

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:	Ratification of Selective Licensing Fee			
Directorate: Regulation and Enforcement	Team: Private Sector Property Licensing	Person Responsible for assessment: Simon Beasley		
Date of assessment: 25/09/2023	Is it a new or existing proposal? Existing			
Brief description of the proposal: <p>On the 5th June 2023 the Council designated 25 wards of the city as subject to selective licensing. The aim of the scheme is to reduce crime and/or deprivation in wards with a high proportion private rented accommodation. The scheme covers a predicted 56,000 properties.</p> <p>Following preparation for a judicial review brought against the Council in respect of its selective licensing designation, it has been identified that the Cabinet report of the 1st March 2022 which approved a submission to DLUHC to designate 25 wards of the city as subject to selective licensing gave incorrect details relating to the apportionment of the licence fee.</p> <p>It is felt that this should be corrected at the first possible opportunity (Cabinet meeting of 17th October 2023). This gives the allows Cabinet to retrospectively ratify the correct apportionment of the fee.</p>				
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	X			The reduction in carbon emissions achieved by ensuring homes meet the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard will improve air quality.

Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	X		<p>One of the key priorities is to “Improve the energy efficiency of Birmingham homes, tackle fuel poverty, and reduce carbon emissions supporting grant schemes and advising/signposting both tenants and landlords to support organisations thus supporting improvements in some of the most energy inefficient homes in the city.” Domestic energy is responsible for around a third of all carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Selective Licensing Scheme requires all landlords within the designation to be monitored in respect of having up to date Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) and Electrical Installation Conditions Reports (EICR). It ensures that landlords are compliant with all aspects of the Energy Act 2011 including compliance with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES). The current MEES requires a property to have a minimum EPC rating of E, however, should the rating be raised the conditions will reflect the new standard.</p> <p>The team will signpost landlords and tenants to grant funding opportunities for heating and insulation works. Heating homes more efficiently will not only make utility bills more affordable for the tenant but will also contribute towards the Government’s Net Zero Strategy and the city’s Carbon Roadmap.</p> <p>The Scheme helps ensure that private rented property in the designation meets minimum standards and category 1 hazards such a damp, mould and insufficient heating are addressed. The subsequent repair of buildings may</p>
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				assist in improve energy efficiency and decreasing carbon emissions.
Quality of environment	X			The Selective Licencing Scheme will improve standards of accommodation and management across 25 wards of the most deprived and/or high crime areas of the city. This includes specific conditions around waste receptacles etc and it is hoped that the local environment will improve as a result of this.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			X	
Use of sustainable products and equipment			X	
Minimising waste	X			<p>The licence conditions include a requirement for the landlord to provide suitable and sufficient refuse arrangements. This would include recycling bins. Licence condition below:</p> <p>Condition 13 – Refuse and recycling</p> <p>The Licence Holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide suitable and sufficient provision is made for storage of refuse generated in the property and that occupants use receptacles provided by the Council for storage prior to collection. No waste or waste receptacle must cause obstruction. • Ensure that the occupiers of the house are given the information in writing about waste and recycling within 7 days of the start of their occupation. Ensure that any kind of refuse which the Council will not ordinarily collect (e.g. large items, bedding,

				furniture, hazardous waste etc.) are disposed of responsibly and appropriately.
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	X			Implementation of the objectives will help meet the Council's aim to take a leading role in tackling climate change
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	The private rented sector is the second largest residential tenure in the city. The successful Implementation and monitoring of the objectives should reduce the level of carbon emissions in the sector. This should lead to positive environmental and sustainable impacts			

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	<p>Will the decision minimise waste creation and the maximise recycling during the construction and operation of the development/programme/project?</p> <p>Will the decision provide opportunities to improve recycling?</p> <p>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>
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