



## Introduction to the Impact Assessment Tool



Please click 'enable content' if asked above

The purpose of the Impact Assessment Tool is to **consider the wide range of possible impacts** that a proposed project/policy could have on environmental criteria but also encourage review **to explore opportunities to mitigate and reduce impacts if possible.**

Completing this assessment as early as possible will help to design-in environmental considerations from the outset, improving efficiency and demonstrating climate accountability.

It is not expected that all projects will have a Green RAG rating, only that all opportunities to reduce impacts are considered.

By using tool we work collectively to ensure projects and policies are **meeting Council commitments to meet net zero targets** as well as cost cutting corporate objectives.

[Please complete the following before moving to the Environment tab](#)

**Project Name**

**Name of Officer**

**Date**

## Environmental Impacts

### 1. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

How will this proposal impact levels of GHG emissions? Consider:

- Fossil fuels used to heat homes or drive vehicles
- Methane released by livestock or waste processes
- Fertilisers or agricultural activities
- Industrial refrigeration and air-conditioning processes

[Why does this matter?](#)

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on GHGs:  
Slightly reduce GHGs released

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the policy/project?  
No

c. Will this have an impact beyond the intended location of the policy/project?  
No

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:  
Reason

### 2. Air Quality

How will this proposal impact the level of pollutants in the air? Consider:

- Outdoor air pollution (e.g. exhaust fumes, particles from brake and tyre erosion, burning wood, industrial activity)
- Indoor air quality (e.g. mould, damp, gases/chemicals from building materials, cooking emissions, fuel use, stoves)

[More info](#) [Why does this matter?](#)

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on air pollution:  
Slightly decrease air pollutants

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?  
Yes

c. Will this impact air quality beyond the intended delivery location of the project?  
Yes

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:  
Reason

### 3. Energy Use

What impact will this proposal have on the total amount of energy needed? This includes the energy needed to heat homes and buildings, and power machinery, vehicles, appliances or equipment. Consider:

- building design (e.g. insulation, shading, natural light)
- energy efficiency (e.g. efficient appliances, LEDs, switching to heat pumps),
- shorter in-use hours (e.g. shorter travel time, scheduled heating),
- behaviour changes (e.g. turning off lights, computers, taps).

[More info](#)

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on energy use:  
Slightly increase energy use

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?  
No

c. Will this impact energy use beyond the delivery location of the project?  
Yes

d. Does this project use fossil fuels (e.g. gas, oil, coal) or renewables (e.g. wind, solar)?  
Fossil fuels

e. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:  
Reason

### 4. Sustainable Transport

How will this proposal support a transition from unsustainable transport (such as private petrol cars) to sustainable alternatives? Consider:

- Active travel (e.g. walking, scooting, and cycling),
- Public transport (e.g. buses and trains),
- Electric vehicles,
- Provision of vehicles and infrastructure (e.g. charging points, bike racks, cycle lanes, pedestrian crossings)

[More info](#)

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on sustainable transport:  
Significantly encourage the use of sustainable transport

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?  
No

c. Will this impact sustainable transport beyond the delivery location of the project?  
Yes

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:  
sd

### 5. Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems

How will this proposal impact plants, animals and microorganisms in the district? Consider:

- A range of habitats (e.g. woodland, grassland, ponds, living walls, green roofs, gardens)
- Protecting key species (e.g. doing bat surveys before approving a project or event)
- Soil and waterway health (e.g. low levels of pollutants, construction and sewerage discharges, use of pesticides)

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on biodiversity:  
Significantly reduce biodiversity by reducing or replacing existing habitat(s)

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?  
No

c. Will this impact biodiversity beyond the intended delivery location of the project?  
No

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:  
Reason

### 6. Climate Change Adaptation

How will the proposal impact our ability to withstand future climate change impacts, such as heat waves, cold, drought, flooding, and water shortages. Climate change adaptation includes:

- physical infrastructure (e.g. flood defences, shading),
- natural measures (e.g. green roofs and reforestation),
- financial support (e.g. for housing retrofits), and behaviour change (e.g. conserving water and using less energy).

[More info](#)

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on adaptation to climate change:  
Slightly decrease adaptation

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?  
Yes

c. Will this impact adaptation beyond the delivery location of the project?  
Yes

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:  
199f

### Need Help?

The greenhouse gases are (a) Carbon Dioxide, released when fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil) are burnt, (b) Methane, primarily released by livestock and waste processes, (c) Nitrous Oxide, primarily comes from fertilisers for agriculture, (d) Fluorinated Gases, produced by industrial refrigeration and air-conditioning processes. High levels of these gases have led to the greenhouse effect, causing average temperatures to rise and the climate to change.

Does your project relate to or involve any of the following?

#### Likely to reduce GHG emissions:

- Improving insulation in buildings
- Replacing gas/oil boilers with air-source heat pumps
- Encouraging public transport, walking, cycling
- Reducing the amount of waste produced
- Reducing use of petrol or diesel vehicles

#### Likely to increase GHG emissions:

- Construction
- Road closures with detours increase travel time
- Temporary relocation of a service (if further away)
- Increase in energy use of a building
- Replacing grassland/woodland with agriculture

### Need Help?

This factor refers to the level of pollutants in the air, such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide. As traffic is the main cause of air pollution in the UK, particular consideration should be given to whether this project/policy will increase the length or number of car journeys, either permanently or temporarily.

Does your project relate to or involve any of the following?

#### Likely to reduce air pollutants:

- Removing fossil fuel fires and stoves (i.e. log burners)
- Reducing use of petrol or diesel vehicles
- Improving ventilation in buildings

#### Likely to increase air pollutants:

- Road closures which increase standing (idling) traffic
- New industrial or construction sites
- Increasing the amount of vehicles on roads

### Need Help?

This is about the impact your project/policy will have on the total amount of energy needed and used to power our lives. Reducing our energy demand is an important step towards meeting our climate targets and includes the energy to heat homes and buildings, power machinery and vehicles, and use appliances or equipment.

Does your project relate to any of the following?

#### Likely to reduce energy use:

- Installing LED lighting
- Behaviour change - switching off equipment
- Renewable energy generation
- Improving insulation of buildings

#### Likely to increase energy use:

- Opening a new service, such as a cafe
- Extending service opening hours
- New machinery
- Increasing room temperature with gas heating

### Need Help?

This factor is about whether this project or policy will support a transition from unsustainable transport to sustainable alternatives. It can also include preparing for future changes in travel such as locating services within a 15-minute walking or cycling radius or adding wiring for EV chargers in new-builds.

Does your project relate to or involve any of the following?

#### Likely to encourage sustainable transport:

- Moving services closer to communities
- Increasing public transport options
- Improving cycling and walking infrastructure
- Installing cycle racks or offering bike repairs

#### Likely to discourage sustainable transport:

- Reducing bus services
- New diesel fleet vehicles
- Improving access to car parks
- Closing cycle paths

### Need Help?

This factor is about the impact your project/policy might have on the plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms in the district. Impacts can be direct (e.g. a new development being built on natural land, converting fields to grassland or putting up bird and bat boxes) or indirect (e.g. increased noise and light pollution, rubbish being left behind after an outdoor event, or fertiliser run-off into rivers).

Does your project relate to any of the following?

#### Likely to have positive impacts:

- Wildflower meadows
- Adding bird/bat boxes or creating ponds
- Litter picking
- Creating hedgerows or planting trees

#### Likely to have negative impacts:

- Increasing noise or artificial light levels
- Outdoor events in the short term
- Increasing fertiliser, pesticide or other chemical use
- Reducing green space or interrupting a wildlife corridor

### Need Help?

A project or policy can also encourage maladaptation if it does not consider future climate impacts or increases future risk of climate impacts (e.g. a new highly-glazed, energy intensive building risks occupants overheating, or building on flood plains).

Does your project relate to any of the following?

#### Likely to have positive impacts:

- Flood defences
- Artificial and natural shading
- Natural flood management (SuDS and trees)
- Insulating buildings
- Awareness campaigns

#### Likely to have negative impacts:

- New fossil fuel heating (gas boilers, oil boilers)
- Infrastructure on flood plains
- Increasing energy demand (heating or electricity)
- Removal of natural cooling (e.g. shading trees)

## Social Impacts

### 1. Food

How will this proposal support access to healthy and affordable food? Consider:

- physical access (e.g. how close to allotments, supermarkets, markets, restaurants people are)
- financial access (i.e. whether food is affordable to people)

**More info** Why does this matter?

**A. Please specify the impact your project will have on food:**

*(Specifically promote healthy and/or affordable food)*

**B. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?**

No

**C. Will there be an impact on food beyond the delivery location of the project?**

Yes

**D. Briefly explain why you chose these options:**

### 2. Health & Wellbeing

How will this proposal provide equal chances for people to live a healthy life and impact mental and physical health?

Consider:

- access to services
- quality of housing
- air pollution

**More info**

**a. Please specify the impact your project will have on health:**

*(Not applicable/No impact)*

**b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?**

No

**c. Will this impact on health and wellbeing beyond the delivery location?**

Yes

**d. Briefly explain why you chose these options:**

no

### 3. Built Community

How will the project impact physical space and affect the health and wellbeing and sense of place in local communities?

Consider:

- links to other places (e.g. cycle paths, roads, bus stops)
- green spaces (e.g. parks, trees, gardens)
- spaces to meet (e.g. parks, community halls, allotments)

**More info**

**a. Please specify the impact your project will have on the built community:**

*(Not applicable/No impact)*

**b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?**

Yes

**c. Will this impact on built community beyond the delivery location of the project?**

Yes

**d. Briefly explain why you chose these options:**

new

### 4. Cultural Community

What impact will this proposal have on the social and cultural resources of our communities? Consider:

- direct provision of services
- supporting residents or local groups (e.g. events, opportunities to meet and develop networks)
- cultural activities (e.g. cinema, museums, galleries, libraries, leisure)

**More info**

**a. Please specify the impact your project will have on culture:**

*(Slightly reduce social or cultural resources or support)*

**b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?**

Yes

**c. Will this impact on social and cultural resources beyond the delivery location?**

Yes

**d. Briefly explain why you chose these options:**

need

### 5. Accessibility

How will this proposal improve access or present barriers to access? Consider:

- physical barriers (e.g. access for disabled people, lack of safe routes or transport options)
- digital barriers (e.g. broadband connection, online skills)
- social barriers (e.g. location, language)
- financial barriers (e.g. costs are too high)

**More info**

**a. Please specify the impact your project will have on accessibility:**

*(Risk of some barriers to access)*

**b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?**

No

**c. Will this impact accessibility beyond the delivery location of the project?**

No

**d. Briefly explain why you chose these options:**

exclude

### 6. Equity

How will this proposal ensure fair and just treatment of all members of the community? Consider whether this project/policy will have an impact on any group based on the following protected characteristics:

- age, race, religion, disability, pregnancy/maternity
- gender, sex, and sexual orientation

**a. Please specify the impact your project will have on equity:**

*(Some groups differentially impacted)*

**b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?**

Yes

**c. Will this impact equity beyond the delivery location?**

No

**d. Briefly explain why you chose these options:**

exclude

### Need Help?

Access to healthy and varied food is key for health. Local food grown in sustainable ways is key for the environment. Issues such as 'food deserts', access to food banks or community fridges, redistribution of food, and the ability to grow one's own food are considered here

Does your project relate to or involve any of the following?

**Likely to promote access:** **Likely to impede access:**

- A community food bank
- An affordable restaurant in a local car
- A new supermarket near local corner
- Subsidised meals
- Increased food costs
- Shop closures
- Changing agricultural land or allotments to houses

### Need Help?

Health and wellbeing is about providing an equal chance for people to live a healthy life and supporting factors that positively impact on mental and physical health. Factors impacting health could be: access to services, quality of housing, air

Does your project relate to any of the following?

- Likely to improve health & wellbeing:**
  - New medical centre or service
  - Improved access to cycle infrastructure
  - Housing stock repairs
  - Access to green spaces
- Likely to impede health & wellbeing:**
  - Closing a leisure centre
  - Persistent noise disturbances
  - Relocating/closing a social service
  - Increased traffic

### Need Help?

This is about the impact your project/policy might have on the physical space which influences the health and wellbeing and sense of place in local communities. A well-designed community has good links to other places which can be accessed

Does your project relate to any of the following?

- Likely to have a positive impact**
  - Improving access to green spaces
  - New walkways or cycle paths
  - Improved bus services
  - Improving community buildings
- Likely to have a negative impact**
  - Closing a leisure centre
  - Closing community centres
  - Roadworks

### Need Help?

This is about the impact your project/policy might have on the social and cultural resources of communities. This includes: direct provision of services; access to funding (e.g. crowd funding initiatives, crowdfunding); supporting residents or local groups and cultural activities. Social and cultural resources encourage inclusion and community empowerment and can include commercial and community-led activities. Impacts affecting community could be either long-term or temporary.

Does your project relate to any of the following?

- Likely to have a positive impact**
  - A community event
  - Raising awareness of available resources
- Likely to have a negative impact**
  - Closure of a community space
  - Reduced opening hours of a community/cultural space

### Need Help?

This is about whether your project/policy improves opportunities for access or if it presents any barriers to access. Barriers to access can increase isolation, loneliness, and negatively impact wellbeing

Does your project relate to any of the following?

- Likely to improve access:**
  - Location accessible on foot, by bus, and by car
  - Forms available online and in person
  - Making recordings available where appropriate
  - Resources in multiple languages
  - Availability of an interpreter
- Likely to reduce access:**
  - Location only accessible by car
  - Forms only available online, or only in person
  - Increasing costs (subscriptions, fees, fares etc.)
  - Use of PDF's for information

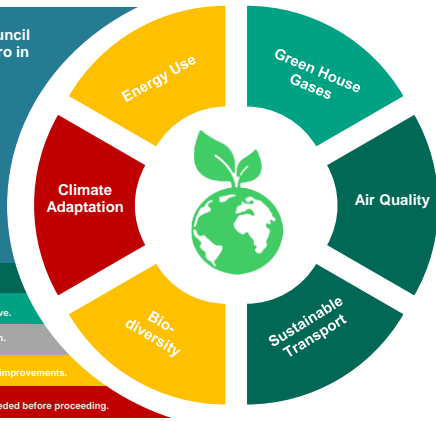
### Need Help?

Equity is the fair and just treatment of all members of a community, with a particular focus on support for groups who have historically suffered discrimination. It is important to reduce the risk of discrimination through safeguards and ensure equal opportunity resulting from a project/policy

We use community impact assessments so that we can:

- take into account the needs, experiences and circumstances of those groups of people who use (or don't or can't) use our services
- identify any inequalities people may experience
- think about the other ways in which we can deliver our services which will not lead to inequalities
- develop better policy making, procedures and services

Spelthorne Borough Council has committed to net zero in its own activity by 2030:



Significant and/or long-term positive impact identified. No changes needed.

Slight or short-term positive impact identified. Could be reviewed to improve.

Not applicable or no cause for concern.

Slight or short-term negative impact identified. Review to identify possible improvements.

Significant and/or long-term negative impact identified. Changes may be needed before proceeding.

