



# Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

<b>Proposal title: Parks and Green Space Strategy and Food and Allotments Strategy</b>		
<b>Project stage and type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case		
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" 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> Growth and Regeneration	<b>Lead Officer name:</b> Richard Fletcher	
<b>Service Area:</b> Management of Place	<b>Lead Officer role:</b> Parks Services 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](mailto: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 adopt a new Parks and Green Spaces and Food Growing and Allotments Strategy that set out ambitions for Bristol's parks, green spaces and food growing land over the next 15 years up to 2039. The ambitions and actions which underpin this strategy have been established in conversation with communities and stakeholders, and developed in response to relevant national, regional, and local strategies. The Strategy sets out how we aim to work collaboratively to reach our shared goals.

To seek approval to proceed with a full bid to the WECA Green Recovery Fund to enable the delivery of a £1M investment in accelerating our ambitions to manage 30% of green space for nature by 2030.

### 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b> (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many categories)					
<p>The Strategy sets out a new policy framework and action plan to guide and deliver improvements and changes to parks over the next 15 years. It has content relating to core themes of nature and climate, community participation, employment skills, children and young people, culture and health and wellbeing. The Strategy acts on a significant proportion of the Council's estate and the majority of its green spaces. Included are allotments, smallholdings, grazing land, public parks and cemeteries and closed burial grounds.</p> <p>The Strategy has connections with a number of Council and One City strategies including the One City Climate Strategy, One City Ecological Emergency Strategy, Bristol Health and Wellbeing Strategy, One City Food Equality Strategy, Bristol Good Food 2030, the WoE Nature Recovery Strategy and WoE Tree and Woodland Strategy.</p>					
<p><b>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</b></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>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"><b>Benefits</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>It is proposed to plant trees at a rate of 5 hectares a year (canopy cover), increasing the capacity to capture carbon in the city. We plan to increase the land available for food growing, offering opportunities for more people to grow and access food locally – reducing food miles.</p> <p>More EV charging points will be provided in parks and more vehicles and equipment used for operational activity will be battery-operated.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"><b>Enhancing actions</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>Through City Leap we will consider how parks and green spaces can be used to host low carbon infrastructure where appropriate.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Benefits</b>	<p>It is proposed to plant trees at a rate of 5 hectares a year (canopy cover), increasing the capacity to capture carbon in the city. We plan to increase the land available for food growing, offering opportunities for more people to grow and access food locally – reducing food miles.</p> <p>More EV charging points will be provided in parks and more vehicles and equipment used for operational activity will be battery-operated.</p>	<b>Enhancing actions</b>	<p>Through City Leap we will consider how parks and green spaces can be used to host low carbon infrastructure where appropriate.</p>
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<b>Enhancing actions</b>	<p>Through City Leap we will consider how parks and green spaces can be used to host low carbon infrastructure where appropriate.</p>				
<b>Persistence of effects:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</b></p>	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	<p>Successful direct investment in parks or through communities may mean construction and landscaping works take place.</p>
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></p>	<p>Procurement processes seek contractor environmental policy detail if the contract is of significant value. Suppliers will be required to implement an emissions strategy to design buildings and construction operations to operate with minimal emissions. The Council will assess and approve specifications before contracts are awarded.</p>
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less                      <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years                      <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</b></p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<p>We will develop and implement a Managing for Nature Plan to deliver a further 771 hectares of new or enhanced habitat. This will be through habitat creation, making changes to our approach to grounds maintenance techniques and by enhancing the important wildlife habitats we already have.</p>
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>We seek approval to submit a funding bid in March 24 to the Green Recovery Fund to accelerate this work and deliver significant benefits in the first few years of the Strategy.</p>
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less                      <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years                      <input checked="" 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</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>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</b></p>	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></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><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"/> <b>No impact</b></p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<p>The outcomes of the proposals are expected to deliver additional tree canopy cover, wildlife benefits and increased local food growing capacity.</p>
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>Using the Keep Bristol Cool mapping tool, we will identify priority areas where the provision of more natural vegetation, including trees, would help keep communities cooler as we expect more extreme hot weather.</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><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></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><b>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</b></p> <p>Consider how the proposal will change the likelihood of pollution occurring to air,</p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></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.  <a href="#">Further guidance</a> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No impact</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: 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
It is proposed to plant trees at a rate of 5 hectares a year.	Jonathan James, HoS Natural and Marine Environment	2024-2034
We plan to increase the land available for food growing, offering opportunities for more people to grow and access food locally – reducing food miles.	Jonathan James, HoS Natural and Marine Environment	2024-2039
More EV charging points will be provided in parks and more vehicles and equipment used for operational activity will be battery-operated.	Jonathan James, HoS Natural and Marine Environment	2024-2039
Ensure procurement processes seek contractor environmental policy detail if the contract is of significant value. Ensure suppliers will be required to implement an emissions strategy to design buildings and construction operations to operate with minimal emissions.	Jonathan James, HoS Natural and Marine Environment	2024-2039
Develop and implement a Managing for Nature Plan to deliver a further 771 hectares of new or enhanced habitat.	Jonathan James, HoS Natural and Marine Environment	2024-2030
We will identify priority areas where the provision of more natural vegetation, including trees, would help keep communities cooler as we expect more extreme hot weather.	Jonathan James, HoS Natural and Marine Environment	2024-2039

### 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](mailto:environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk) before final submission of your decision pathway documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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.

<b>Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4):</b>
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BCC's Environmental Impact Assessment has determined significant beneficial impacts from the proposal: The Parks and Green Space strategy sets out much of the framework required for realisation of our corporate environmental objectives relating to nature (ENV2) and climate resilience (ENV4). A successful funding bid will make a significant contribution to the timely achievement of parts of those objectives.
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<b>Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:</b>
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<b>Environmental Performance Team Reviewer:</b>	<b>Submitting author:</b>
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Daniel Shelton	Richard Fletcher, Parks Services Manager
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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024
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<sup>1</sup> 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.