

**Environment and Sustainability Assessment**

<b>Project Title: West Midlands Investment Zone and Growth Zones</b>				
<b>Department: PPS</b>	<b>Team: Development</b>			<b>Person Responsible for assessment: Mark Gamble, Head of East Birmingham Development</b>
<b>Date of assessment: 31/01/2024</b>		<b>Is it a new or existing proposal?: New</b>		
<b>Brief description of the proposal: The establishment of the West Midlands Investment Zone including the designation of sites in Birmingham for tax incentives and Business Rate Retention.</b>				
<b>Potential impacts of the policy/development decision/procedure/ on:</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>	<b>No Specific Impact</b>	<b>What will the impact be? If the impact is negative, how can it be mitigated, what action will be taken?</b>
Natural Resources- Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air			✓	None at this stage
Energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions			✓	None at this stage
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			✓	None at this stage
Use of sustainable products and equipment			✓	None at this stage
Minimising waste			✓	None at this stage
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	✓			By facilitating the establishment of the WMIZ, the Council is helping to secure funding and investment for Birmingham which will enable various aspects of the climate change response.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	The proposal is largely enabling at this stage – there are no specific development or investment proposals directly agreed by this report. However, the purpose and scope of the WMIZ as a whole is likely to be a key enabling factor which will support low carbon tech, heat networks and the decarbonisation of housing and transport. The specific impacts of investment and developments associated with the WMIZ will be subject to ESA via future business cases and as part of the statutory Planning process.			