

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>

	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.
Use of environmentally sustainable products, equipment and packaging'	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.
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?

Project Title: Cofton Primary School Lift & Shift + Extension to KS 2 Teaching Block				
Department: Children & Families	Team: Education Infrastructure			Person Responsible for assessment:
Date of assessment:		Is it a new or existing proposal? New Proposal		
Brief description of the proposal: Installation and refurbishment of temporary modular unit (relocated from previous Skilts School site) at Cofton Primary School and new build single storey extension (area approx.207.5m2) and refurbishment to existing school building to provide 2 No. additional classrooms, toilets and ancillary accommodation.				
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			N/A	Neutral impact – no significant change of use or demolition; remaining as Education Buildings. Increase to demand minimal
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	✓			Improved; elemental external insulation, robust details, and air tightness values where practical will be brought up to current building regulations standards. Similarly, source services equipment will be evaluated and where required upgraded to current performance standards. Solar panels are not included due to the size and nature of the extension. The existing heating system is to be extended into the new extension. There are no plans to upgrade or change the existing heating system.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			N/A	There is a minimal reduction or negative impact to local green spaces in the proposals

Use of sustainable products and equipment	✓			Existing structures are retained and within the design for the new extension consideration has been given to using environmentally sustainable products and systems that provide both longevity and recyclability.
Minimising waste	✓			Reuse of currently redundant modular unit from another education site removes the need for temporary hire of unit from modular company and brings the existing unit, currently empty and subject to ongoing deterioration, back into use. Whilst there will be some waste generated by the development, the design of the new extension has been considered to minimise off site waste generated and to maximise recycling and use of sustainable products.
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	✓			The plans directly improve the local area and city climate change contribution, by extending the useful life expectancy of the site and where possible reducing their ongoing demand for energy and carbon emissions, and without adversely introducing significant negative impacts during the construction process.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	By selecting materials with improved life expectancy and improved recyclability, the sustainability of the site will be improved, and by significantly improving insulation, air tightness and heating and ventilation system performance through targeted upgrade with more efficient and lower energy consumption units, there will be a reduction in the demand on natural resources and carbon emissions associated with the extension to the building.			

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