

CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM SUSAN COLLEDGE TO COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS

“The demolition of the Hermitage Leisure Centre will cause the release of captured carbon. The figure is worked out using the EC3 captured carbon calculator. Current environmental recommendation is to repurpose rather than demolish any building possible.

Has this figure been factored into your calculations on your zero carbon target?”

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS TO SUSAN COLLEDGE

“The EC3 calculator is an incredibly useful tool for considering the carbon footprint for a building which is about to be constructed. It includes a consideration of the embedded carbon that might be released when the building is eventually demolished and recycled at the end of its life. To provide any useful data the model requires knowledge of the embedded carbon value of the materials that are to be used in constructing the building. The embedded carbon in materials being a function of how they are produced.

Unfortunately, the model does not work for existing buildings. It is impossible to know what the embedded carbon value is of materials that were produced and incorporated into a building more than 30 years ago. For example how was the steelwork within the building frame produced, was it new or recycled steel, locally produced or shipped from overseas, how was the foundry powered- coal or gas?

We will never be able to calculate a figure for the embedded carbon within the former Hermitage Leisure Centre. What we will do however is ensure that as much of the building as possible is recycled post demolition and we will also be able to calculate how much carbon is saved by no longer having to heat, light and secure the premises.”