

Birch Business Park, Rochdale Sustainable Procurement Plan



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Context

Most construction products involve long and complex supply chains that result in a wide range of impacts locally and globally. These might include environmental (e.g. toxicity or biodiversity), economic (e.g. corruption) or social (e.g. slave labour, equality) issues and can occur during the extraction, processing, manufacturing or supply chain stages.

The increasing globalisation of supply chains increases the difficulty of tracing the supply chain and mitigating negative impacts caused by it. Credible certification schemes exist to increase confidence to specifiers that risks are being minimised, or avoided, and their use ensures that specifiers are able to demonstrate the responsible nature of their selection decisions.

Engaging with sustainable procurement can help to protect risks and give opportunities for enhanced reputation in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Ethical and Social Governance (ESG) by:

- + Promoting more economically, socially and environmentally responsible practices across the construction products, component manufacturing and supply sectors.
- + Encouraging the construction industry to identify risks and reduce the environmental, economic and social issues in the supply chain of construction products.
- + Use and the improvement of credible and comparable schemes to evaluate the responsible sourcing of products.

Aims & objectives

To facilitate the selection of products that involve lower levels of negative environmental, economic and social impact across their supply chain including extraction, processing and manufacture.

This involves promotion of construction materials that:

- + Are available or produced locally, supporting the local economy and reducing transport impacts.
- + Are covered by third-party verified schemes demonstrating sustainable sourcing e.g. FSC timber.
- + Are from manufacturers with the highest levels of third party verifiable Environmental Management systems (EMS)
- + Have independently verified statements of product environmental impacts – Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)
- + Encouraging the construction industry to identify risks and reduce the environmental, economic and social issues in the supply chain of construction products.
- + Use and the improvement of credible and comparable schemes to evaluate the responsible sourcing of products.

Methodology

This project specific plan sets out a clear framework for the responsible sourcing of construction products to guide procurement throughout a project and by all involved in the specification and procurement of construction products. This sustainable procurement plan must be used by the design team to guide specification towards more sustainable construction products.

The plan has been developed at RIBA Stage 1 to ensure that it is in place to lead the design towards more sustainable construction methods and products from concept design.

The plan sets out sustainability aims, objectives and strategic targets to guide procurement activities. Before detailing stage specific actions that form a framework for promoting local and sustainably sourced construction products, including details of procedures in place to check and verify the effective implementation of the sustainable procurement plan.

Strategic targets

Investigate locally produced materials to be designed into the development

Are there any manufacturers within the region who produce construction materials that can be used within the development?

Use UK manufactured/produced materials wherever possible

Where any non-UK produced materials are put forwards it should be investigated if a comparable UK product is available as an alternative.

Ensure all timber and timber products and legally and responsibly sourced

Request Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)

Manufacturer EPDs shall be requested for all significant products or materials such that product specific performance information can be used within Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) embodied carbon calculations and where information not available we can encourage manufacturers to attain EPDs for their products.

Preference for low embodied carbon products

A Life Cycle Assessment shall detail the most significantly contributing materials or products to the development that should be re-considered to see a lower embodied carbon alternative is available.

Request responsible sourcing certification

Manufacturer responsible sourcing certification (FSC, ISO14001, BES6001, CARES Etc.) shall be requested for all significant products or materials. All significant products or materials must have responsible sourcing certification and a preference shall be made for materials with the highest certification standards.

Target social and environmental KPIs

100% timber or timber products FSC or PEFC certified

All timber products should be covered by third-party independent certification schemes demonstrating sustainable timber procurement.

Upfront embodied carbon ≤ 550 kg.CO₂e/m² GIA

Upfront embodied carbon (A1-5) excluding sequestration of carbon from timber products to target industry good practice. Sourcing local materials with low transport impacts will contribute towards meeting the project embodied carbon KPIs.

BREEAM mat02 EPD score ≥ 20

BREEAM mat02 methodology calculate a project score for EPDs being available across all significant materials with each material classification.

BREEAM mat03 responsible sourcing score $\geq 50\%$

BREEAM mat03 methodology calculate a project score for responsible sourcing based on the available EMS or responsible sourcing verification scheme being available across all significant materials within superstructure, internal finishes, substructure and had landscaping.

Stage 2 - Concept design actions

- + Life Cycle Assessment to inform design to minimise embodied carbon.

Stage 3 - Developed design actions

- + Design development to be informed by the Stage 2 Life Cycle Assessment.

Stage 4 - Technical design actions

- + Design team to investigate availability of EPDs and responsible sourcing certification/EMS for construction materials and products.
- + Life Cycle Assessment methodology used to review impact of different material specification and sources on project embodied carbon.
- + Specification and Tender documentation to detail the requirements for sustainable procurement for the Principal Contractor.
- + BREEAM mat02 and mat03 design stage calculations carried out on specified construction materials and products.
- + Specification, Tender documentation and LCA report produced to verify implementation of sustainable procurement plan.

Stage 5 - Construction actions

- + Contractor to prioritise UK and locally manufactured products.
- + Architect team to investigate and approve any contractor proposals for alternative materials specifications in deviation to the specification and tender documentation, carrying out a review against the LCA and BREEAM mat02 and mat03 calculations where appropriate.

Stage 6 - Handover actions

- + Principal contractor to provide detailed records of construction materials procured throughout the project up to handover, including copies of EPD and EMS/responsible sourcing certification.
- + BREEAM post construction assessment to verify final project performance against social and environmental KPIs.
- + Final LCA calculation of embodied carbon carried out based on actual quantities and materials procured to verify project performance.



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