



Property Breakfast, Birmingham, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

# A Circular Economy for the Property Sector It's **not** business as usual!

“ Product passports and building information can help unlock potential in more structured way ”

“ Young people could be the key... to promote culture & mind shift ”

“ Creating easy transfer of data between owners will increase value ”

“ Buildings can become a temporal and dynamic storage of parts that can be used for a new purpose ”

Our second property breakfast for the property sector took place in Birmingham, and brought together representatives of a range of organisations from across the region. Birmingham has a population of 1.1 million and is famous as the city with more canal miles than Venice. It is the business and employment sector for the West Midlands region with 500,000 people working there, and major construction projects include the HS2 high-speed rail link from London which will create two new rail stations, one in the centre of the city and one at the airport.

The presentation at the event came from BRE's Gilli Hobbs, who spoke about the challenges and opportunities for new circular economy thinking for the property and construction sector.

Gilli provided an overview of the BAMB project – Buildings as Material Banks – a 3½ year EU-funded project, with 15 partners from 7 countries. She explained how circular economy was not 'business as usual' but is about optimising the value of property assets, introducing new ideas in the form of reversible building designs, and new business models for the re-use of buildings, components and materials.

The BAMB project involves multiple pilots with buildings designed for maximum transformation and reversibility, and places a strong emphasis on decision making support, data management, demonstration and dissemination.

*Attendees then broke off into discussion groups and here are some of the key comments and discussion points.*



Circular economy thinking requires systemic change – in design culture, understanding, capturing and re-capturing value.



There are big issues of different stakeholders being involved over the life of a building – how do we get them to share and maximise value?



BAMB involves multiple pilot projects and education. This is the best way to explore & encourage the adoption of circular economy thinking.



Often driven by the type of client – asset owners & managers who plan for the longer term should be more interested in adaptable and value added buildings.

However, it is still not clear how to optimise these assets – from material up to building level – over the highly variable timescale of a building life cycle.

## More information

For more on the BAMB project go to [www.bamb2020.eu](http://www.bamb2020.eu).  
To view the BAMB video go to [click here](#)

For more on BRE's wider strategic advisory services for the property sector go to [www.bregroup.com/services/advisory](http://www.bregroup.com/services/advisory)



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