APPENDIX A - LOW & ZERO CARBON (LZC) TECHNOLOGY FEASIBILITY STUDY

The final level of the energy hierarchy is to Be Green, therefore the following table discusses the options for on-site low and zero carbon technologies and their feasibility on this development to contribute to meeting the relevant London Plan and Borough's sustainability targets.

LZC Technologies	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility	
Solar Thermal Collectors	Solar thermal collectors can be used to provide hot water using the irradiation from the sun. They can generally provide approx. 50% of the hot water demand	No noise issues associated with Solar thermal collectors No additional land use from the installation of solar thermal collectors Low maintenance and easy to manage Favourable payback periods	The hot water cylinder will need to be larger than a traditional cylinder Needs unobstructed space on roof Low efficiencies Often not compatible with other LZC technologies Saves less carbon when offsetting gas systems	As there is limited roof area available, solar thermal will not be appropriate as the space would be better utilised for PV panels, which have the potential to save more carbon	
Solar Photovoltaic Panels (PV)	Solar PV panels provide noiseless, low-maintenance, carbon free electricity	Can have significant impact on carbon emissions by offsetting grid electricity (which has a high carbon footprint) Low maintenance No noise issues No additional land use from the installation of PV panels Bolt on technology that does not need significant amounts of auxiliary equipment Favourable payback periods	Needs unobstructed space on roof Low efficiencies per unit area of PV Often used to supplement landlord's electricity so savings not always transferred to individual properties	There is a flat roof available in this development with sufficient area to install PV panels The PV system would contribute to the electricity demand of the building.	
CHP (Combined Heat & Power)	CHP systems use an engine driven alternator to generate electricity while using the waste heat from the engine, jacket and exhaust to provide heating and hot water Economic viability relies on at least 4,000 hours running time per annum	Mature technology High CO2 savings	Cost of the system is relatively high for small schemes Only appropriate for large development with high heat loads. To make CHP a viable option on this site it would need to run for longer periods that would be required on this development.	Communal CHP is not viable for this scale of residential development due to the low heat demand. Heat dumping would be required during the summer seasons	

LZC Technologies	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility	
Biomass Heating	Solid, liquid or gaseous fuels derived from plant material can provide boiler heat for space and water heating	Potential to reduce large component of the total CO_2 A biomass boiler would supplement a standard gas heating system so some of the cost may be offset through money saved on using smaller traditional boilers	Regular maintenance is required Reliability of fuel access/supply can be a problem The noise generated by a biomass boiler is similar to that of a gas boiler. It is advisable not to locate next to particularly sensitive areas such as bedrooms A plant room and fuel store will be required which may take additional land from the proposed development or surroundings Biomass is often not a favoured technology in new development due to the potential local impacts of NO_x emissions and delivery vehicles for the fuel	Biomass is not considered feasible for this development due to issues with fuel storage, access for delivery vehicles and local NO_x emissions. Additionally, there is insufficient space for a biomass boiler system on the small site.	
Wind Turbines	Vertical and horizontal axis wind turbines enable electricity to be generated using the power within the wind	Bolt on technology that does not need significant amounts of auxiliary equipment	Not suitable for urban environments due to low wind conditions and obstructions High visual impact Noise impact (45-65dB at 3m) High capital cost and only achieve good paybacks in locations with strong wind profiles Requires foundations or vibration supports for building installations (generally not recommended)	This development is in an urban environment and so a wind turbine will not generate much energy	

LZC Technologies	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility	
Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP)	Utilising horizontal loops or vertical boreholes, GSHP make use of the grounds almost constant temperature to provide heating and/or cooling using a heat exchanger connected to a space/water heating delivery system	Low maintenance and easy to manage High COP (ratio of energy output per energy input) Optimum efficiency with underfloor heating systems As heat pumps would replace standard heating systems, some of the cost may offset through savings on a traditional boiler	The heat pump has a noise level around 35-60dB so some attenuation may be required and it should be sensibly located Relatively high capital cost Requires electricity to run the pump, therefore limited carbon savings in some cases For communal systems a plant room is required which may take additional land from the proposed development/surroundings	GSHP are not a feasible technology for the site as there is limited external space for installation of boreholes	
Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)	Air Source Heat Pumps extract latent energy from the external air in a manner similar to ground source heat pumps	ASHP systems are generally cheaper than GSHP as there is no requirement for long lengths of buried piping or boreholes Low maintenance and easy to manage Optimum efficiency with underfloor heating systems As heat pumps would replace standard heating systems, some of the cost may offset through savings on a traditional boiler	The ASHP unit has a noise level around 50-60dB so some attenuation may be required and it should be sensibly located The potential noise from the external unit may mean there is local opposition to their installation Requires electricity to run the pump, therefore limited carbon savings in some cases For communal systems a plant room is required which may take additional land from the proposed development/surroundings	The use of ASHP is technically feasible for the development but is discounted due to noise issues and locating the unsightly units. In addition carbon savings are not likely to be very high.	

Having reviewed potential LZC technologies for the development it has been identified that the most appropriate system would be solar PV panels, which would most suitably be installed on the flat roof spaces to minimise the visual impact of the installation. The chosen system should be accurately sized during the detailed design stages and MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) approved equipment and installers used.