

Attendees: Ian Heptonstall (Supply Chain Sustainability School), Naomi Pratt (SCSS), Ken Davie (SCSS / Buildoffsite); Rory Bergin (HTA Design), Paul Gray (Telford Homes), Matt Badger (Environment Agency), Catherine Blackburn (Explore Manufacturing / Laing O'Rourke), Juan Ferriz-Papi (University of Salford), Ellie Cordon (Laing O'Rourke), David Lawrence (ISG), Andrew Dewdney (Kier), Mark Worrall (BBI Services), Mark Stokes (Amco Giffen), Ross Dight (Tarkett)

Apologies: Kevin Dundas (Willmott Dixon), Jamie Slatter (Laing O'Rourke), James Cowell (Algeco), Kevin Morrissey (HE Simm), Victor Gomez (HS2), Hannah Luckhurst (Onsite Support), Helen Harrison (PCE Ltd)

1. Introductions and notes of last meeting

IH introduced the meeting and new attendees introduced themselves. Everyone was happy with the notes from last meeting. Laing O'Rourke are conducting life cycle assessments at the moment and creating EPDs.

2. Performance update

Naomi shared update on performance to KPIs and training session feedback so far this FY (see slides). We are on track with business bytes and workshops but behind on webinars due to a cancellation – we'll run one extra in Q4. The number of active companies interested in offsite KPI has already been exceeded for the year, as has the number of Offsite and Management e-learning modules. As the company assessment is being updated, it is not of concern that this is behind target. Learning pathway enrolments are behind so more work needs to be done to encourage use of these.

Training feedback has been on the whole excellent / good but we need to keep in mind that attendees need to come away with learning relevant to their job and with applicable information.

We have a number of sessions open for registrations – see slides. In the new year we'd like to run **case study sessions focusing on materials**. There were a few suggestions for these:

- Low-rise timber projects we could cover include Northstowe School (Kier), David Miller Architects school (recently presented with Buildoffsite), Donaldson timber factory robotics
- Steel – HTA have lots they could talk about here
- Concrete – Laing O'Rourke happy to help with this

Regarding the **Offsite for Site Managers** workshop – we have had to postpone this a couple of times as we are finding it difficult to find a co-presenter as well as with registrations, so we need to rethink how we can reach this audience. Possibly we could trial recording this material in a lunch 'n' learn.

Rory Bergin offered to support the forthcoming Offsite Logistics webinar in January.

Actions

- NP to follow up on speaker and case study suggestions
- NP to send Rory calendar invite for offsite logistics Lunch 'n' Learn (DE to follow up re content)
- all to share links with interested colleagues
- all to let SCSS know whenever they have case studies they would like to share or topics they'd like to discuss on future training sessions

3. Company assessment

Ongoing piece of work to update the Corporate Capability assessment, accessible through admin dashboards. Went through the assessment matrix, making sure maturity statements for each subtopic are appropriate. Comments can be made on the sheet [here](#)

ISG have a standard scoring system for site assessments of a similar style – they will compare. Once we have more responses we can start to benchmark in the school and identify common skills gaps. Question around whether the statements are tailored to each sector (housebuilding etc). the answers will be tailored to this.

Actions:

- all to please add final comments to the spreadsheet before Christmas so we can create action plans in the new year

4. Carbon and offsite project

Our whole life carbon project is underway, we are in the information gathering phase, insights coming in through the [industry survey](#) as well as literature and interviews. Aims and scope of the project as well as a detailed timeline can be found in the slides.

The group worked on [Jamboard](#) to collect examples of MMC carbon reductions by life cycle stage, as well as challenges and considerations specific to sector and system. **If you did not attend the meeting please feel free to contribute as the board will stay open.**

We discussed the following topics in more detail:

Post-occupancy evaluations

- This is an area where there is a big gap in data. This is true for the construction sector as a whole, not just offsite.
- HTA are planning to do work on these in collaboration with other architects, sharing the data amongst themselves and clients
- Unite Housing and Donaldson may have data on this
- University of Salford should have data on this from energy house next year but none at the moment

Comparative studies

- LOR have conducted carbon assessments on digital bridges vs traditional
- Very rare that similar enough buildings exist to compare MMC vs traditional and benchmarks such as LETI are really standardised – same for 2 vs 50 storeys.
- We can look instead at building components and compare these

EPDs

- Most of the time generic data is being used to understand embodied carbon for building materials. This does not give any granularity on supplier decarbonisation efforts or the impact of location. EPDs do this a bit better
- There is quite a bit of variety between modules depending on the building or even their position in the building. EPDs will have to standardise this out otherwise there would be too much data
- LOR are assessing life cycle carbon and drafting EPDs for key components, see this as an area which will grow, not attempting to provide one for every solution yet
- JFP – it is possible for the same product or system to have different embodied carbon emissions depending on the method you use to assess embodied carbon – it is a very inexact science. Advice and guidance is being shared by the UKGBC. Advice to manufacturer would be to collect data on manufacturing process, audit and monitor this
- Because of the variability in calculations Telford Homes are starting with fundamental components and key materials rather than trying to assess embodied carbon for whole systems
- Need to remember that we are trying to understand carbon in a constantly changing world where grid elec carbon intensity is changing, materials and processes are changing. EPDs only give a snapshot

Transport

- Kier assess supply base close to construction site and if they can manufacture elements to a suitable standard they will be preferred
- Road transport emissions are generally lower than sea transport, this needs to be considered – it is not as simple as using distance as a proxy. On the other hand, transport can be a carbon hotspot and method can make a big difference (UoS study?)
- Stora Enso may have data on transport (CLT supplier)

Organisations to reach out to

- Balfour Beatty (supply chain carbon measurement), Premier Modular, Vision Built all mentioned as orgs who may have useful insights/data
- Kier, LOR, ISG all happy to contribute
- H\B for design for disassembly, end-of-life TEDI building
- Ladywell temporary housing? This might be basically permanent now

Actions:

- All to fill in [whole life carbon survey](#) ASAP
- CB to check if LOR have any comparative data on Crossrail in addition to digital bridges
- NP to follow up on these leads to contribute towards upcoming carbon report
- IH to share carbon housebuilders report with NP
- KD to send links from slide deck and contact details for organisations mentioned

4. Business planning

Reaching out to higher education and trialling resources. JFP – collaboration with SCSS would be very helpful as there is limited knowledge of MMC. Will need different levels of content for colleges vs unis.

Actions:

- SCSS to take ideas to draft up business plan to present in March meeting

5. AOB and date of next meeting

- KD highlighted the [MMC Market](#) which has been recently launched – BOPAS, OA, NHBC. This tool should massively simplify the process of finding suppliers, understanding options for components etc.
- Please complete the School's [Impact Survey](#) if you haven't already!

Actions:

- NP to add link from offsite pages to MMC market and add it as a resource

Next meeting is Thursday 2nd March, 10:00-12:00, Zoom