

## **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.

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Regulated Adult Social Care Commissioning</b>			
<b>Directorate: Adults</b>	<b>Team: Commissioning</b>		<b>Person Responsible for assessment: Alison Malik</b>	
<b>Date of assessment: 13/10/22</b>	<b>Is it a new or existing proposal? Existing services being recommissioned</b>			
<b>Brief description of the proposal: Approval is being sought to a Commissioning Strategy for the commissioning of Regulated Adult Social Care – in particular for care homes, supported living and home support – sensory loss that the Council has a statutory duty to provide for citizens under the Care Act 2014. The Council currently commissions around 1,000 independent care providers to provide these services on our behalf and holds contracts with each organisation/care location.</b>				
<b>Potential impacts of the policy/development/ decision on:</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>	<b>No Specific Impact</b>	<b>What will the impact be? If the impact is negative, how can it be mitigated, what action will be taken?</b>
Natural Resources - including water, soil, air			X	<p>The services provided will require the use of natural resources, however for care homes, this would be no more detrimental than if citizens were living in their own homes and using their own utilities for bathing, cooking, cleaning etc.</p> <p>For supported living and home support – sensory loss, citizens are living in their own homes and the carers would make use of the citizen's utilities as needed.</p>

				<p>However, contracts require all providers to ensure that it is familiar with the Council's aims for a Sustainable Birmingham and shall ensure that in its performance of the Service, it uses working methods, equipment, materials and consumables which minimise environmental impact.</p>
Energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions		x		<p>The services provided will require energy use through things like lighting and heating in care homes, through to travel to citizens homes for the supported living and home support – sensory service.</p> <p>However for care homes, this would be no more detrimental than if citizens were living in their own homes and using their own utilities and in many cases offers opportunities for reductions in energy use/economies of scale. However, many of our smaller care homes are not purpose built and there is limited scope to address alterations to buildings to become more energy efficient. All new build care homes must comply with relevant Planning and Building Regulations in relation to energy use.</p> <p>For supported living and home support – sensory loss, citizens are living in their own homes and the carers would make use of the citizen's utilities. Carers may be required to travel to provide care to individuals in their own homes.</p> <p>However, contracts require all providers to ensure that it is familiar with the Council's aims for a Sustainable Birmingham and shall ensure that in its performance of the Service, it uses working methods, equipment, materials and consumables which minimise environmental impact.</p>
Quality of environment	x			<p>Where there are significant physical developments within care homes, Planning and Building Regulations will require a range of environmental considerations.</p>

				Similarly for new build care homes, there are significant Planning and Building Regulation requirements to ensure sustainability and environmental impacts are carefully managed.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			x	<p>Where there are significant physical developments within care homes, Planning and Building Regulations will require a range of environmental considerations.</p> <p>Similarly for new build care homes, there are significant Planning and Building Regulation requirements to ensure sustainability and environmental impacts are carefully managed.</p>
Use of sustainable products and equipment		x		<p>As providers are providing personal care and in some cases such as nursing care, it is not always possible to use sustainable products for example the requirement to use disposable PPE.</p> <p>However, contracts require all providers to ensure that it is familiar with the Council's aims for a Sustainable Birmingham and shall ensure that in its performance of the Service, it uses working methods, equipment, materials and consumables which minimise environmental impact.</p>
Minimising waste		x		<p>As providers are providing personal care and in some cases such as nursing care, some types of waste must be disposed of in line with Infection Control Procedures e.g. disposal of human waste.</p> <p>However, contracts require all providers to ensure that it is familiar with the Council's aims for a Sustainable Birmingham and shall ensure that in its performance of the Service, it uses working methods, equipment, materials and consumables which minimise environmental impact.</p>
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling			x	See conclusion below.

climate change				
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	<p>Whilst the services commissioned by the Council that are within scope of this decision do have an impact on the environment, this is no greater than if citizens were to remain in their own homes and in some cases, there are opportunities through Planning and Building Control Regulations to improve this where significant physical developments/new builds are made. In some cases, having a number of citizens residing in a single location can provide economies of scale.</p> <p>Some elements of the service require compliance with national guidance and legislation in relation to Infection Control practice and requirements. In these cases, there are sometimes limitations in relation to use of sustainable products. However, providers are required to take opportunities to reduce their environmental impact wherever possible and we will capture any actions taken through their Social Value action plan.</p> <p>All services require staff to travel to their place of work and this will be considered by providers and Commissioners as part of Social Value action plans.</p> <p>All care providers are required to ensure that they are familiar with the Council's aims for a Sustainable Birmingham and shall ensure that in its performance of the Service, it uses working methods, equipment, materials and consumables which minimise environmental impact. This will be monitored through providers Social Value Action Plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport: encouraging use of low/zero emissions vehicles to travel between residents</li> <li>• Buildings: encouraging homes to work towards lowering their emissions by moving away from fossil fuel to low emission technologies and improving the fabric of their buildings in order to reduce their heating etc.</li> <li>• Minimising Waste and the use of sustainable products: encouraging providers to procure locally and avoiding single use products wherever possible.</li> </ul>			



### 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 <sub>2</sub> 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](mailto:ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk)