

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.	Does the decision increase water use? Does the decision have an impact on air quality? 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? Does the decision impact on soil? 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.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions.	Will the decision have an impact on energy use? Will the decision impact on carbon emissions? 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.
Quality of environment.	Does the decision impact on the overall quality of the built environment? 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>	<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>
<p>Use of environmentally sustainable products, equipment and packaging'</p>	<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>
<p>Minimising waste</p>	<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>
<p>Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change and deliver Route to Zero.</p>	<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:		Museums Service Contract and Lease 2022-26		
Department: Neighbourhoods		Team: Cultural Development and Tourism		Person Responsible for assessment: Symon Easton, Head of Cultural Development and Tourism
Date of assessment: 13.12.2021		Is it a new or existing proposal? Existing		
Brief description of the proposal: To approve the contract fee for Birmingham Museums Trust 2022-26				
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	(√)			BMT actively uses water saving technology and devices across the city's museums.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	(√)			BMT are taking practical steps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the running of the city's museums. They will continue to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact through energy reduction, and better water and waste management.
Quality of environment			X	
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	(√)			BMT will develop and test a plan for protecting, preserving and enhancing biodiversity in the gardens at the city's historic properties. The test location will be Blakesley Hall.
Use of sustainable products and equipment	(√)			Museum displays will be ethically sustainable and have minimal impact on the environment. BMT is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a member of the Food For Life promoting healthy and sustainable sources of food in its cafes and food outlets.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Too Good to Go to reduce food waste.
Minimising waste	(√)			<p>BMT have a target to reduce the level of waste going to landfill by 20% by 2023.</p>
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	(√)			<p>BMT is part of a national programme, delivered by Julie's Bicycle, which puts a spotlight on reducing the environmental impact of Arts Council England National Portfolio arts organisations.</p> <p>BMT's public programmes inspire and support visitors to make choices to increase their positive impact on the environment. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire people in Birmingham to become environmental citizen scientists through annual BioBlitz events – recording wildlife, plants and insects across the city. Deliver the Urban Nature project, enabling schools and communities to operate biodiversity activities in their own spaces by 2023.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	<p>Birmingham Museums Trust - Climate Pledge and Environment & Sustainability Plan - BMT's Climate Pledge recognises that climate change and the threat to the planet is real and makes a commitment to reducing the environmental impact of their activities and operating as sustainably as they can as a priority. Their plan to be carbon neutral is guided by three principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "We will use less We will have a positive impact We will inspire others to take collective action <p>BMT's Environmental & Sustainability Plan details how their Climate Pledge will be delivered and includes plans for protecting, preserving and enhancing biodiversity in the gardens at the city's historic properties, public programmes to inspire and support visitors to make choices to increase their positive impact on the environment, and engaging with local children, communities and young climate campaigners to inform their programming at Thinktank Science Museum.</p>			

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