



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: Waking Watch for High-Risk buildings 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: Growth and Regeneration	Lead Officer name: Ashley Lehou-Reuben	
Service Area: Repairs & Maintenance, Housing & Landlord Services	Lead Officer role: Planned Improvements Service 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.

Housing and Landlord Services intend to provide Waking Watch cover to 16 blocks spread across the city. Initially this started as 38 blocks in 2022 when EQIA was previously completed.

Waking Watch provides 24 hour patrols by fire wardens to ensure the safety of residents in blocks which have been identified as being at increased risk due to the nature of existing cladding systems and more recent concerns raised both nationally and internationally about the safety of EPS (expanded polystyrene) cladding systems, or the design and construction of the block. If a fire is spotted, the Waking Watch service will inform the emergency services, alert residents and begin a simultaneous evacuation of the block pending the arrival of Avon Fire and Rescue.

Waking Watch is one of a range of interim measures being introduced to vulnerable blocks until long term solutions (e.g. removal of suspect cladding systems) can be implemented. It is anticipated that as other interim measures such as sprinklers and evacuation alarms are installed, Waking Watch can be phased out, or the number of blocks requiring Waking Watch can be reduced. Until then it is a vital measure to ensure that fires are detected early and that residents can be safely and quickly evacuated in the event of a fire.

Waking Watch wardens will also guide residents to a place of safety. Simultaneous evacuation is a change to the previous "Stay Put" policy. This change in policy, along with the provision of Waking Watch services, follows the identification of vulnerable blocks, and two recent fires in high rise blocks owned by BCC, one of which resulted in loss of life.

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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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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 type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	[please select]
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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)		
ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases	Benefits	Temporary mitigation of fire risk allows time for completing remedial works, preventing more severe climate-related consequences from potential fire events (e.g., emissions from a fire).
BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city		

<p>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 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>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>Reduce transport emissions by prioritizing local waking watch staff who live near the site.</p> <p>Promote sustainable commuting options for staff, such as cycling or public transport.</p> <p>Equip waking watch staff with efficient, low-energy equipment (e.g., rechargeable devices or LED torches).</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>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Emissions from daily travel of waking watch personnel to and from the blocks.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Coordinate shift patterns to minimize unnecessary travel.</p> <p>Use pooled or shared vehicles with low emissions for site visits.</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>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</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>Mitigating actions</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>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of 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>Benefits</p> <p>Waking watch provision helps safeguard existing infrastructure and reduces the risk of damage that could result in resource-intensive reconstruction or hazardous waste from fire events.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p> <p>Minimize disposable resources used by waking watch teams, such as paper checklists and use electronic scanning devices. Digitize records to reduce reliance on physical documentation.</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>Adverse impacts</p> <p>Increased consumption of materials for temporary signage, uniforms, and administrative tasks.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p> <p>Implement a circular procurement approach: select durable and reusable resources for waking watch operations.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" 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>Continuous presence of the waking watch ensures timely response to fire risks, which may be exacerbated by climate-related factors such as heatwaves or storms.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p> <p>Train waking watch staff to identify and report other climate-related risks (e.g., water ingress, storm damage).</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>Vulnerability of waking watch operations to climate extremes (e.g., heatwaves/extreme cold weather affecting on-site performance or power outages impacting equipment).</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p> <p>Provide appropriate protective clothing and shaded or sheltered stations for staff during extreme weather. Plan for robust handovers to climate-resilient long-term systems, such as automated fire detection and suppression systems.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	

<p>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</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>Benefits</p>	<p>The presence of waking watch minimizes risks of fire incidents, which could lead to severe air pollution and contamination of water or land from firefighting chemicals.</p> <p>Acts as an immediate measure to mitigate fire risks until permanent, less-polluting solutions are in place.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>Train staff to handle small incidents responsibly, preventing environmental contamination.</p> <p>Use fire safety equipment with minimal environmental impact (e.g., non-toxic extinguishing agents).</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>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Potential for pollution from the operation of waking watch equipment (e.g. emissions from vehicles).</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Implement clear guidelines for waste disposal, especially hazardous waste like batteries.</p> <p>Opt for electric or hybrid vehicles or public transportation to reduce air pollution.</p> <p>Ensure that contractors adhere to pollution prevention measures during remedial works.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" 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
Environmental Awareness Training: Train waking watch teams on their role in preventing pollution and minimizing environmental impacts during operations.	Project manager	June 2025
Develop Incident Response Plans: Establish protocols for managing minor environmental risks, such as spills or equipment failures, during operations.	Project manager	June 2025
Align with Legal and Policy Requirements: Ensure compliance with all environmental regulations and local authority policies related to pollution prevention.	Project manager	June 2025
Monitor and Adapt: Regularly review the environmental impact of the provision and adjust strategies to align with sustainability and statutory obligations.	Project manager	June 2025

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.

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: Nicola Hares – Environmental Performance Officer	Submitting author: Ashley Lehous-Reuben
Date: 25/11/2024	Date: 22/11/24

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.