

# Environment and Sustainability Committee



11-10-2022

<b>Title</b>	<i>Embodied Carbon Foot Printing</i>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a decision
<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Tim Snook, Sustainability Officer</i>
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Environment
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Committee is asked to agree:</b>  <b>1. to a policy focus being developed which will outline ways that will reduce embodied carbon, without requiring an outright embodied carbon calculation, through a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).</b>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	<b>It is the recommendation of this report to focus efforts on calculating and reducing operational carbon footprints of council owned assets and further strengthening planning policies for future developments within the borough. Operational carbon footprints are more easily calculated and are known to have a significant impact on the overall lifecycle carbon of a development so may be a more appropriate approach with the current level of knowledge on embodied carbon calculations.</b>

## 1. Summary of the report

- 1.1 This report seeks to perform an analysis into the viability of embodied carbon foot-printing for new developments, including Council led developments..
- 1.2 The report is written in response to the added item by E&S committee to the forward plan regarding:
  - (i) Submission of a carbon calculation statement for any future developments owned by the Council or KGE

(ii) A request for a carbon calculation statement for developments submitted by other parties

## **2. Key issues**

2.1 Currently there is no definitive way to accurately calculate the embodied carbon footprint of a new development. Therefore, more accurately calculated methods of carbon reduction are proposed. These are outlined in detail in Appendix A.

2.2 The main outcomes of the analysis in Appendix A demonstrate there is not easily used and universally agreed method of calculating embodied carbon. There are, however, good methods for assessing operational carbon which allow an assessment of carbon use over the life of the building.

## **3. Options analysis and proposal**

3.1 Preferred Option is to utilise planning policy through the creation of an SPD to include more rigorous design-based policy to reduce operational carbon footprints of developments. Also, to consider utilising methods to reduce embodied carbon through planning policy via the production of an SPD without explicitly requiring an embodied carbon calculation of new developments

3.2 Other options to be considered is.

3.3 Not to consider options for the supplementary planning guidance will hinder moving developments forward to minimise their carbon footprint which is needed urgently to address the threat of climate change. Developments minimising carbon use both in the build and though the life of the building can benefits residents of such buildings by reducing their energy costs and providing a more pleasant home environment.

## **4. Financial implications**

4.1 None at this stage

## **5. Risk considerations**

5.1 None at this stage

## **6. Procurement considerations**

6.1 None at this stage

## **7. Legal considerations**

7.1 None at this stage, maybe future issues regarding planning

## **8. Other considerations**

8.1 None at this stage

## **9. Equality and Diversity**

9.1 None at this stage

## **10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

10.1 The proposal is directly correlated to reducing carbon intensity within the borough and therefore would have positive climate change and sustainability implications.

## **11. Timetable for implementation**

11.1 If decided, this decision can be implemented into the upcoming climate change SPD.

**12. Contact**

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**Background papers:**

**Not applicable**

**Appendices:**

**List as Appendix A,**

- A. Embodied Carbon Foot Printing associated with new construction of SBC assets and associated estates and recommendation to new developments – Full Report.**