

Environment and Sustainability Assessment

Birmingham City Council is required to assess any positive or negative impacts that any policy/strategy/ decision/development proposal is likely to have on the environment. This assessment must be completed for CLT and Cabinet reports where appropriate. It is the responsibility of the Service Director signing off the report to ensure that the assessment is complete.

To complete the assessment, you should consider whether the proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on each of the key themes by placing a (✓) for positive, (x) for negative and (?) for unclear impact, and (N/A) for non-applicable impact. Further guidance on the completion of the template is available on page 3 below.

Project Title:	Queensbury School student places expansion projects			
Directorate:	Team:	Person Responsible for assessment:		
Date of assessment:	Is it a new or existing proposal?			
Brief description of the proposal: Install 4 no temporary modular classrooms at Queensbury School site (area will be restored after 12 months); Significantly refurbish the existing 6 th form building at Queensbury School; significantly refurbish the vacant Osborne Primary School building and site into a satellite SEN 6 th form centre for Queensbury School. Overall, these projects combine to create an additional 96 SEN student places at queensbury school by re-purposing existing buildings				
Potential impacts of the policy/development/ decision on:	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Specific Impact	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative, how can it be mitigated, what action will be taken?
Natural Resources - including water, soil, air			✓	Neutral impact – no significant change of use or demolition; remaining as re-purposed Education Buildings
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	✓			Significantly improved; elemental external insulation, robust details, and air tightness values where practical will be brought up to current building regulations standards. Similarly, source services equipment will be evaluated and where required upgraded to current performance standards.
Quality of environment	✓			Significantly improved to match the specific needs of the students to be in occupation, and modernising an existing dilapidated brownfield site for long-term future use.

Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			✓	There is no reduction or negative impact to local green spaces in the proposals
Use of sustainable products and equipment	✓			By retaining existing structures, continued use of the existing materials is optimised; where elements are to be changed consideration is given to replacement systems that provide both longevity and recyclability (i.e. PVC windows and doors replaced with aluminium systems); consideration will be given to use of heat pumps or at the very least hydrogen-ready boilers for environmental conditioning but with a passive first improvement approach, and solar energy sources considered to supplement electrical and hot water supply requirements.
Minimising waste		✓		The dilapidated and aged nature of some elements of the building combined with the presence of asbestos materials will mean some waste removal from site cannot be avoided. However, the majority of the works are refurbishment of the existing building structure rather than disposing of existing materials; where external surface finishes are to be stripped, the contractor will be required to minimise off-site waste by incorporating these materials where suitable in the sub-base formation for new surfaces. As part of the commitment to BBC4SR 85% of construction waste will be recycled
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	✓			The plans directly improve the local area and city climate change contribution, by extending the useful life expectancy of the sites and buildings on them, while reducing their ongoing demand for energy and carbon emissions, and without adversely introducing significant negative impacts during the construction process
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	By re-use of the existing buildings and sites, and where practical existing service systems and fabric finishes, and re-using stripped external surface materials into sub-base construction, the scheme reduces off-site waste disposal. By selecting replacement materials with improved life expectancy and improved recyclability, the sustainability of the sites will be improved, and by significantly improving insulation, air tightness and heating and ventilation system performance through targeted upgrade with more efficient and lower energy consumption units, there will be a significant reduction in the demand on natural			

	resources and carbon emissions associated with the buildings
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Guidance for completing the template

Theme	Example
Natural Resources - Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air.	Does the decision increase water use? Does the decision have an impact on air quality? Does the decision discourage the use of the most polluting vehicles (private and public) and promote sustainable modes of transport or working from home to reduce air pollution? Does the decision impact on soil? For example, development will typically use water for carrying out various operations and, once complete, water will be needed to service the development. Providing water to development and treating affluent water requires energy and contributes to climate change. Some of the activities including construction or disposal of waste may lead to soil pollution. The decisions may lead to more journeys thereby deteriorating air quality and thus contribution to climate change and greenhouse gases.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions.	Will the decision have an impact on energy use? Will the decision impact on carbon emissions? Most day-to-day activities use energy. The main environmental impact of producing and using energy such as electricity, gas, and fuel (unless it is from a renewable source) is the emission of carbon dioxide.
Quality of environment.	Does the decision impact on the overall quality of the built environment? Decisions may have an impact on the overall setting, character and distinctiveness in the area. For example, if development involves ground digging and excavations etc. it may have an impact on the local archaeology.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	The proposal may lead to localised impacts on the local green and open spaces which may have an impact on local biodiversity, trees and other vegetation in the area. Will the proposal lead to loss (or creation) of green and blue infrastructure? For example, selling an open space may reduce access to open space within an area and lead to a loss of biodiversity. However, creating a new open space would have positive effects.
Use of environmentally sustainable products, equipment and packaging'	Will the decision present opportunities to incorporate the use of environmentally sustainable products (such as compostable bags, paper straws etc.), recycled materials (i.e. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Timber/wood), non-polluting vehicles, avoid the use of single use plastics and packaging.
Minimising waste	Will the decision minimise waste creation and the maximise recycling during the construction and operation of the development/programme/project?

	Will the decision provide opportunities to improve recycling? For example, if the proposal involves the demolition of a building or a structure, could some of the construction materials be reused in the new development or recycled back into the construction industry for use on another project?
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change and deliver Route to Zero.	How does the proposal or decision contribute to tackling and showing leadership in tackling climate change and deliver Route to Zero aspirations?

If you require further assistance with completing this template, please contact: ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk