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:	**West Midlands E-Scooter Trial Extension**	
Directorate: Place, Prosperity & Sustainability Directorate	**Team: Transport Planning and Investment**	**Person Responsible for assessment: Ioanna Moscholidou**
Date of assessment: 12/07/22	**Is it a new or existing proposal? Existing**	
Brief description of the proposal: The e-scooter operator Voi was selected as the sole operator in the West Midlands following a procurement process that was run by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). The West Midlands e-scooter trial was launched in September 2020 in Birmingham city centre. Since then, the trial in Birmingham has been expanded to cover the city core and surrounding areas to support the Commonwealth games. Council officers have worked closely with Voi to manage the direction of the trial, develop operational rules for different parts of the city, address any challenges, and prioritise the safety of both e-scooter and other road users. The report is seeking the approval for the Council to extend the e-scooter trial until the end of November 2022 on the existing terms of the trial. It also seeks the approval for a potential further extension of the Council's participation in the West Midlands e-scooter trial from December 2022 until the end of May 2024, based on the re-tendering of the operator, in line with the extension of the national trial by the DfT until May 2024.		

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			x	
Energy use and CO_2 emissions	x			TfWM carried out an online survey into the impacts of the trial in June 2021. The survey showed that if e-

				scooters had not been available approximately half of users that participated in the survey would have walked instead, however, a third would have travelled by car, while a third would have travelled by public transport. This shows that there is a potential to reduce car trips in the city.
Quality of environment			x	
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			x	
Use of sustainable products and equipment			x	
Minimising waste			x	
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	x			In order to reduce carbon emissions from transport it is necessary to drastically reduce private car trips. E-scooters are a part of the suite options that can be made available to the public in order to facilitate this shift.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	Overall, the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal are positive. The e-scooter trial has the potential to reduce the number of short car trips undertaken in the city and associated emissions.			

Guidance for completing the template

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.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	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. 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.
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?

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