TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

This toolkit is a self-assessment to help providers of goods, services or projects to the Council, and grant or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applicants assess the environmental impact of their proposals.
Applicants should think about how their project, goods or services align with Three Rivers' Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy. The toolkit also supports the sustainbility section on a procurement tender.

How to use the tool

The self-assessment tool is intended to help authors reflect critically on their project, goods, or services' environmental impact.
We envision this tool will be used early in the design of a project to identify areas where environmental harms can be mitigated, and environmental benefits enhanced.
Once you are happy that your proposal is optimised, complete this form and return it with your project submission.

The next tab presents a set of questions about the proposal covering a range of sustainability criteria. Each answer is colour-coded to indicate its environmental impact as below:

Colour code	Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Yellow (2)	Some negative impacts sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigation
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Once you've selected your answer in the "Impact" column (C), then give the relevant score in the "Score" column (E). Higher scores indicate more sustainable proposals.

Against each area, the assessment presents prompts to highlight best practice suggestions and enable consideration of how adverse environmental impacts could be mitigated on a project.

This Toolkit was inspired by Jim Cunningham's "Climate Implications Toolkit" from Hammersmith and Fulham Council, and developed by officers of Three Rivers District Council.

Version	Date
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Score / Colour Code	Impact and Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Yellow (2)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	**Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.**
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Guidance for Use:
Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'Impact' column (C), including 'Not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to CIL@threerivers.gov.uk

Key to the colour coding of answers can be found at the top of the page.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date:		ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY
Brief description (1-2 sentences):		A Three Rivers District Council document outlining an electric vehicle charging strategy for a public charging network covering council owned car parks and on-street residential parking.

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy

	Question	Impact (select from list)	Score (-1 to 4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
1	What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Explore opportunities to pair with community energy projects in particular car park solar arrays, where possible opt for a renewable energy provider/tariff	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
2	What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	This strategy is essential to the council's contribution to transitioning the transport industry to zero emission vehicles	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
3	Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? *E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours*	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Increases the utilisation of exisiting council land/ carparks	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
4	Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? *E.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC "A" or BREAM "excellent"*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	No direct changes to buildings	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
5	Does this make use of sustainable materials / inputs in your project? *E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials, timber in place of concrete*	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	embedded carbon of installation. Priorisation has been given to sites which require lower DNO alteracations. Charging Point Operator to provide 'green' credientials of materials	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
6	Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? *E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel*	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	constructed off site ready for install to the 'passive' charging infrastructure. Operator/ installer to share details of estimated carbon impact of installation of passive and above	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
7	Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? *e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff*	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	energy generation but does support the transition to a renewable energy transport infrastructure. Explore opportunities to pair with community energy projects in particular	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
8	Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Charging Point Operator to share details on energy efficency/ charging loses of the proposed charging points.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Average Score		**2.86**			**3.60**

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver improvement in EPC ratings.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District Heat Networks where appropriate.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy (LED) lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Travel

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
9	Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Whilst this strategy will not reduce vehicle use, it supports the transition to more sustainable, zero emission vehicles.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
10	Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	As part of the installation and maintance of charging points it likely that ICE vehicles will be used. Explore opportunities to mitgate this with EVCP provider.	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
11	Will this project support people to use active or low-carbon transport? *E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport*	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Whilst this strategy will not reduce vehicle use, it supports the transition to more sustainable, zero emission vehicles.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
12	Will this project be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	All charging points will be compliant with accessibility standards detailed in PAS 1899:2022	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
13	Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? *E.g. Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Average Score		**3.50**			**4.00**

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds.
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet.
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport.
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives.
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. re-timing the service or deliveries

Goods and Consumption

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
14	Has this project considered ways to re-use existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
15	Does the project reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? *E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people, leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	Further plans for a wider scope strategy to also cover car sharing schemes is planned and referenced in this strategy.	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
16	Does the project use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Transitions transport away from fossil fuels to the electric grid which is able to become renewable.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership.
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods.
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life.
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item.
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare, if procured or consumed.
- Choose seasonal and locally sourced produce, and plant-rich meals.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.

17	Does the project enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Enables and encourages the uptake of zero emission vehicles through the provision of charging infrastructure and reliable information on the transition to EVs	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
18	Does the project have a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Establish waste management process with EVCP provider/ installer	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
19	Will the material(s) used on the project be able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recyled at end of its life?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	EVCPs designed for longevity and have repairability considered as part of construction design. EV's generally have less wear and tear parts than ICE vehicles and EV	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
20	Has the project taken steps to ensure any food offered or consumed is more sustainable? *E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy, minimise food waste, seasonal and locally sourced produce.*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Average Score		**3.25**			**4.00**

Ecology

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland, gardens, lakes, rivers, ponds etc.)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? *E.g. planting native plants, trees, and flowers, creation of ponds or wetlands, provision of bird or bat boxes, installation of log piles or insect hotels*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
23	Does the project make changes to existing habitats or have a negative impact on biodiversity? *E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species, light pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, disturbance to habitat, soil erosion , fragmentation of habitat*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
24	Does the project help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Placement of the carparks at green spaces encourages the use of these community spaces.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Average Score		**4**			**4**

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', ponds, hedgehog hides and passages, log piles
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Adaptation

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
25	Does any planned project, construction or building include measures to conserve water? *E.g. low-flow taps and showerheads, water-efficient devices*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
26	Does the project consider how to protect people from the effects of extreme weather? *E.g. including shading to prevent overheating*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
27	Has any planned building work or infrastructure on the project considered how to mitigate flood risk? *E.g. implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), de-paving areas, installing green roofs*	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
28	Does any planned building work or infrastructure on the project increase the total surface area covered by hard surfacing (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	EVCPs will be built on existing hard standing areas.	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
29	Has the project considered its own resilience to extreme heat, flooding, or drought resulting from climate change?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Explore ideas and opportunities to improve drainage and flood resistance at carpark locations currently or likely to be susceptible to flooding.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
	Average Score		**2.0**			**3.00**

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets
- Re-use grey water in new developments
-Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing, watering garden, toilets
- Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading
- Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing.
- Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS).
- Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation.

Engagement and Influence

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
30	Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take to mitigate and adapt to these?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	This Strategy is a pivotal part of the councils Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy in promoting more sustainable transport in the district. The growing availability of EVCPs, information provision and other associated projects will support public opinion on the viability of electric vehicles.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Average Score		**4**			**4**
	Total Overall Average Score		**3.27**			**3.8**

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- 'Make every contact count' by using contact points with residents, businesses and community groups to promote understanding of the climate and ecological emergencies.

Now the assesment is complete, please include a copy of the completed assessment as part of your CIL application, and submit a copy of the form by email to Joanna.Hewitson@threerivers.gov.uk

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.60
Travel	4.00
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	3.00
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	**3.8**