



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: New Cut River Walls – Stabilisation Project	
Project stage and type: <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Changing <input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review
Directorate: Growth and Regeneration	Lead Officer name: Chris Dooley
Service Area: Highways and Traffic	Lead Officer role: Bridges and Highways Structures 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.

Ongoing structural stabilisation repairs and/or rebuilding of identified high risk river walls supporting the public highway along the New Cut River corridor, as identified within the Cabinet Decision paper.

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.

The options presented in this paper detail the overall approach, relative costs, impacts on structural integrity of the harbour and New Cut river wall assets, and knock on effects on associated transport networks of several options. The environmental impacts of specific works will be assessed throughout the full design process following further investigatory work.

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)

Structural integrity works require hard engineering solutions in most cases and offer very limited opportunity for substituting materials or practices for less carbon intensive approaches. Ensuring structural integrity of the harbour and new cut river wall assets is a strategic necessity to protect life and the transport network from potentially significant damage.

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

Whilst even a pre-emptive approach will likely require large volumes of steel and concrete, stabilising will in most cases be less carbon intensive than remedial works following structural collapse, which as demonstrated by the Cumberland Road project, can require significant amounts of new steel and concrete.

Extending the lifetime of the full complex of river wall structures within and along the New Cut River Corridor transport road and footway systems which supports active travel for citizens.

Enhancing actions

Some of the projects have the potential to incorporate new cycle paths. This will be further investigated through the design phases.

Persistence of effects: 1 year or less 1 – 5 years 5+ years

<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>Adverse impacts</p> <p>Given the scale and nature of the required works it is very likely that significant quantities of steel and concrete will be required. The proposal is at a very early stage for all but one of the identified work packages and so specific designs and material requirements are not yet known.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p> <p>As part of the investigation and design phases, detailed assessments of materials will be carried out. During procurement of works suppliers will be asked to provide quotes for the provision of low carbon concrete and low carbon steel if available and suitable for the project.</p>
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" 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>Ecological surveys will be required in some areas providing detailed assessments and required mitigation actions.</p> <p>A structural collapse would likely cause significant disturbance of riverbed silt and negatively impact ecology, stabilising works will significantly reduce this risk.</p>
	<p>Enhancing 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>Adverse impacts</p> <p>Vegetation clearance is required in specific areas to allow additional condition surveys, however these areas are relatively small and quick recovery is expected based on species present.</p> <p>Machinery will generate noise during works.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p> <p>Mufflers will be used on plant where possible.</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</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>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>Adverse impacts</p>		
	<p>Mitigating 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>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>Refurbishing these assets will make it more resilient to instances of extreme heat/cold and increase river tidal levels.</p> <p>Reduce the risk of failure of these river walls and to maintain the transport infrastructure as well as reduce the risk of flooding by maintain existing assets.</p>	
	<p>Enhancing actions</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>Mitigating 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>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,</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>		

water, or land and what steps will be taken to prevent pollution occurring. Further guidance <input type="checkbox"/> No impact	Adverse impacts	Structural integrity works require hard engineering solutions in most cases and offer very limited opportunity for substituting materials or practices for less carbon intensive approaches. There is the potential for debris, and spills of liquid fuels, oils or paint to enter the river during works.
	Mitigating actions	Enclosed scaffolding to catch all debris and taken away from site. Particular care to be given by contractors when dealing with elements that have possible loose materials. Particular care to be taken when using any equipment or materials that require liquids. Spill kits and procedures to be prepared and available on site.
	Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	

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
Incorporation of possible incorporation of additional cycle routes to be included in design specifications where possible.	Chris Dooley	2024 - 2028
During procurement of works breakdown of materials use to be included as a requirement. Request for quotes to include low carbon concrete and steel where available and suitable.	Chris Dooley	2024 – 2028
Contracted works to demonstrate detailed plans for pollution prevention approaches and responses before works begin.	Chris Dooley	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.

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: Stabilising works will improve the resilience of the harbour / new cut assets which will come under increasing pressure as the frequency of extreme temperatures and flood events increases.
Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:

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.

BCC's Environmental Impact Assessment has determined significant negative impacts from the proposal: Stabilising and remedial works will likely require significant quantities of steel and concrete that have large carbon emissions associated. Detailed assessments of the quantities will be made as the project develops and opportunities for provision of lower carbon materials will be investigated through the procurement process.

Environmental Performance Team Reviewer: Daniel Shelton	Submitting author: Chris Dooley
Date: 11.12.23	Date: 11.12.23