



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: City Centre & High Streets Recovery: Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for High Streets		
Project stage and type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case		
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other [please state] Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	
Directorate: Growth & Regeneration	Lead Officer name: Jason Thorne	
Service Area: Economic Development	Lead Officer role: Service Manager – City Centre & High Streets	

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 [Sustainable City and Climate Change Service](#) 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.

Summary: The cabinet report this Environmental Impact Assessment accompanies sets out the background, progress and benefits of the City Centre and High Streets Recovery programme, our approach to the allocation of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy for high streets and the allocation of West of England Combined Authority High Streets Recovery & Adaptions funding.

The programme is specifically aimed at businesses across the city and with targeted intervention for street scene and greenery enhancements within the city centre and, following on from interventions in the nine high streets originally selected for the existing phase of the programme, across three further high streets and local centres primarily serving the wards of Ashley (Ashley Rd/Grosvenor Rd), Henbury & Brentry (Crow Lane) and Hengrove & Whitchurch Park (Oatlands Ave). The programme focuses on the following groups:

- Businesses in the City Centre and high streets
- Users (consumers, visitors, employees) of the City Centre and high streets
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic background communities and businesses
- Communities and businesses located in the three selected high streets (with areas or serving catchments with high levels of deprivation).

The purpose of the cabinet report is:

- To note progress and benefits being delivered as part of the City Centre & High Streets Recovery and Renewal programme.
- To approve the approach to the allocation of £1.5m of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for high streets and alignment to the City Centre & High Streets Recovery and Renewal programme.
- To delegate to the Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration, the approval and allocation of further High Streets Recovery & Adaptions funding of up to £850,000 from the West of England Combined Authority. The funding will be aligned to delivery of the City Centre & High Streets Recovery and Renewal programme.

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 [Sustainable City and Climate Change Service](#).

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 checked="" 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.

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 (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many categories)

The programme will involve relatively small-scale physical improvements in existing built up areas (it doesn't involve major changes to transport networks or major construction activity for example) so in this sense adverse environmental impacts will be minimised.

The nature of a locality – its geography and its existing infrastructure – may inhibit or preclude some activity intended to enhance the local environment, given the relatively limited budget available (for example road narrowing to encourage better connectivity with nearby green spaces).

Alignment with BCC policy: BCC's Economic Development service is guided by the [One City Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy](#), which fully acknowledges and is underpinned by the UNSDGs. With regard to the city's high streets and local centres, this programme seeks to address a number of the actions outlined in the Strategy in order to deliver more inclusive and greener localities (P82), including: increased provision of space for cycling and walking, with better radial connections to Bristol's communities; working with residents to create [liveable neighbourhoods](#), reducing traffic and supporting footfall and trade in local high streets; increased housing development on and around high streets to support housing need and support viability of high streets; provide further support to cultural and visitor businesses

The [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#) (P11) recognises the need for greener streets connecting the city with street trees, pollinator corridors in central reserves and wildlife habitats in roundabouts, verges and public squares.

Although necessarily limited in scope due to the relatively small budget this programme can contribute to wider strategic outcomes outlined in both the One City Climate Strategy (P30), which cites the use of transport corridors to enhance green infrastructure, and the [Joint Local Transport Plan](#) (P72; P88) by helping to improve network resilience and connectivity by making the environs around local bus stops etc more attractive, thereby helping encourage greater use of public transport.

Evidence base specific to the wards directly affected by the proposal

Keep Bristol Cool mapping tool:

- Ashley (Ashley Rd/Grosvenor Rd): Of the ten lower super output areas (LSOAs) that make up the Ashley ward: five rank high or very high risk for heat vulnerability; five rank high or very high risk for deprivation; nine rank high or very high risk for indoor exposure; and nine rank high or very high risk for outside exposure. The neighbouring ward of Lawrence Hill also ranks high or very high risk across all the criteria listed on the mapping tool
- Henbury & Brentry (Crow Lane): Of the seven LSOAs that make up the Henbury/Brentry ward: two are ranked high or very high risk for heat vulnerability; all 6 are ranked high or very high risk for age-related vulnerability; four are ranked high or very high risk for deprivation; and one is ranked high or very high risk for indoor exposure
- Hengrove & Whitchurch Park (Oatlands Ave): Of the twelve LSOAs that make up the Hengrove/Whitchurch Park ward: three are ranked high or very high risk for heat vulnerability; all twelve are ranked high or very high risk for age-related vulnerability; six are ranked high or very high risk for deprivation; and three are ranked high or very high risk for outside exposure
- Central (City Centre): Of the eight lower super output areas (LSOAs) that make up the Central ward: seven are ranked high or very high risk for heat vulnerability; three are ranked high or very high risk for deprivation; and all eight are ranked high or very high risk for both indoor exposure and outdoor exposure. The neighbouring ward of Lawrence Hill also ranks high or very high risk across all the criteria listed on the mapping tool

Flood Risk:

While much of Central ward is designated at risk of tidal flood, the St Agnes area of Ashley Ward, which includes Ashley Rd/Grosvenor Rd, has been identified as being at high risk to surface water flooding by the Surface Water Management Plan, or by flood risk officer local knowledge. Similarly, Crow Lane in Henbury & Brentry ward, and Oatlands Avenue in Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward is close to an area at high risk of surface water flooding.

UK Ward Canopy Cover Map:

- Ashley: 14.8%
- Hengrove/Whitchurch Park: 12.6%
- Henbury/Brentry: 27.1%
- Central: 12.9%

Local Air Quality Data (Open Data Bristol):

According to this data source, while available data for Henbury & Brentry and Hengrove & Whitchurch Park appears limited (neither is in the Air Quality Management Zone), in 12 out of 13 years between 2010 & 2022 Lower Ashley Rd has exceeded the legal limit for NO₂; a similar pattern is discernible in Central ward, where there are at least seven air quality monitors.

Quality of Life Indicators:

There are 28 Sustainability & Environment themed indicators in the current annual Bristol Quality of Life survey.

- In Ashley ward (Ashley Rd/Grosvenor Rd) 4 such indicators suggest that proactive messaging using the programme could have a beneficial impact on attitudes and perceptions when comparing against the Bristol Average for those indicators (% who think air quality/traffic pollution is a problem locally; % who think fly tipping is a problem locally; % who think litter is a problem locally; % whose mental health has suffered due to climate change)
- In Henbury/Brentry ward (Crow Lane) One such indicator suggests that proactive messaging using the programme could have a beneficial impact on attitudes and perceptions when comparing against the Bristol Average for that indicator (% very concerned about climate change)

- In Hengrove/Whitchurch Park ward (Oatlands Ave) 8 such indicators suggest that proactive messaging using the programme could have a beneficial impact on attitudes and perceptions when comparing against the Bristol Average for those indicators (% satisfied with the quality of parks/green spaces; % very concerned about climate change; % who have changed the way they travel around Bristol due to climate change concerns; % who have changed what they buy due to climate change concerns; % who have eaten less meat/dairy produce due to climate change concerns; % who have reduced energy use at home due to climate change concerns; % who have reduced flying for holidays due to climate change concerns; % who visit Bristol's parks and garden spaces at least once a week)
- In Central ward (City Centre) 7 such indicators suggest that proactive messaging using the programme could have a beneficial impact on attitudes and perceptions when comparing against the Bristol Average for those indicators (% concerned about climate change; % concerned about the loss of wildlife in Bristol; % satisfied with the general household waste service; % satisfied with the quality of parks/green spaces; % who have created space for nature; % who think street litter is a problem locally; % whose home has suffered from overheating during hot weather)

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

Opportunity to

- Respond to Bristol residents' desire to see green infrastructure installed on their high streets
- engage directly with local businesses so as to highlight options regarding measures that will help in their progress towards net zero
- positively impact health/wellbeing through making local high streets more attractive so as to encourage more people to use them, engage in active travel to/from them, and encourage healthier food choices, and be more physically active
- promote the sustainable nature of the programme (e.g. highlighting raising awareness of the waste hierarchy) and by doing so reiterate the council's intentions regarding waste reduction
- contribute positively to supporting the city's urban biodiversity

Summary of adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:

- Disruptive activity during installation of street furniture/enhancement of street scene
- Adherence to council policies relating to mitigating harmful environmental impacts (procurement, social value etc)
- Proactively seeking out instances of best practice from elsewhere and adapting our processes accordingly
- Proactively engaging with experts in the sustainability field (e.g. Bristol Waste; BCC's Sustainable City and Climate Change Service; Green Capital Partnership)

ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases

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.

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

Benefits

The proposal is at an early stage of development so it is difficult to precisely quantify emissions at this point. We will be undertaking public consultations in the three additional high street areas which will inform the nature of the public realm improvements to be delivered under the programme. Previous such consultations during the earlier phase of the programme (and other such projects Economic Development have led on) indicate a likely strong preference for greening initiatives such as planters and new trees. This will afford the opportunity to highlight the council's recognition of the urgent need to address the challenges of climate change to both high street businesses and the people that use them, as cited in the [One City Climate Strategy](#) (P10).

Opportunity to engage directly with local businesses so as to highlight options regarding measures that will help in their progress towards net zero (e.g. signposting to green business grants; sustainable travel options etc)

<p>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>Green street scene improvements which will contribute positively to the city's biodiversity – for example planters, pocket parks, trees (which will also increase shelter from the sun)</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon emissions during installation of street furniture/public realm improvements
	<p>Mitigating actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The public consultation process will be designed so as to filter out as much as possible actions that may cause unacceptable levels of emissions - We will follow the council's established procurement procedures which require us to engage contractors well acquainted with the Council's requirements regarding the mitigation of carbon emissions - Public realm enhancement activities carried out under the programme will necessarily be subject to the internal Quality Assurance process which as a matter of course takes into account the council's responsibilities regarding climate change mitigation
<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 type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</p> <p>The proposal will not lead to a reduction in habitat but rather help to improve areas of the existing built environment through greening measures (following local consultations). The proposal is also intended to have positive impacts for health through making local high streets more attractive (well positioned benches) so as to encourage more people to use them, engage in active travel to/from them, and encourage healthier food choices (by proactive promotion of such initiatives as Bristol Eating Better) and be more physically active.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green street scene improvements which will contribute positively to the city's biodiversity – for example planters, pocket parks, trees (which will also increase shelter from the sun) installed/planted with pollinating insects such as bees in mind - Where the possibility arises (e.g. Crow Lane) undertake measures to better connect local high streets and shops to nearby green spaces
	<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>Disruptive activity during installation of street furniture/enhancement of street scene</p>
<p>Mitigating actions</p> <p>Activity likely to take place in existing built up areas so major adverse effects on habitat/wildlife unlikely; however measures will be taken to engage contractors who will be required to comply with council standards regarding habitat disruption</p>	

		Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		
<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>	Benefits	The proposal is at an early stage of development so it is difficult to precisely quantify waste at this point. We will be undertaking public consultations in the three additional high street areas which will inform the nature of the public realm improvements to be delivered under the programme – affording the opportunity to promote the sustainable nature of the programme (e.g. highlighting raising awareness of the waste hierarchy). Once this is done and a firm idea of what street furniture etc is to be installed we will be in a better position to quantify any waste and, having done so, further communicate how sustainable the actions under the proposal will be.		
	Enhancing actions	Opportunity to install more durable, longer lasting street furniture and green infrastructure		
	Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years			
	Adverse impacts	Removal of existing street furniture and infrastructure		
	Mitigating actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In bearing in mind the waste hierarchy, consider where appropriate repair of existing infrastructure (e.g. benches); use of recycled timber/plastic for pieces of street furniture (planters, benches) - Ensure appointed contractors are aware of the need to minimise waste (draw up appropriate plans prior to any engagement/works on site) - Consult those with expertise in sustainability (e.g. Bristol Waste; BCC’s Sustainable City and Climate Change Service) for advice regarding how to minimise impact of waste 		
		Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		
<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</p>	Benefits	<p>Depending on responses to consultation exercises in relevant high street areas, scope for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small-scale interventions to help sustainable urban drainage - increased tree canopy to help address incidence of extreme heat <p>Opportunity to engage directly with local businesses so as to highlight options regarding measures that will help in their progress towards net zero (e.g. signposting to green business grants; sustainable travel options etc)</p>		
	Enhancing actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green street scene improvements which will contribute positively to the city’s biodiversity – for example planters, pocket parks, trees (which will also increase shelter from the sun) installed/planted with pollinating insects such as bees in mind - Where the possibility arises (e.g. Crow Lane) undertake measures to better connect local high streets and shops to nearby green spaces 		
			Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	

<p>(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>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Disruptive activity during installation of street furniture/enhancement of street scene</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure appointed contractors are aware of the need to maximise extreme weather-related resilience, e.g. appropriate plants/trees/grasses - Consult those with expertise in sustainability (e.g. Bristol Waste) to minimise impact of waste - Proactively seek out examples of best practice from elsewhere
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land		
<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>Improved urban environments/enhanced green infrastructure; enhanced sense of place and or pride of place; improved sense of wellbeing for local people</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green street scene improvements which will contribute positively to the city's biodiversity – for example planters, pocket parks, trees (which will also increase shelter from the sun) installed/planted with pollinating insects such as bees in mind - Where the possibility arises (e.g. Crow Lane) undertake measures to better connect local high streets and shops to nearby green spaces
	<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>Apart from initial enhancement works, the likelihood of direct adverse effects on pollution is not likely to be significant.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Measures will be taken, working with procurement specialist colleagues, to engage contractors who will be required to comply with council standards (e.g. those who have signed up to the Considerate Constructors Scheme)</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: 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
Request appointed contractors calculate carbon emissions resulting from public realm works to be carried out under the programme	Jason Thorne	Ongoing throughout the programme
Ensure contractors put in place a plan to minimise disruption to wildlife habitats prior to commencement of public real works	Jason Thorne	Ongoing throughout the programme
Consult where appropriate with relevant sustainability experts as to minimising the adverse effects of programme interventions	Jason Thorne	Ongoing throughout the programme

Enhancing / mitigating action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
Proactively seek out instances of good practice that can be adopted or adapted as appropriate	Jason Thorne	Ongoing throughout the programme

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 from the [Sustainable City and Climate Change Service](#) before final submission of your decision pathway documentation¹.

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):

Opportunity to

- Respond to Bristol residents' desire to see green infrastructure installed on their high streets
- engage directly with local businesses so as to highlight options regarding measures that will help in their progress towards net zero
- positively impact health/wellbeing through making local high streets more attractive so as to encourage more people to use them, engage in active travel to/from them, and encourage healthier food choices, and be more physically active
- promote the sustainable nature of the programme (e.g. highlighting raising awareness of the waste hierarchy) and by doing so reiterate the council's intentions regarding waste reduction
- contribute positively to supporting the city's urban biodiversity

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

- Disruptive activity during installation of street furniture/enhancement of street scene
- Adherence to council policies relating to mitigating harmful environmental impacts (procurement, social value etc)
- Proactively seeking out instances of best practice from elsewhere and adapting our processes accordingly
- Proactively engaging with experts in the sustainability field (e.g. Bristol Waste; BCC's Sustainable City and Climate Change Service; Green Capital Partnership)

Environmental Performance Team Reviewer:	Submitting author:
Daniel Shelton	Declan Murphy
Date: 25/08/2023	Date: 25/08/2023

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.