spaces.

The proposed multi-unit residential development includes a total of 206 on curtilage parking spaces and 227 no off-curtilage parking spaces. Of the off-curtilage spaces, 47 spaces are designated as visitor spaces. A total of 5no. electric vehicle charging points will be provided within these 47 visitor spaces.

6. Proposed Solutions

The preceding sections of this report set out the regulatory requirements with which the scheme will have to comply while identifying a number of technologies and design approaches that may be utilised to achieve compliance.

The building fabric standards and the technology solutions discussed will all be assessed in greater detail during the detailed design stage of the project. A cost benefit analysis of all these available solutions will be carried out to determine the correct balance between an efficient building envelope and the most appropriate combination of technology and renewable energy systems.

The proposed approach to achieving Part L Compliance will be based on a combination of the solutions below once a detailed analysis has been completed at detailed design stage. A final decision will be made once capital costs, renewable targets and regulation compliance have all been compared to find the most appropriate solution.

6.1 Houses

The most likely overall solution that will be implemented will include the following measures

- Exceed minimum U-Value standards by 20% to 30%,
- Achieve air tightness standards of $3m^3/m^2/hr$
- Ensure thermal bridging details are designed to achieve thermal bridging factors of $0.08W/m^2K$ or less.
- Provide an appropriate combination of technologies to ensure energy consumption is in line with Part L 2021 requirements. This will either include air source heat pumps and/or an alternative heating system such as gas boilers with PV panels for renewable energy.
- Install centralised mechanical ventilation systems to ensure adequate ventilation rates are achieved in the dwelling which maximising the benefits of the airtight construction

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