



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: City Leap Power Purchase Agreement	
Project stage and type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate	<input checked="" 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 [<i>Energy Supply</i>]	<input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review
Directorate: Property Assets and Infrastructure	Lead Officer name: David Gray
Service Area: City Leap Client Function	Lead Officer role: Energy Supply 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.

To set up Power Purchase Agreements to enable BCC to buy the power output from new renewable energy systems to be built and constructed by Bristol City Leap, and by community energy groups.

To let land and roofs of BCC-owned buildings for the development of new renewable energy systems.

To set up an investment mechanism to all Ameresco to invest in energy efficiency measures on the BCC estate.

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]

This proposal will substantially increase the amount of zero-carbon electricity being supplied to BCC sites, and will help reduce energy demand across the BCC estate.

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]
------------------------------	-----------------------------	--	-----------------

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</p>	Benefits	<p>These measures will enable the whole of the BCC estate to be powered by locally generated zero-carbon electricity, and will help reduce energy demand across the BCC estate.</p>
	Enhancing actions	
<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>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>	Adverse impacts	
	Mitigating actions	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
<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>	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	The proposed new renewable energy systems will be built on existing Council land, which will have existing biodiversity profiles.
	Mitigating actions	All proposed renewable energy installations will be subject to ecological review before progressing, which will include appropriate biodiversity monitoring and mitigation measures for each site.
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" 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</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	

<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>The proposed new renewable energy systems involve a significant volume of material for their construction. This may include rare earth and other specialised material where battery storage is being considered.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Use of material sufficiently durable to last the expected 20-25 year operating lifetime of the new systems means an unavoidable use of impactful material, but this will be offset by the benefits from operating the new systems.</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>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>Increased use of zero-carbon electricity will help reduce overall atmospheric CO₂ emissions.</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>Most of the installations proposed are located at Avonmouth, in areas which may be vulnerable to long-term sea level rises.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Continue to monitor the ongoing flood risk, take mitigation measures during the installation (eg plant rooms raised above ground level) where possible.</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>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	Very small risk that certain materials used in plant rooms and battery storage might be considered a contaminant.
	Mitigating actions	These systems will be installed so as to contain and reduce risk of leakage.
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" 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
The proposed mitigation measures outlined above are routine for installations of this nature	Bristol City Leap	3-5 years

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: These measures will enable the BCC estate to be supplied from locally generated zero-carbon electricity and will help reduce energy demand across the BCC Estate. This is an essential step for BCC to reach its 2025 net zero goal.
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.

--

Environmental Performance Team Reviewer: Daniel Shelton	Submitting author: David I Gray
Date: 25.01.2024	Date: 22 nd Jan 24