

Climate Emergency Impact Assessment Form

Before completing this form, it is essential you read the Climate Emergency Impact Assessment guidance document.

This assessment is to help officers think about how their projects, procurements, commissioning, and services can align with the Council’s carbon reduction targets and aid in informed decision making. The level of detail required will be vary significantly. In many cases a simple qualitative assessment may be adequate, the depth of assessment will depend on the type of project/work matter being considered.

Title:

Review of Allocation Scheme 2022

Type of Project:

Strategy/Policy	Allocation Scheme
Service/Function	Housing
Other – please specify. (e.g. infrastructure/equipment purchase)	

Service area/Directorate	Housing Service – Change and Communities
Lead officer	Gary Stevenson, Head of Housing, Health and Environment
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Stuart Clifton, Housing Services Manager
Date impact assessment started	9 th September 2022

Brief description of the project/activity including the proposed outcomes:

Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 requires the Council to operate a scheme for the purpose of the allocation of social housing within the borough to both new and existing tenants. The Act requires that nominations may only come from the Council's Housing Register and the Act provides the framework that sets out who is eligible to join the Housing Register and how priority is determined between applicants, with certain categories of applicant who must be given a reasonable preference for an allocation of social housing.

The Council's interpretation of the framework legislation must be set out in a document adopted by the Council, called an Allocation Scheme. The adopted Allocation Scheme must be published and available upon request.

The Council's Housing Allocation Scheme is designed to ensure that access to subsidised housing supports the needs of residents, the corporate aims of the Council and reflects current legislation.

The current Allocation Scheme was introduced in 2013 and was most recently reviewed in 2017. The policy is designed to make best use of the limited stock available and awards additional priority to applicants who provide a local community contribution, as well as additional priority to certain serving members of the Armed Forces, as required by statute.

Minor amendments to the Allocations Scheme can be made under delegated authority given to The Head of Housing, Health and Environment (or equivalent officer). Several minor amendments have been made since the policy was introduced in 2013. A full revision of the Allocations Scheme is also required every four years in accordance with the Council's constitution, which require Cabinet approval via the Cabinet Advisory Board.

A full review of the Allocations Scheme is being undertaken in line with the Council's constitutional requirement that the scheme is fully reviewed every four years. The Review is seeking to update the Allocation Scheme in line with current legislation and local priorities, as identified in the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021-26

Options appraisal:

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

N/a

Financial Impacts:

What impact will this proposal have on council carbon emissions? Increased emissions will increase costs in the long term. Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost, or reduce costs? The shadow price of carbon may need to be considered – see the guidance document.

Please explain why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

Consider impact over the lifetime of the project, this for example should include information on on-going maintenance, costs savings from lower energy use, long term implications in terms of carbon off-setting costs, due to not meeting the net zero ambition by 2030. A project might be very expensive in the short term if capital investment is required, but this could pay back over time in energy savings, and reductions of emissions, over a longer period.

Depending on the type of project this may be relatively simple or will require more detailed analysis and a clear outline of types of costs and how assessed.

There is no impact on council carbon emissions. This policy relates to the allocation of social housing units not owned by the council

Please provide details of external funding sought and obtained, (e.g. grant funding):

N/a

Qualitative Impact Appraisal:

<p>How will this proposal impact on carbon/the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer-term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place an X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant depending on type of project please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual. • Evidence or measurement of effect. • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible and mitigate any negative effects.</p>
Energy:					
<p>The Council's energy consumption via its buildings and the services provided (electricity, gas, oil). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.</p>		X			
Travel and Transport					
<p>The Council's energy consumption via travel (eg petrol/diesel). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce. If an EV is used the energy consumption can be included in the energy row above.</p>		X			

Water					
The Council's water usage. Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.		X			
Waste including food waste					
Waste generated and type of waste. Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.		X			
Renewable Energy					
Creation of renewable energy. Tick +ve if it increases renewable energy production. Quantify these changes as part of the project benefits.		X			
Buildings & Infrastructure					
If the project involves the development/building of, or the acquisition of a building has the energy usage been considered. Tick +ve if the impact on the council's carbon emission reduce. Due to the nature of these projects a separate detailed assessment may be required to clearly quantify these changes.		X			
Embodied [®] energy - does your project/proposal include construction of buildings, refurbishment and fit-outs or other significant infrastructure? If no, then tick neutral. If yes, have genuine		X			

efforts been made to minimise the embodied energy ² in the materials being used for that construction, and the source of such materials? Detail must be provided. Very often renovation can have a lower carbon footprint.					
Impacts on the Borough in general					
Assess the impacts of the project in terms of Borough wide carbon emissions and environmental impacts. Use the categories as listed in this table as a guide. Will this project increase pollution, (include any impacts on air, land, water, light, and noise)?	X				The Allocation Scheme aligns with the emerging Local Plan H6 Affordably Housing Policy in detailing the 'local connection cascade' for new build affordable homes. This means that for new affordable developments identified through the Local Plan or on Rural exception sites, there is an additional requirement that applicants have a local connection to the Parish or neighbouring parishes. This local connection cascade will help to ensure that applicants in housing need are able to remain living in or as close to their established communities, which should have a positive impact on carbon emissions, as households remain closer to their family, schools, employment, and thus reducing the needs to travel across the district.
Biodiversity					
Protecting, enhancing, and increasing biodiversity (use of chemicals and their impacts e.g., on pollinators)		X			
Landscaping of green spaces in construction, civil engineering, highways, grass-cutting verges, and hedgerows		X			
Climate adaptation and resilience					
Adapting to be able to cope with the effects of climate		X			

change, i.e., flooding/extreme heat					
Offset scheme					
Carbon offsetting – how will an increase in carbon emissions be offset. Tick +ve only if an effective offset scheme is used		X			

for embodied energy information please see the guidance document

Good Practice Standards:

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

N/a

Summary:


Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, mitigation/adaptation, and next steps. This summary paragraph should be used as part of the cross-cutting issues in the main report to the decision maker and include this whole document as part of your appendices or background papers.

No negative impact on carbon/the environment has been identified for this project. The project is to review the Council’s Allocation Scheme as required by the Council’s constitution for a full review. The Allocation Scheme is the framework for allocating social housing within the borough and does not involve the building or acquisition of properties.
 A positive impact has been identified in relation to the emissions of carbon and on the wider environment within the borough. This is a result of the the Allocation Scheme aligning with the emerging Local Plan H6 Affordably Housing Policy in detailing the ‘local connection cascade’ for new build affordable

homes. This means that for new affordable developments identified through the Local Plan or on Rural exception sites, there is an additional requirement that applicants have a local connection to the Parish or neighbouring parishes. This local connection cascade will help to ensure that applicants in housing need are able to remain living in or as close to their established communities, which should have a positive impact on carbon emissions, as households remain closer to their family, schools, employment, and thus reducing the needs to travel across the district.

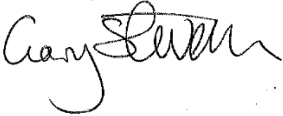
Sign off:

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Stuart Clifton
Job title	Housing Services Manager
Service area/Directorate	Housing Service – Change and Communities
Signature	
Completion date	9 September 2022

Authorised by relevant Head of Service/Director:

Name	Gary Stevenson
Title	Head of Housing, Health and Environment

Signature	
Date	9/9/2022