

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 placing a (✓) for positive, (x) for negative and (?) for unclear impact, and (N/A) for non-applicable impact. 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 officers from the sustainability team can help to fill the assessment especially during the early days of implementation.

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? 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.	<p>How does the proposal or decision contribute to tackling and showing leadership in tackling climate change and deliver Route to Zero aspirations?</p>

Project Title:				
Department:	Team:	Person Responsible for assessment:		
Date of assessment:	Is it a new or existing proposal?			
Brief description of the proposal:				
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			√	The increase in number of visitors (approx. 31000, Para 7.6 of the cabinet report) to the city may temporarily increase the demand for water. However, as the event has been established and city and more sustainable water use will help to negate this impact.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions		√		The increased number of the visitors to the city will increase the energy use and more journey's will also mean more emissions. However, as it is a temporary increase the effects can be mitigated by providing sustainable modes of transport and suitable locations for visitors reducing the need to travel.
Quality of environment			√	
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			√	
Use of sustainable products and equipment			√	
Minimising waste		√		More visitors to the city will lead to generation of more waste but adequate recycling and waste disposal facilities will help to reduce this impact.
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change			√	

Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	Overall the proposal will not lead to any major negative impacts and where negative impacts have been identified they can be mitigated with some mitigation measures.
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If you require assistance in completing this assessment, then please contact: ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk