



Joint Statement of Demand

Circular Office Furniture

As public and private buyers, we are committed to creating a circular economy, using our combined purchasing power to change markets. In a circular economy:

products, services, and infrastructure are designed, used, and operated to maximise value and minimise waste, reducing demand for primary resources, lowering carbon emissions, and allowing the regeneration of natural systems.

This will stimulate innovation and new business models, also creating economic and social impact opportunities.

The intention of this joint statement is to provide a set of commitments and 'asks' which will contribute to the development of a closed-loop system for office furniture. These are to be used by procurers in addition to other sustainability criteria on wider sustainability issues such as sustainable materials and human rights.

By 2028 we are committed to procuring circular furniture and therefore we will apply the following principles to our upcoming tenders for furniture refurbishment services, the procurement of additional furniture items, and the procurement of furniture end-of-life services:

Procurer commitments:

- We will use the waste hierarchy¹ as basis for decision making on furniture related tenders. This will include deciding what type of tenders we will issue. We will prioritize maintenance, repair and reconditioning of existing furniture assets. Where additional furniture is needed we will seek to procure used or reconditioned furniture. If the procurement of newly made furniture is required we set requirements to ensure that this furniture is circular in nature.
- We will build our specifications and award/evaluation criteria so that they reward those who offer circular economy services, in alignment with the circular goals and strategies set out under the *asks which we will include in future tenders* heading of this Joint Statement of Demand.
- We will continue to explore lifecycle costing methods, factoring in costs across the product lifecycle such as disposal, replacement, and repair costs alongside unit price.
- We will be open-minded to novel forms of furniture supply that are presented by the supplier e.g. furniture being provided through service contracts, or buying second hand product that meets our requirements, as an alternative to buying new furniture.
- We will engage internal stakeholders to overcome organizational challenges to implementing circular procurement and managing furniture in a circular way during the in-use and end-of-life phases.
- We are dedicated to strengthening cooperation between us buyers, resellers and suppliers as well as relevant partner organisations, acknowledging that change can only happen through collaboration.


Asks which we will include in future tenders:

As major consumers of furniture, we will ask in future furniture tenders that suppliers and service providers show how their offers align with the circular procurement goals and strategies that are set out on the following page.

This is an intentionally broad list that will enable procurers to select the most appropriate strategies for their unique tender.

¹ We will use the 9Rs framework as our waste hierarchy model, as explained in the 'circularity strategies within the production chain, in order of priority' infographic. This model was developed by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and Utrecht University. See: https://data.pbl.nl/api/embed/infographic/data/en/cem16/001s/01/001s_cem16_01_en.pdf


A



Reduce total amount of materials

- A 1 Internal sharing
- A 2 Renting or peer to peer sharing
- A 3 Reuse, refurbishing or upgrading
- A 4 Minimal use of materials in design
- A 5 Less waste


D



Maximise the reusability of a product or component

- D 1 Design for Disassembly
- D 2 Modular design
- D 3 Standardised design
- D 4 Understanding the internal composition and connections
- D 5 Contractual arrangements for take back and reuse
- D 6 Stimulate circular business models

B



Reduce amount of virgin inputs

- B 1 Understanding the share of recycled, biobased and virgin materials present
- B 2 Increasing the amount of recycled content
- B 3 Increasing the amount of biobased content

E



Maximise the reusability or recyclability of materials

- E 1 Design for recycling
- E 2 Understanding materials
- E 3 Contractual arrangements for take back and recycling
- E 4 Reducing or banning toxicity
- E 5 Biologically degradable / compostable
- E 6 Stimulate circular business models

C



Extend the useful life

- C 1 Extending guarantees
- C 2 Contractual arrangements for maintenance and repair
- C 3 Upgradable products
- C 4 Design for longevity
- C 5 Repairability and maintainability
- C 6 Modular /change oriented design
- C 7 Contractual incentives for extension of useful life
- C 8 Supplier guidance for use optimization

Signatories

Signatories can be viewed on the ProCirc and Business in the Community websites. We welcome other buyers to become signatories to this Joint Statement. Please express your interest in becoming a signatory through the following webpage: <https://www.bitc.org.uk/joint-statements-of-demand/>

On behalf of the ProCirc project, this Joint Statement of Demand has been coordinated by:



Background ProCirc

The Interreg North Sea Region ProCirc project is set up to experiment, implement and learn about circular procurement. It is coordinated by a partnership of eight public and three private sector organisations. For further information, see the ProCirc website: <https://northsearegion.eu/procirc/>