

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?

Proposal to close Gateshead Leisure Centre (GLC) as part of the Leisure Service Review

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>Closure of GLC would reduce GC overall heat and energy consumption. Current consumption is Electric – 595,553kWh 21/22 Decentralised Heat – 1,656,400 kWh 21/22 This equates to 165 tonnes of carbon per annum</i>
The council's travel requirements (eg petrol). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.		-		<i>Staff that are being relocated to alternative leisure facilities may need to travel further or by alternative modes of transport. GLC is centrally located with good public transport links, therefore staff are more likely to travel less sustainably to alternative locations.</i>
The councils water usage (especially hot water). Tick +ve if consumption will reduce.	++			<i>Closure of GLC would reduce overall water consumption for GC. Current water consumption is 103,350m³ 21/22 This equates to 15 tonnes of carbon per annum</i>
Creation of renewable energy. Tick +ve if it increases renewable energy production.			X	<i>GLC has 150kWh solar array which contributes around £6,500 per annum in FiT. GLC is connected to the District Energy Scheme for heat hot water and power. Removing the GLC supply will decrease the returns to Gateshead Energy Company which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Gateshead Council. The impact on renewable and low carbon energy and heat is largely financial.</i>
Carbon offsetting – will the proposal offset carbon emissions such as through tree planting. Tick +ve if yes.			x	N/A The proposal does not provide offsetting.
Reducing carbon			x	N/A

emissions through 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.				This assessment does not appraise future use of the site.
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.			x	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?			x	N/A This assessment does not appraise future use of the site.
Plastic waste – does the proposal increase the use of single use plastics, including packaging	+			Closure of GLC would result in a reduction of waste for this site. It should be noted that this reduction could result in an increase of waste off site if the service was being provided elsewhere.
Food emissions – in particular those with air miles out of season or animal products			x	GLC catering facilities have been closed for a number of years, therefore closure of this site would have minimal impact on food emissions.
Consumables – does the proposal increase the need to produce or ship products			x	Closure of GLC would result in a reduction of consumables for this site. It should be noted that this reduction could result in an increase of consumables off site if the service was being provided elsewhere.
Does the proposal increase waste production			x	Closure of GLC would result in a reduction of waste for this site. It should be noted that this reduction could result in an increase of waste off site if the service was being provided elsewhere.
Does the proposal decrease wildlife habitat			x	N/A. This assessment does not appraise future use of the site.

Does the proposal increase air or water pollution		-	<p><i>There would be increased air pollution associated with increased car mileage from customers seeking alternative leisure facilities in less assessable locations.</i></p> <p><i>2022 leisure survey results show;</i></p> <p><i>77% of respondents indicated that changing from GLC to an alternative would increase travel time. 38% said that it would result in switching from walking or cycling to using a vehicle. GLC is the only centre where 50% of customers use an alternative to the car, the other centres are more frequently accessed by car.</i></p> <p><i>GLC has electric vehicle charging points. If these were no longer available this would reduce the provision of EV charging infrastructure.</i></p>
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What information is available to help the environmental impacts identified above to be quantified?

Smart Carbon (carbon monitoring).
Leisure Centre Survey 2022.

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

N/A

Are any remedial or mitigation actions required?

Consideration needs to be given to how customers will travel to alternative leisure facilities.

Once implemented, how will you monitor the actual impact?

Overall summary to be included in your covering report.

There will be an overall reduction in heat, energy and water consumption for the GLC site. It should be noted that there could be a subsequent increase in consumption on any future alternative site.

There will be a negative implication for the District Energy Network as it will lose a significant customer, however this is largely financial.

There will be an increase in the miles travelled by private car by staff and customers to alternative sites, increasing carbon and reducing air quality.

It should be noted that any proposed future use of the site may have a significant impact on the overall environmental assessment.

Assessment completed by

Date completed	
Signed by Service Director	
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.

Resources

Gateshead Climate Emergency Action Plan

[3336-MC-Climate emergency Action Plan v22.pdf \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](#)

Gateshead Environmental policy (

[Appendix 5. Environmental Policy Feb 2021.pdf \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](#)

Mitigations ideas;

Tree planting

Habitat creation

Low carbon energy provision

Installation of renewable energy

More efficient use of land

Use of sustainable materials

High energy efficiency standards

Using a local supply chain

Using alternative providers of goods and services with better sustainability credentials

Implementing or requiring a sustainable travel plan