

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:	BCC Street Works Permit Scheme	
Directorate: City Operations	Team: New Roads & Street Works Permit Team	Person Responsible for assessment: Luke Keen
Date of assessment: 15/12/2021	Is it a new or existing proposal? New	
Brief description of the proposal: The 'New Roads & Street Works Team' will be a newly developed team to manage the day-to-day operation of Birmingham's Permit Scheme. Birmingham currently operates a Noticing Scheme, as part of its Network Management Duty under Part 2, Section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. Works Promoters advise the Council that they are working on the highway, whereas under a Permit Scheme they are required to seek approval to work on the highway. Unfortunately, noticing schemes provide limited ^[OBJ] _[OBJ] for coordination and effective management of street works activities. Therefore, Birmingham is seeking to implement a Permit Scheme as this gives the Council greater ability to be able to more effectively manage these works. The introduction of a Permit Scheme would empower BCC to impose conditions relating to traffic management, diversions and working hours, and the associated permit fee would provide a mechanism to fund the service and invest any surplus into managing traffic in the future.		

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	√			Positive impact on air quality due to better coordination of works on the network. Therefore, an overall reduction in works sites and duration of works on the network is expected.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	√			Positive impact due to less congestion as a result of better coordinated works, resulting in less queuing traffic and CO ₂ emissions.
Quality of environment	√			Positive impact on air quality due to better coordination of works on the network. Therefore, an overall reduction in works sites and duration of works on the network is expected.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			√	N/A
Use of sustainable products and equipment			√	N/A
Minimising waste			√	N/A
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change			√	N/A
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	Overall, the change to a Permit Scheme will provide a positive impact for the city in relation to air quality, pollution, CO ₂ emissions and the quality of Birmingham's environment.			

Guidance for completing the template

Theme	Example
Natural Resources - Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air.	<p>Does the decision increase water use?</p> <p>Does the decision have an impact on air quality?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Does the decision impact on soil?</p> <p>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.</p>
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions.	<p>Will the decision have an impact on energy use?</p> <p>Will the decision impact on carbon emissions?</p> <p>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>
Quality of environment.	<p>Does the decision impact on the overall quality of the built environment?</p> <p>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.</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.</p> <p>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>
Use of environmentally sustainable products, equipment and packaging	<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>

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