

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:	Transportation and Highways Capital Programme (THCP)			
Directorate: Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	Team: Transport Planning and Investment		Person Responsible for assessment: Jamie Stanford	
Date of assessment: 19/10/22	Is it a new or existing proposal? New/Existing			
Brief description of the proposal: The Transportation and Highways Capital Programme (THCP) performs an essential role in supporting a range of projects and programmes that contribute towards achieving the City Council's key policies and priorities, as set out in the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan, Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP), Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), Birmingham Connected transport strategy, emerging draft Birmingham Transport Plan, and Local Walking & Cycling Strategy & Infrastructure Plan. The programme is focused on reducing congestion, enabling growth, improving road safety, improving accessibility, improving air quality, supporting delivery of the City Council's 2030 carbon neutral target, encouraging active and sustainable modes of travel and delivering a successful transport strategy for the CWG.				
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	√			The implementation of the THCP will contribute to improving the air quality across the city and within local neighbourhoods through prioritising schemes that support active travel and public transport over car movements.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	√			The THCP aims to reduce carbon emissions from transport

				through prioritising active travel and public transport, as well as reducing the length and number of trips undertaken by private cars. The programme is in line with the council's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2031.
Quality of environment	√			The THCP will continue to direct substantial funding towards public realm schemes (e.g. Snow Hill Public Realm). This will improve the existing quality of environments around the city by making it more attractive for movement via active travel.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	√			The THCP will not lead to direct loss of any local green/blue open spaces and be protected and enhanced where possible. Although active travel schemes (e.g. cycle routes) will look to incorporate these spaces, any potential impacts on biodiversity will be considered and monitored closely.
Use of sustainable products and equipment			√	
Minimising waste			√	
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	The THCP supports the schemes that will guide transport development in the coming years in order to meet the city's challenges and ambitions. The programme does not include any specific commitments to policies or infrastructure and therefore does not, in itself, have a positive or negative impact on the environment and sustainability. However, the programme makes a clear case for the need for rapid action in order to tackle key issues that the city is facing, mainly the climate emergency and inequality. In line with the THCP 22 – 23, this years programme will seek to improve the conditions for active travel, in particularly for those whose levels of access are currently low and where private vehicles are still preferred for shorter distance trips.			

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</p>

	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?

If you require further assistance with completing this template, please contact: ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk