



The Circular Economy & Design

24/10/2019

- **There needs to be further consideration on how these new policies can be practically implemented by boroughs.** Whilst welcomed by boroughs, clarity on outcomes and monitoring needs to be undertaken, without reinventing the wheel or requiring additional resources. We need to evidence and learn from best practice and be consistent across London in our approach to the Circular Economy.
- **Boroughs look to the GLA to provide leadership in establishing a new process to assess developments with a Circular Economy Statement.** Any new process must encourage and facilitate sharing knowledge between boroughs, testing and giving feedback with consistency around what equals both good and bad practice. Without clear leadership, the targets set out in the draft London Plan for 2025 were not considered to be achievable.
- **Post-occupancy research needs to monitor performance gaps in the procurement and use of building materials and a standardised monitoring tool would help support best practice.** Evaluation of new buildings will help provide evidence base for good practice guidance and enable authorities to draw on exemplars and use in policy. It was noted that there is a tension between accelerated planning policies and quality and care for future generations and the environment.
- **Private sector material accreditations are not the final word in sustainability be mindful they are selling a product.** Take time to read beyond accreditation labels, to understand whether a material succeeds in some areas but fails in others before making a choice, setting out procurement requirements or setting policy.
- **Both housing and street design must facilitate recycling in a practical way to enable easy and convenient disposal and collection.** Careful consideration and assessment of schemes are required to provide both adequate storage internally, with space for food and dry recycling, as well as external facilities that contribute positively to the streetscape and are practically accessible for collection.

- **To better manage our waste and recycling, we need increased capacity, improved infrastructure and consistent disposal methods in the UK.** Existing recycling facilities have limited capacity and longevity alongside a diminishing market overseas; there is an urgent need to establish a dynamic recycling market within the UK that enables organisations to dispose of their materials to relevant organisations to who trade, re-process and re-sell recycled goods and materials.

Speakers:

Doug Simpson, GLA
Tom Woolley, Anglia Ruskin University
Stephen Didsbury, LB Bexley

Attendees: 60