

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Assessment

An assessment should be carried out where a sustainability, climate or environmental impact was identified in the Cabinet report or where the Integrated Impact Assessment has identified an environmental impact, or when requested by the Climate Emergency Team.

Please provide a brief description of the policy/decision including the proposed outcomes?

The Climate Strategy sets out the climate objectives for the Council, businesses and the community for climate related action. It starts the conversation to establish action plans that will be locality based that will ensure our communities and businesses are able to address climate change.

The Strategy includes the themes; Energy, Transport, Food, Nature and Woodland, Consumption and the Economy and adaptation.

Now consider whether any of the following aspects will be affected:

Not all items on the list will be relevant, please state n/a where necessary to indicate that all items have been considered. Some implications may be indirect or secondary and this should be noted in the commentary.

Aspect	Likely climate effect:			Commentary
	++ ve +ve	-ve --ve	neutral	
The council's energy consumption via buildings (electricity, gas, oil). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of energy consumption for buildings within Gateshead through the Energy theme.</i>
The council's travel requirements (eg petrol). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of unsustainable travel within Gateshead through the Transport theme.</i>
The councils water usage (especially hot water). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.	+			<i>The Strategy will have a modest impact on the reduction of water use through the Energy, consumption, woodland and nature themes. The use of water requires energy use and needs to be addressed. The Recycling of water also has other positive environmental impacts and will be addressed in the Strategy.</i>
Creation of renewable energy. Tick +ve if it increases renewable energy production.	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the increase of renewable and low carbon heat and energy within Gateshead through the Energy theme.</i>
Carbon offsetting – will the proposal offset carbon emissions such as through tree planting. Tick +ve if yes.	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of carbon and increase carbon offsetting within Gateshead through the all themes and in particular woodland and nature through tree planting.</i>
Reducing carbon emissions through	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of carbon and increase carbon offsetting within</i>

amending ongoing activities not covered above eg management of land, such as peat soils, in a way which reduces carbon dioxide emissions. Tick +ve if yes.				<i>Gateshead through the all themes.</i>
If the project involves the creation or acquisition of a building, has the energy rating been considered. Are / will measures be included to make the building energy efficient? Tick +ve if yes.	N/A			
Embodied energy - does your project/proposal include construction of buildings or other significant infrastructure? If no, then tick neutral. If yes, have genuine efforts been made to minimise the embodied energy* in the materials being used for that construction, and the source of such materials?	+			<i>The Strategy may impact the reduction of embodied energy within Gateshead through the Energy theme.</i>
Plastic waste – does the proposal increase the use of single use plastics, including packaging	+			<i>The Strategy will impact the reduction of plastic use within Gateshead through the Economy and consumption theme.</i>
Food emissions – in particular those with air miles out of season or animal products	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of carbon related to food within Gateshead through the food theme.</i>
Consumables – does the proposal increase the need to produce or ship products	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of consumables within Gateshead through the Economy and consumption theme.</i>
Does the proposal increase waste production	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the reduction of waste within Gateshead through the Economy and consumption theme.</i>
Does the proposal decrease wildlife habitat	++			<i>The Strategy will directly impact the creation and protection of wildlife within Gateshead through all themes in particular woodland and nature.</i>

Does the proposal increase air or water pollution	++			<i>The Strategy will directly reduction of water and air pollution within Gateshead through all themes in particular trasnport.</i>
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What information is available to help the environmental impacts identified above to be quantified?

A monitoring framework will be developed for the Climate Action Plans once finalised.

Can any negative environmental impacts be justified as appropriate or necessary?

There are no negative environmental impacts resulting from the Climate Strategy.

Are any remedial or mitigation actions required?

N/A

Once implemented, how will you monitor the actual impact?

A monitoring framework will be developed for the Action Plans once finalised.

Overall summary to be included in your covering report.

The Strategy has strong positive implications for climate and sustainability.

Assessment completed by	Lucy Greenfield
Date completed	11/10/22
Signed by Service Director	Anneliese Hutchinson
Date approved by the Climate Emergency Team and supporting comments	

*Embodied energy is the energy used (and therefore carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases emitted) during the manufacture, transport and construction of building materials. So for example, if you are specifying concrete on a project then carbon dioxide (or equivalent) will have been emitted making that concrete. Different materials have high and low levels of embodied energy, with low being good. Not only can different materials have different embodied energy values, but the same material can also have differing embodied energy values depending on where it was sourced and transported. For example, stone sourced from China would have a far greater embodied energy within it than the same stone sourced locally, due to the carbon dioxide emitted during transportation. By way of examples, using stainless steel will likely have over 10 times more embodied energy within it, per kg, than timber.