

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. To complete the assessment you should consider whether that policy/development/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. The assessment must be completed for all Cabinet reports. It is the responsibility of the Service Director signing off the report to ensure that the assessment is complete. The officers from the sustainability team can help to fill the assessment especially during the early days of implementation.

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 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 quality of the 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 impact on the local green and open spaces which may have an impact on local biodiversity, trees and other

	<p>vegetation in the area. 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.</p>
<p>Use of environmentally sustainable products, equipment and packaging'</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change and deliver Route to Zero.</p>	<p>How does the proposal or decision contribute to tackling and showing leadership in tackling climate change and deliver Route to Zero aspirations?</p>

Project Title:		Effective commissioning of debt collection		
Department:		Team:		Person Responsible for assessment:
		Digital and Customer Services – Revenues		Jonathan Woodward
Date of assessment: August 2023		Is it a new or existing policy/strategy/decision/development proposal? - Yes		
<p>1.1 Brief description of the proposal:</p> <p>To consider bringing Enforcement Agent debt collection arrangements ‘in-house’ in order to increase income and benefit from early intervention and prevention principles.</p> <p>1.2 The hybrid ‘in-house’ proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2.1 enable the Council to identify financial (or other) vulnerability and utilise the knowledge to assist citizens; 1.2.2 link to the Council’s approach to ‘early intervention and prevention’; 1.2.3 ensure the associated income in fees helps the Council to improve services for the citizens of Birmingham; and 1.2.4 continue to work with external providers to ensure that debt collection is maximised to the Council. 				
Potential impacts of the policy/development decision/procedure/ 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- Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air			X	
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions		X		Enforcement Agents will need to visit properties and premises within the city by vehicle, albeit in low numbers. As the proposals would include in house

				collection, there is the potential to use low emission or electric vehicles to reduce emissions.
Quality of environment			X	
Impact on biodiversity			X	
Use of sustainable products and equipment			X	
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change			X	
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal'	As the majority for the processes will involve desktop based tasks and digital communications the impact of the new service is negligible.			

If you require assistance in completing this assessment then please contact: Amit Bratch (amit.bratch@birmingham.gov.uk).