

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?</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 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 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>
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>

	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?

Project Title: Birmingham Food System Strategy				
Department: Public Health Division		Team: Food System Team		Person Responsible for assessment: Sarah Pullen
Date of assessment: 17.01.23		Is it a new or existing proposal?: New		
Brief description of the proposal: We are seeking final endorsement and ratification of the Birmingham Food System Strategy. The Creating a Healthy Food City forum has created the Birmingham Food System Strategy: "A Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Birmingham". This is the first food system strategy for Birmingham. The strategy has been developed by the Food System Team in the Public Health Division, with input from stakeholder groups, and best practice from national and international organisations (e.g. the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact). The strategy sets out Birmingham's ambitions for the next 8 years (2022-2030). The vision of the strategy is to: Create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive. The Birmingham Food System Strategy has already established our city as best in practice internationally, by receiving a Gourmand Award, with our strategy being showcased at the International Food Research Day at Umea Food Symposium, Sweden.				
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			See Key Features of the Birmingham Food Revolution (Page 6 and Page 7) We have reviewed, utilised, and embedded the key learning from WWF Basket, Sustainable Food Procurement WHO, Climate Change for Food Projects White Paper, Urban and Periurban Agriculture Sourcebook, Sustain Food for the Planet, WWF UK Roadmap to reducing Waste, and more (See references within Birmingham Food System Strategy Page 69 to 71). We have also addressed this in the Food Sourcing Workstream (Page 47). These strategic approaches aim to reduce the impact of the food system on natural resources.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	X			See Key Features of the Birmingham Food Revolution (Page 6 and Page 7). We are striving for a city where seasonal and local produce is in high demand, and the carbon footprint and negative environmental impact from food miles, processing, plastics and unsustainable packaging is minimised. Aspirations and strategic approaches to achieve this are embedded into the Food Sourcing (Page 47) and Food Waste and Recycling (Page 51) Workstreams
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	X			We have embedded aspirations to positively impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity within the Food Production Workstream (Page 45). We are striving to increase access to commercial, community and domestic growing opportunities across the city, and to remove barriers to growing projects. This could include

				within parks, shared spaces, allotments and disused land. How we produce food has an impact on the nutritional content of what we eat, the environment around us, and the price we pay for food. Growing food brings people together, helps people understand where their food comes from, reduces isolation, and supports lifelong physical and mental health and wellbeing (Genter et al, 2015).
Use of sustainable products and equipment	X			See Key Features of the Birmingham Food Revolution (Page 6 and Page 7) We are striving for a city where a nutritious, ethical, and sustainable food offer is an economically sustainable choice for individuals and businesses because these food options are accessible, available, and affordable. It is easy for locally sourced nutritious food and drink to enter the food system and our supply chains are transparent and traceable. This empowers decisions and means we are accountable for our choices. Environments and the food offer are arranged so these foods are the easiest and most convenient choice, as well as being tasty and desirable. Ongoing innovation and investment bring solutions to overcome barriers in our food system, including through technology. These aspirations are embedded into the Food Transformation (Page 49) and Food Research, Innovation and Data (Page 41) Workstreams.
Minimising waste	X			Food waste and unsustainable food packaging have a big impact on our city and our planet and create a huge financial and environmental burden across the food system. We feed over 1.1 million people every day in Birmingham, so we need to address the negative impact our city has on the food system and influence supply chain processes (ONS, 2021). Food waste and recycling is part of SDG 12.3, which focuses on reducing food waste and losses in production and supply chains (United Nations, 2023b). Ambitions and strategic approaches to minimise waste are embedded in the Food Waste and Recycling Workstream (page 51).
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	X			The Birmingham Food System Strategy is the first UK system wide food strategy, and is leading the way in system thinking on a urban city scale. Climate change, sustainability, and regeneration have been embedded into all elements of the strategy. The strategy has also incorporated the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, the UN Sustainability Development Goals, The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, WHO, WWF, Sustain, and other guides/policies/pacts to steer our approach and ensure that we are seen as the leader in bringing all these major approaches together in one city. (See What's happening internationally page 28 to 31). Locally, a key part of our approach is increasing partnership working between teams within Birmingham City Council that can address food system challenges, which includes climate change. This includes the Food System Team, Route to Net Zero team and Procurement team within BCC working together to improve supply

				chains and food procurement to address climate change.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	<p>The Birmingham Food System Strategy is a strategic steering tool to inform, guide, and influence our city's food system towards a more sustainable, and ultimately a regenerative urban food system.</p> <p>Our ambition is for a city where our response to the climate emergency is visible through our collective urgent action to mitigate the impact our urban food system has on the environment. Seasonal and local produce is in high demand, and the carbon footprint and negative environmental impact from food miles, processing, plastics and unsustainable packaging is minimised. The food and drink we source do not damage the environment, including air, water and land and we use methods that preserve biodiversity and soil quality. We work to minimise the use of antibiotics and hormones in food production. We work across the system to reduce food loss and waste, and to repurpose and redistribute surplus food efficiently. There is a strong culture of reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle, and regenerative farming and food production practices are supported. The Birmingham Food System Strategy sets out the strategic approach that will help us achieve this ambition.</p>			

If you require assistance in completing this assessment, then please contact: ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk