



# Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.1]

<b>Proposal title:</b> Delegated decision on number of refugee families resettled annually in Bristol until March 2027		
<b>Project stage and type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing
<b>Directorate:</b> Adult Social Care		<b>Lead Officer name:</b> Francesca Wickens
<b>Service Area:</b> Refugee Resettlement and Asylum Seeker Services		<b>Lead Officer role:</b> Interim Head of Service – Refugee Resettlement and Asylum Seeker Services

## 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 contact the [Environmental Performance Team](#) 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.

This EIA accompanies the request to the Committee for Adults Social Care to approve the proposal to resettle 30 refugee families in Bristol each year until March 2027 – 15 families via the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and 15 families via the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), funded by the Home Office and supported by Bristol City Council’s (BCC) Resettlement Team.

### 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 the [Environmental Performance Team](#).

If ‘Yes’ complete the rest of this assessment.

Yes  No

Since 2016, BCC’s Resettlement Team have resettled 895 refugees locally from three national schemes. The current proposal seeks to resettle an approximate maximum of 120 refugees per year in Bristol (based on an average household size of four people).

The potential resettlement of more refugees presents an impact on the wider carbon footprint. It will not mean building new accommodation as BCC’s Resettlement Team will continue to seek stock in the private rented sector.

### 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](#).

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
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If 'No' explain why environmental impacts have not been considered as part of the options appraisal process.

This is a government scheme that is carried out in line with funding instructions provided by the Home Office.
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## 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.

### 2.1 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		
This scheme organises the resettlement of refugees via the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), through Home Office funding and wrap-around support provided by BCC's Resettlement Team. Refugees will be accommodated through existing private rental sector stock in Bristol. There is a consideration for the wider carbon footprint with the proposed resettlement of approx. 120 refugees per year, but this number is relatively low considering the general population, and in- and out-of-city migration year on year.		
<b>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</b>  BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city	<b>Benefits</b>	Guests will not be arriving in their own transport, due to the nature of their resettlement journey. The majority are likely to be public transport users, rather than car users.

<p>in achieving a Just Transition to 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 will lead to ongoing emissions beyond the 2025 and 2030 target dates.</p> <p><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</b></p>	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>Guests are supported to make use of public transport where available as a first option for travel, including financial support with bus passes.</p>
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less        <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years        <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	<p>Guests will increase use of transport resources in Bristol.</p>
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></p>	<p>Prioritising use of public transport where available.</p>
<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less        <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years        <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
<p><b>ENV2 Ecological recovery: Wildlife and habitats</b></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><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</b></p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less        <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years        <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></p>	
<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less        <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years        <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		

<p><b>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of waste</b></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><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	Benefits	
	Enhancing actions	Guests will be using existing resources, sharing accommodation with sponsors, utilising second homes and empty homes, expanding affordable rental capacity, limiting new building or new resource use.
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
	Adverse impacts	Guests will make use of resources and utilities. This proposal will extend use for up to 2 years.
	Mitigating actions	Use of existing accommodation and public transport.
Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		
<p><b>ENV4 Climate resilience: Bristol’s resilience to the effects of climate change</b></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><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	Benefits	
	Enhancing actions	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
	Adverse impacts	Accommodation needs to be checked for how it will perform during periods of extreme weather (e.g. not overheating or losing heat too readily).
	Mitigating actions	Accommodation will be checked for appropriate insulation and ventilation.
Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		

<b>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</b>  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.  <a href="#">Further guidance</a>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	
	<b>Enhancing actions</b>	
	<b>Persistence of effects:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 year or less</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 – 5 years</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5+ years</b>	
	<b>Adverse impacts</b>	
	<b>Mitigating actions</b>	
<b>Persistence of effects:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 year or less</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 – 5 years</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5+ years</b>		

### Step 3: Actions

#### 3.1 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
Prioritising use of existing accommodation and public transport for resettled refugee families.	Francesca Wickens, Anne James	Ongoing
Accommodation will be checked for appropriate insulation and ventilation.	Francesca Wickens, Anne James	Ongoing

### Step 4: Review – for completion by the Environmental Performance Team

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 from the [Environmental Performance Team](#) before final submission of your decision pathway documentation<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Review by the Environmental Performance Team confirms there is sufficient information for decision makers to consider the most relevant environmental impacts at the current stage of the proposal. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.

Where impacts identified in this assessment are deemed significant, they will be summarised here and included on the cover sheet of the decision pathway documentation.

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

BCC's Environmental Impact Assessment has determined significant beneficial impacts from the proposal:

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

BCC's Environmental Impact Assessment has determined significant adverse impacts from the proposal:

<b>Environmental Performance Team Reviewer:</b> Giles Liddell, Environmental Performance Co-ordinator	<b>Submitting author:</b> Francesca Wickens
<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024