

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:	Footway Crossing Policy			
Department: Highways	Team: Footway Crossings		Person Responsible for assessment: Dharmendra Rajput	
Date of assessment: 17/12/2021		Is it a new or existing proposal? - It is a new proposed policy		
Brief description of the proposal: The adoption of a revised policy for the provision of footway crossings within the city				
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	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust emissions - Cutting of materials on site is avoided, otherwise wet-cutting is used to minimise dust emissions. • Excavated material - transferred direct to lorry, covered, removed from site and taken to a plant for recycling. • Contamination of soils - Fuel securely contained and site kept swept and tidy to prevent contaminated water entering land drains. Spill kits available on site.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials are collected from suppliers nearest to the work site to reduce CO₂ emissions. • The crossing constructions are batched on a geographical basis to minimise the travelling time between sites and reduce carbon footprint. • All vehicles and plant are regularly serviced, and emissions tested. Engines kept off when not in use.
Quality of environment	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The street scene is preserved where possible by re-using lifted kerbs, slabs and setts and laying materials typical to the surrounding area.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy looks at increasing the canopy of trees and amenity value of the streets and maintaining green spaces
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some dropped crossing locations require trees and grass verges to be removed, but the policy requires replacement trees to be planted and the use of sustainable and green materials for grass verge crossings.
Use of sustainable products and equipment	√			Most materials used come from recycled and sustainable sources. i.e. use of recycled hardcore in lieu of new type 1 stone.
Minimising waste			√	The proposed policy is positively seeking to provide guidance on materials that are environmentally friendly. Most materials used come from recycled and sustainable sources. i.e. use of recycled hardcore in lieu of new type 1 stone.
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	√			The proposed policy is positively seeking to specify recycled, environmentally friendly materials. It also aims to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the works associated with the dropped crossing service.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	<p>The policy seeks to address the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal in the following summarised ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials specified that are environmentally friendly and implementing recycling of excavated materials. • Work provided to contractors in batches to allow work in a geographical area, to reduce the Carbon footprint. • Improving the street scene and the preservation of trees and green spaces. • Ensuring Contractors have efficient vehicles, plant and machinery for their operations. 			

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