

## 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 selecting whether the impact of the proposal is positive, negative or has no specific impact on the themes. Please only tick one of these, by deciding what the overall impact is. 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 table below is for guidance only and should not be submitted as part of the report.

Theme	Example
Natural Resources - Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air.	<p>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 wastewater 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.</p>
Energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	<p>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.</p>
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	<p>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?</p>

	<p>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>Minimising waste</p>	<p>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?</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>

<b>Project Title: Higher Level Skills Match Plus Pilot Project</b>				
<b>Department: Place, Prosperity &amp; Sustainability</b>		<b>Team: Enterprise Zone (Planning &amp; Development)</b>		<b>Person Responsible for assessment: James Betjemann</b>
<b>Date of assessment: 3 January 2024</b>		<b>Is it a new or existing proposal? New</b>		
<p><b>Brief description of the proposal:</b> The proposal is for EZ funding to Birmingham City University to lead a collaboration with 3 other Universities (UoB, UCB and Aston University) to work with up to 250 businesses in the Enterprise Zone to identify their higher level skills needs, and match these with the local Graduate Talent Pool to secure graduate level jobs and reduce unemployment and underemployment of graduates. By doing so, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase graduate retention in Birmingham and significantly reduce graduate unemployment;</li> <li>• Boost productivity in Birmingham by moving more graduates from unemployment into employment, and freeing up entry and intermediate level roles by moving underemployed graduates into graduate roles;</li> <li>• Support Birmingham to become more attractive to invest in as employers will have more access to more graduates to support their skills needs; and</li> <li>• Address the challenge presented by the ever-increasing business demand for higher/graduate level skills (NVQ Levels 5 to 9).</li> </ul>				
<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			✓	
Energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions			✓	
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			✓	
Use of sustainable products and equipment			✓	
Minimising waste			✓	
Council plan priority: a city that	✓			The Project Board aims to have a Project-specific

<p>takes a leading role in tackling climate change</p>				<p>Sustainable development Plan which will highlight actions to take place through the delivery of the project including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the use of sustainable travel;</li> <li>• Encourage meetings and interventions to take place remotely/online where appropriate;</li> <li>• Encourage use of public transport hubs and local bus services to attend sites whenever possible;</li> <li>• Promote the importance of environmental sustainability through project activities;</li> <li>• Encourage the use of digital equipment rather than paper by project staff members, partners and participants; and</li> <li>• Build on best practice developments in projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal</p>	<p>This project will have not have any specific direct environmental or sustainability impacts. However, the project Board does aim to have a Project-specific Sustainable development Plan which will highlight actions to take place through the delivery of the project including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the use of sustainable travel;</li> <li>• Encourage meetings and interventions to take place remotely/online where appropriate;</li> <li>• Encourage use of public transport hubs and local bus services to attend sites whenever possible;</li> <li>• Promote the importance of environmental sustainability through project activities;</li> <li>• Encourage the use of digital equipment rather than paper by project staff members, partners and participants; and</li> <li>• Build on best practice developments in projects.</li> </ul>			

If you require assistance in completing this assessment, then please contact: [ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk)