



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: Investment in Allotments and food growing (Citywide)		
Project stage and type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case		
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Management of Place	Lead Officer name: Keith Chant	
Service Area: Parks	Lead Officer role: Parks Assets and Projects Manager	

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Assessment is to help you develop your proposal in a way that is compliant with the council's policies and supports the council's strategic objectives under the [One City Climate Strategy](#), the [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#) and the latest [Corporate Strategy](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the project proposal process by someone with a good knowledge of the project, the service area that will deliver it, and sufficient influence over the proposal to make changes as needed.

It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the Environmental Impact Assessment. See further [guidance](#) on completing this document. Please email environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms.

The programme consists of a series of projects designed to increase the number of or enhance the utilisation of, allotment and collective food growing plots. This will also require sites to be upgraded with new provision and enhancement to existing site infrastructure and facilities.

1.2 Will the proposal have an environmental impact?

Could the proposal have either a positive or negative effects for the environment now or in the future? If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no environmental impact, then skip steps 2-3 and request review by sending this form to environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

Yes No [please select]

1.3 If the proposal is part of an options appraisal, has the environmental impact of each option been assessed and included in the recommendation-making process?

If 'Yes' please ensure that the details of the environmental impacts of each option are made clear in the pros and cons section of the [project management options appraisal document](#).

Yes No Not applicable [please select]

If 'No' explain why environmental impacts have not been considered as part of the options appraisal process.

Step 2: What kinds of environmental impacts might the project have?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered. See detailed [guidance documents](#) for advice on identifying potential impacts.

Does the proposal create any benefits for the environment, or have any adverse impacts?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our corporate environmental objectives and the wider [One City Climate and Ecological Emergency strategies](#).

Consider how the proposal creates environmental impacts in the following categories, both now and in the future.

Reasonable efforts should be made to quantify stated benefit or adverse impacts wherever possible.

Where the proposal is likely to have a beneficial impact, consider what actions would enhance those impacts. Where the proposal is likely to have a harmful impact, consider whether actions would mitigate these impacts.

Enhancements or mitigation actions are only required when there is a likely impact identified. Remember that where enhancements or mitigation actions are listed, they should be assigned to staff and appropriately resourced.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many categories)		
<p>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</p> <p>BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city in achieving net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Will the proposal involve transport, or the use of energy in buildings? Will the proposal involve the purchase of goods or services? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, there will be a carbon impact.</p> <p>Consider the scale and timeframe of the impact, particularly if the proposal</p>	Benefits	Increasing the supply of locally grown food displaces transport emissions from food purchased through the supermarket system.
	Enhancing actions	The new sites will initially be as close to where will have the greatest of demand for allotments. However, given the lack of availability of land in some areas people may still need to travel a short distance.
	Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
	Adverse impacts	<p>There will be impacts due to construction works as assets are improved.</p> <p>Improvement works may also change emissions from the use of those assets.</p> <p>Buildings may use energy, all be it at low levels.</p>

<p>will lead to ongoing emissions beyond the 2025 and 2030 target dates.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Procurement processes seek contractor environmental policy detail if the contract is of significant value.</p> <p>Suppliers will be required to implement an emissions strategy to design buildings and construction operations to operate with minimal emissions.</p> <p>The Council will assess and approve specifications before contracts are awarded.</p> <p>Any new building will have energy efficiency in mind during the design process, they are likely to be unheated / low level heating due to mainly being used in the summer months, so may be only having frost protection for water pipes.</p> <p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>
<p>ENV2 Ecological recovery: Wildlife and habitats</p> <p>BCC has committed to 30% of its land being managed for nature and to halve its use of pesticides by 2030.</p> <p>Consider how your proposal can support increased space for nature, reduced use of pesticides, reduce pollution to waterways, and reduce consumption of products that undermine ecosystems around the world.</p> <p>If your proposal will directly lead to a reduction in habitat within Bristol, then consider how your proposed mitigation can lead to a biodiversity net gain. Be sure to refer to quantifiable changes wherever possible.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>We intend to set-aside areas for wildlife if appropriate to site layout and conditions.</p> <p>We wish to encourage or mandate that some or all new sites have Pesticide Free status (subject to decisions Rules)</p>
<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>Site survey will conclude which areas are a best to retain as for cultivation (most sites are on Statutory Allotment land - Allotments Act) and which areas are only suitable for setting-aside for wildlife. Initial assessments will include checks for the presence of protected flora or fauna (e.g. bats and badgers) at the design stage and before works begin, taking action if necessary to avoid or legally mitigate their disturbance.</p> <p>Pesticide Free status forms part of the Allotment Rules and is applied to the new site (subject to decision on Rules)</p> <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>
<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>There will inevitable be a need to clear some small trees, scrub and cultivate grass land</p>
<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Setting aside areas for wildlife where it is appropriate to do so whilst achieving utilisation of food growing land.</p> <p>We will also look to set aside communal areas specifically for plants that offer a food source to pollinator species in selected locations.</p> <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>
<p>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of waste</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>The provision of new allotments and collect food growing plots will provide an opportunity to increase locally grown food, reducing food miles and food waste.</p>

<p>Consider what resources will be used as a result of the proposal, how they can be minimised or swapped for less impactful ones, where they will be sourced from, and what will happen to any waste generated</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>Create additional allotment plots</p>
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>There will be impacts due to construction works as assets are improved. Construction works always include some waste.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Suppliers will be required to select materials to prioritise renewable materials with a low climate impact. We intend to use MOT Type 4 recycled sub-base aggregate where possible for the above. Suppliers will be required to implement site waste plans for construction works. We intend to spread topsoil excavated for hauling ways etc. onto the plot areas or use in raised beds. We do not envisage large amounts of waste being generated.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
<p>ENV4 Climate resilience: Bristol’s resilience to the effects of climate change</p> <p>Bristol’s climate is already changing, and increasingly frequent instances of extreme weather will become more likely over time.</p> <p>Consider how the proposal will perform during periods of extreme weather (particularly heat and flooding).</p> <p>Consider if the proposal will reduce or increase risk to people and assets during extreme weather events.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>Using porous material for hard surface areas where appropriate.</p> <p>Rainwater harvesting will be encouraged for plot holders, and incorporated into new buildings design to reduce or eliminate mains water use on selected sites.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>The hard surface paths, hauling ways (access roads), parking areas will in the main be constructed of porous materials to aid direct infiltration surface drainage.</p> <p>If on a new plot a tenant wishes to erect a shed or polytunnel it is recommended or in some cases mandated that they are to be equipped for rainwater harvesting (subject to adoption of new Allotment Rules).</p>
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>The porous material used for hard surfaces will be less porous than soil.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>The roadways in particular will be orientated where possible to avoid run off and are only 3m wide.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
<p>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	

<p>Consider how the proposal will change the likelihood of pollution occurring to air, water, or land and what steps will be taken to prevent pollution occurring.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Construction works for allotment site infrastructure has the potential to cause pollution.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Suppliers will be required to implement pollution plans to assess risks and prevent pollution as far as possible and mitigate any that happens (e.g. wheel washes to avoid tracking mud offsite, solar battery site floodlighting in place of generators, measures to avoid fuel spillage or leakage.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		

Step 3: Action Plan

Use this section summarise and assign responsibility for any actions you have identified to improve data, enhance beneficial, or mitigate negative impacts. Actions identified in section two can be grouped together if named responsibility is under the same person.

This action plan should be updated at each stage of the project. Please be aware that the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service may use this action plan as an audit checklist during the project’s implementation or operation.

Enhancing / mitigating action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
New Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Rules	Lerraine Smith	2024-25
Selection, design and construction of new allotment and collect food growing sites	Keith Chant / Lerraine Smith / project delivery officer	2024-2028

Step 4: Review

The Sustainable City and Climate Change Service need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your impact assessment. Assessments should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the environmental impact of the proposal.

Please seek feedback and review by emailing environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk before final submission of your decision pathway documentation¹.

Where impacts identified in this assessment are deemed significant, they will be summarised here by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service and must be included in the ‘evidence base’ section of the decision pathway cover sheet.

¹ Review by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely environmental impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.

Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4):

Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:

Environmental Performance Team Reviewer:

Daniel Shelton

Date:

01/07/2024

Submitting author:

Keith Chant

Date:

26/06/2024