

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 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>
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: Enterprise Zone Investment Plan 2022 update				
Department: Inclusive Growth	Team: EZ & Curzon Delivery			Person Responsible for assessment: James Betjemann
Date of assessment: 10 August 2022		Is it a new or existing proposal? Existing		
Brief description of the proposal: A review of the EZIP 2019 has taken place considering both progress to date and the impact and economic changes that have taken place over the last few years. The Programme includes funding for public realm, transport improvements and site improvements and site development and enabling. The EZ is predicated on the growth in business rates and BCC utilising its prudential borrowing powers to fund investment. To maximise the benefits from the Enterprise Zone investment, maintaining a balance between investment, borrowing and accelerating business rates growth through the pipeline of projects will be key to ensuring that the £2 billion business rates income opportunity is realised, and the city centre fully benefits. The report provides a summary of this work and associated financial implications, including financing through prudential borrowing. The EZIP 2022 supports the Council's Business Plan and Budget 2022, specifically the priority is to make Birmingham a great city to live in and Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in. In addition, it promotes transformational change in the City Centre in line with the emerging Our Future City Plan, Curzon Masterplan, Birmingham Development Plan, Birmingham Transport Plan and Birmingham's Route to Zero.				
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	√			The Enterprise Zone Net Zero Strategy key intervention recommendations include co-benefits such as better air quality, better health and potentially reducing frequency of congestion etc. through business support interventions for transition to low carbon delivery services.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	√			The Enterprise Zone Net Zero Strategy key intervention recommendations include measures to reduce operational energy demand and transition to clean energy will support the Net Zero transition, i.e.:

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grants made available to support green skills training, upskilling and jobs creation, contributing to jobs growth in the region. •Make funding available for embedding of energy efficiency systems in existing & new developments and businesses. •Grants available for demonstrating significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction within business operations, i.e.. travel, procurement, energy purchasing.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	√			The Net Zero Roadmap would fit in well with the broader national policy and drivers for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, such as the 'Levelling Up' Agenda and Biodiversity Net Gain.
Use of sustainable products and equipment	√			The strategy aims to support, agitate and champion businesses to operate in a Net Zero way, encouraging a shift towards low carbon products, technologies, structures and systems.
Minimising waste	√			The strategy aims to support food waste reduction schemes within organisations by collaborating on projects and providing grant funding.
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	√			The EZIP 2022 supports the Council's Business Plan, specifically the priority is to make Birmingham a great city to live in and Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in. In addition, it promotes transformational change in the City Centre in line with the emerging Our Future City Plan, Curzon Masterplan, Birmingham Development Plan, Birmingham Transport Plan and Birmingham's Route to Zero.

Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and Birmingham City Council (BCC) in the delivery of Net Zero across the city centre Enterprise Zone (EZ), have set out its aims and objectives across the EZ's opportunity areas. The EZ will focus on bringing forward its strengths and funding assets in order to deliver holistic Net Zero potential across a number of specific sectors within its investment remit, and where required these interventions will be borne through the mechanism of a Net Zero Gateway.
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If you require assistance in completing this assessment, then please contact: ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk