



'Better Decision Making' Tool  
Informing our approach to sustainability, resilience and fairness

The 'Better Decision Making' tool should be completed when proposing new projects, services, policies or strategies.

This integrated impact assessment tool was designed to help you to consider the impact of your proposal on social, economic and environmental sustainability, and equalities and human rights. The tool draws upon the priorities set out in our Council Plan and will help us to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services. The purpose of this new tool is to ensure that the impacts of every proposal are carefully considered and balanced and that decisions are based on evidence.

**Part 1** of this form should be completed as soon as you have identified a potential area for change and when you are just beginning to develop a proposal. If you are following the All About Projects Framework it should be completed before going through Gateway 3.

**Part 2** of this form should be filled in once you have completed your proposal and prior to being submitted for consideration by the Executive. If you are following the All About Projects Framework it should be completed before going through Gateway 4. Your answer to questions 1.4 in the improvements section must be reported in any papers going to the Executive and the full 'Better Decision Making' tool should be attached as an annex.

Guidance to help you complete the assessment can be obtained by hovering over the relevant text or by following this link to the 'Better Decision Making' tool on Colin.

Guidance on completing this assessment is available by hovering over the text boxes.

**Please complete all fields** (and expand if necessary).

#### Introduction

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Service submitting the proposal:</b>                     | Strategic Planning  |
| <b>Name of person completing the assessment:</b>            | Alison Cooke        |
| <b>Job title:</b>   | Development Officer |
| <b>Directorate:</b>   | Economy and Place   |
| <b>Date Completed:</b>                                      | 30th May 2017       |
| <b>Date Approved:</b> form to be checked by service manager |                     |

#### Part 1

##### Section 1: What is the proposal?

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | <b>Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed?</b>   |
|     | Local Plan Update  |
| 1.2 | <b>What are the main aims of the proposal?</b>   |
|     | The main aim of the report is to update Members as to the progress on the Local Plan following the Preferred Sites Consultation (2016). It presents the revised housing and employment growth needs for York. The report also provides officer recommended changes for potential site allocations in line with evaluated evidence received through consultation and changes to planning policy to incorporate in a revised Local Plan. |
| 1.3 | <b>What are the key outcomes?</b>  |
|     | The Local Plan is the planning policy document through which we aim to deliver York's sustainable development objectives in a spatial way through identifying policies to inform decision making and site allocations to meet development needs.   |

## Section 2: Evidence

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | <p><b>What data / evidence is available to understand the likely impacts of the proposal?</b> (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics)</p> <p>There are several updated technical documents that have contributed to this report, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update outlining the updated Objectively assessment Housing Need (OAHN) by consultants GL Hearn (Annex 1 to this paper).</li> <li>&gt; Employment Land review Update produced by CYC Officers (Annex 2 to this paper.)</li> <li>&gt; Officers assessment of potential sites for development (Annexes 3-5 to this paper)</li> <li>&gt; Consultation statement for the Preferred Sites Consultation (2016) (Annex 6 to this paper)</li> <li>&gt; Gypsy, traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment provided by consultants ORS (2017) (Annex 8 to this paper)</li> <li>&gt; SA/SEA Technical Note produced by consultants Amec Foster Wheeler. This sets out the proposals from the housing and employment technical work against a framework of social, economic and environmental objectives for York.</li> </ul> |
| 2.2 | <p><b>What public / stakeholder consultation has been used to support this proposal?</b></p> <p>The Local Plan process has been subject to several consultations, the latest of which was the Preferred Sites Consultation (2016). This set out the Council's preferred housing and employment need as well as sites to satisfy the demand. The outcomes of this consultation have been reviewed and incorporated into the emerging position. A Consultation Statement has been produced and accompanies this report (Annex 6) Further consultation, subject to members decision, will take place in late summer 2017.</p>  |
| 2.3 | <p><b>Are there any other initiatives that may produce a combined impact with this proposal?</b> (e.g. will the same individuals / communities of identity also be impacted by a different project or policy?)</p> <p>This report will ultimately feed into the emerging Local Plan wherein it is likely to be positive through meeting the city's spatial development needs and contribute towards meeting York's sustainable development objectives. Specifically in relation to communities, this will effect all people in York who engage with planning such as through obtaining planning permission as well as ensuring planning policies in place to meet the city's objectives for sustainable development.</p>  |



## 'Better Decision Making' Tool

Informing our approach to sustainability, resilience and fairness

## Part 1

## Section 3: Impact on One Planet principles

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on staff or residents.  
This section relates to the impact of your proposal on the One Planet principles.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.  
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

## Equity and Local Economy

| Does your proposal? |  | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?   |
|---------------------|--|----------|---|
| 3.1                 | <b>Impact positively on the business community in York?</b>  | Positive | The policies of the Local Plan support the delivery of the city's economic objectives and will enable York to realise its economic growth ambitions as set out in the city's economic strategy (2016). It will promote private sector employment growth through the provision of sites and infrastructure to deliver new jobs over the plan period for current and future residents. The Employment Land Review (2016 and update 2017) sets out our assumptions for identifying employment need. Meeting York's housing requirements is also likely to have a positive outcome for provision of affordable housing for workers within York. |
| 3.2                 | <b>Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?</b>                                | Positive | The policies of the local plan support the delivery of the city's economic objectives and will enable York to realise its economic growth ambitions as set out in the city's economic strategy (2016). It will promote private sector employment growth through the provision of sites and infrastructure to deliver new jobs over the plan period for current and future residents. Housebuilding and commercial development as a result of allocations in the Local Plan may provide some certainty over jobs in construction. The scale of employment activity depends on the growth targets agreed.                                     |
| 3.3                 | <b>Help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups to improve their skills?</b> | Positive | The plan supports the delivery of the city's economic objectives and social objectives, including promoting social inclusivity. The plan will help to unlock the further potential of the higher and further education sector in York through development and redevelopment.  |

| Health & Happiness  |  |          |  |
|---------------------|--|----------|--|
| Does your proposal? |  | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?  |
| 3.4                 | <b>Improve the physical health or emotional wellbeing of staff or residents?</b> | Neutral  | The Local Plan aims to support healthy lifestyles and healthy environments across the city. The plan includes policies to conserve and enhance York's green infrastructure, providing opportunities for a healthy lifestyle and optimising its role in contributing to York being a healthy city, drawing on the Open Space Study (2014) and its recent update. Providing homes to meet the needs of people will also have a positive impact on people's well being.   |
| 3.5                 | <b>Help reduce health inequalities?</b>  | Positive | The community facilities section of the plan has been revised to have a greater focus on health and wellbeing. The new section covers the protection and enhancement of sports, healthcare, childcare, and community facilities. An additional policy related to healthy placemaking has been added which encourages designing environments that encourage health-promoting behaviours, helping to delivery York's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Council Plan. There are also opportunities as part of new development for the provision of new services. These will have to be developed in tandem to avoid negatives impact in the short-term. |
| 3.6                 | <b>Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?</b>          | Neutral  | The Local Plan encourages healthy lifetsyles through the safeguarding and provison of different types of openspace and recreational opportunities. The plan includes policies to conserve and enhance York's green infrastructure, providing opportunities for a healthy lifestyle and optimising its role in contributing to York being a healthy city. See Annex 7 to this report to see updates to these policies.  |
| 3.7                 | <b>Reduce crime or fear of crime?</b>  | Positive | The plan includes a placemaking policy which seeks to balance the needs of urban design principles for good design against 'secured by design' principles to design out crime, helping to delivery the City of York Streetscape Strategy Guidance (2014). See Annex 7 to this report to see updates to these policies.   |
| 3.8                 | <b>Help to give children and young people a good start in life?</b>              | Positive | The Local Plan seeks to respond to the need to increase primary and secondary education provision, including addressing need arising from strategic development sites and supporting proposals to ensure that existing facilities can continue to meet modern educational requirements. See Annex 7 to this report to see updates to these policies.   |

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| <b>Culture &amp; Community</b> |
|--------------------------------|

|      | Does your proposal?   | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?   |
|------|---|----------|---|
| 3.9  | <b>Help improve community cohesion?</b>   | Neutral  | Community cohesion and the development of strong, supportive and durable communities is promoted through the creation of sustainable, low carbon neighbourhoods.  |
| 3.10 | <b>Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?</b> | Positive | The plan will prioritise tackling existing gaps and prevent gaps from being created in the provision of key services and public transport, helping to support the Council's Transport Plan 2011-2031. The Plan's spatial strategy also uses access to services and transport as a key indicator for sustainability and uses this to help determine suitable sites for development. The majority of strategic allocations are also expected to incorporate local provision on site and have access to sustainable transport. |
| 3.11 | <b>Improve the cultural offerings of York?</b>                                  | Positive | A new cultural provision policy has been developed as well as strengthening references to culture throughout the plan. The new policy supports development proposals where they are designed to sustain, enhance and add value to the special qualities and significance of York's culture. See Annex 7 to this report to see the new and revised policies.   |
| 3.12 | <b>Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?</b>                     | Positive | Through consultation the local plan process actively encourages residents to shape their communities by commenting on the policies that will shape development in the future in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2007)   |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water</b> |
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|  | Does your proposal? | Impact | What are the impacts and how do you know? |
|--|---------------------|--------|---|
|--|---------------------|--------|---|

|      |  |          |  |
|------|--|----------|--|
| 3.13 | <b>Minimise the amount of energy we use, or reduce the amount of energy we will use/pay for in the future?</b> | Mixed    | The plan will respond to the opportunities offered by the city's natural resources whilst at the same time protecting current and future residents from environmental impacts. It will help York become a sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet'. It will create energy efficient buildings, support the use of energy from renewable sources and ensuring York is climate ready. Notwithstanding this, development in York is likely to increase the city's resource consumption. LocalPlan policy relating to climate change, renewable energy and sustainable design have been updated in line with new/updated evidence base and legislation. See Annex 7 to this report for updates to these policies. |
| 3.14 | <b>Minimise the amount of water we use or reduce the amount of water we will use/pay for in the future?</b>    | Mixed    | The plan will respond to the opportunities offered by the city's natural resources whilst at the same time protecting current and future residents from environmental impacts. It will help York become a sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' city, ensuring that new development uses water efficiently and delivers sustainable drainage solutions. LocalPlan policy relating to climate change, renewable energy and sustainable design have been updated in line with new/updated evidence base and legislation. See Annex 7 to this report for updates to policy.   |
| 3.15 | <b>Provide opportunities to generate energy from renewable/low carbon technologies?</b>                        | Positive | A revised climate change section now more strongly ties the policies to the social and economic benefits of low carbon developments which consider sustainable design and construction principles. See Annex 7 to this report for updates to policy.   |

**Zero Waste**

| Does your proposal? |   | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?  |
|---------------------|---|----------|--|
| 3.16                | <b>Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?</b> | Positive | The plan will contribute to the reduction of waste through supporting innovation and improvement of current waste practices and the promotion of recycling. Sustainable design and construction principles will be embedded in new developments. Local Plan policy relating to Waste management has been revised in line with the emerging Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan being prepared by North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council and North York Moors National Park. See Annex 7 to this report for updates to policy |

### Sustainable Transport

| Does your proposal? |  | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?   |
|---------------------|--|----------|---|
| 3.17                | <b>Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?</b> | Positive | The plan will help deliver a fundamental shift in travel patterns by ensuring that sustainable development and travel planning is a key component of future development, promoting sustainable connectivity, reducing the need to travel, helping to deliver the infrastructure to support sustainable transport and managing private travel demand. Helping to support the Council's Transport Plan 2011-2031. This has also been translated into the Site Selection process as a key stage in considering suitability of a potential development site. The outcomes of sites are referred to in annexes 3-5. See Annex 7 for revisions to policy. |
| 3.18                | <b>Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?</b>   | Positive | The plan supports measures to help reduce the emissions of Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate, Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases from both transport and other sources helping to deliver the Council's Low Emission Strategy (2012) and therefore features as a consideration throughout the Local Plan. See Annex 7 to this report for detailed updates to policy.   |

### Sustainable Materials

| Does your proposal? |  | Impact | What are the impacts and how do you know?  |
|---------------------|--|--------|--|
| 3.19                | <b>Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?</b> | Mixed  | Development advocated by the Local Plan will have an inevitable impact on the use of resources and waste. However, sustainable design and construction principles will be embedded in new developments through policy. See annex 7 to this report for detailed policy updates. |

### Local and Sustainable Food

| Does your proposal? |  | Impact  | What are the impacts and how do you know? |
|---------------------|--|---------|---|
| 3.20                | <b>Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?</b> | Neutral | n/a                                       |

### Land Use and Wildlife

| Does your proposal? |   | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?  |
|---------------------|---|----------|--|
| 3.21                | <b>Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?</b> | Positive | York's Green Infrastructure, including open space, landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity and the natural environment will be both conserved and enhanced. This is a key consideration in the Local Plan and evidence base such as the Green Infrastructure and Openspace Study (2014, Openspace update 2017). The vision, spatial strategy and specific policies all support the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. Furthermore, this is translated into the Site Selection methodology to determine a potential site's suitability for development . See Annex 7 for updates to specific policies and annexes 3-5 to see comments in relation to specific sites.  |
| 3.22                | <b>Improve the quality of the built environment?</b>                          | Positive | The Local Plan will help York to safeguard its outstanding heritage for future generations by promoting development which respects the city's special character and culture and encourages opportunities for rediscovering and reinterpreting those assets which make it an attractive, beautiful and accessible city. The Plan will do this through the conservation and enhancement of six defining characteristics of York's built environment; strong urban form, compactness, landmark monuments, unique architectural character, archaeological complexity and landscape setting set out in the Heritage Topic Paper (2014) and Heritage Impact Appraisal (tbc 2017).  |
| 3.23                | <b>Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?</b>       | Positive | The plan will help York to safeguard its outstanding heritage for future generations by promoting development which respects the city's special character. The Local Plan will ensure that the city's heritage assets are preserved and enhanced. Beyond the city centre, the key radial routes are of particular importance, and the surrounding villages and Green Infrastructure, including its valued strays, river corridors and open spaces that contribute to the city's setting. The Historic Character and Setting evidence base (2003 updated in 2013 and 2014) identifies areas of primary importance for this. The Plan will also create a Green Belt for York that will endure beyond the end of this plan period providing a lasting framework to shape the future development of the city. Its primary aim will be to preserve and enhance the special character and setting of York. It will also have a critical role in ensuring that development is directed to the most sustainable locations. |



|      |   |          |  |
|------|---|----------|--|
| 3.24 | <b>Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?</b> | Positive | Development will not be permitted which would harm the character of or lead to the loss of open space of environmental and or recreational importance unless it can be satisfactorily replaced. All residential development should contribute to the provision of open space for recreation and amenity. As supported by the open space study (2014) and its update and the Green Infrastructure Strategy. |
|------|---|----------|--|

|      |   |  |  |
|------|---|--|--|
| 3.25 | <b>Additional space to comment on the impacts</b> |  |  |
|      |   |  |  |

## Part 1

## Section 4: Impact on Equalities and Human Rights

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on staff or residents. This section relates to the impact of your proposal on **advancing equalities and human rights** and should build on the impacts you identified in the previous section.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.  
 If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'

## Equalities

Will the proposal **adversely impact** upon 'communities of identity'?  
 Will it **help advance equality** or **foster good relations** between people in 'communities of identity'?

|                                       | Impact   | What are the impacts and how do you know?  | Relevant quality of life       |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| 4.1 Age                               | Positive | The plan will meet housing needs and provide a range of house types for all ages. The SHMA (2016) and SHMA update (2017) provide relevant evidence for this. It will also improve the safety and accessibility of the city's streets and spaces.   | Comfortable standard of living |
| 4.2 Disability                        | Positive | The plan will meet housing needs and provide a range of house types for all ages. The SHMA (2016) and SHMA update (2017) provide relevant evidence for this. It will also improve the safety and accessibility of the city's streets and spaces.   | Comfortable standard of living |
| 4.3 Gender                            | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.4 Gender Reassignment               | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.5 Marriage and civil partnership    | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.6 Pregnancy and maternity           | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.7 Race                              | Positive | Meeting Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople's accommodation needs, supporting the outcomes of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2017)   | Comfortable standard of living |
| 4.8 Religion or belief                | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.9 Sexual orientation                | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.10 Carer                            | Neutral  | None deemed likely   | n/a                            |
| 4.11 Lowest income groups             | Positive | The plan will meet housing needs and provide a range of house types. The SHMA (2016) and SHMA update (2017) provide relevant evidence for this, including the need for affordable housing.   | Comfortable standard of living |
| 4.12 Veterans, Armed forces community | neutral  | The emerging Local Plan and supporting evidence considers the potential of the MOD sites in York for development following the Defence Infrastructure Estates Review (2016). The closure of these sites will have an impact on the armed forces community which is out of the remit of the Local Plan. | n/a                            |

## Human Rights

Consider how a human rights approach is evident in the proposal

|      |   | Impact  | What are the impacts and how do you know? |
|------|---|---------|---|
| 4.13 | Right to education  | neutral | None deemed likely                        |
| 4.14 | Right not to be subjected to torture, degrading treatment or punishment | neutral | None deemed likely                        |
| 4.15 | Right to a fair and public hearing                                      | neutral | None deemed likely                        |
| 4.16 | Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence   | neutral | None deemed likely                        |
| 4.17 | Freedom of expression   | neutral | None deemed likely                        |
| 4.18 | Right not to be subject to discrimination                               | neutral | None deemed likely                        |
| 4.19 | Other Rights  | neutral | None deemed likely                        |

| 4.20 | Additional space to comment on the impacts |
|------|--|
|      |  |

## Part 1

## Section 5: Developing Understanding

Based on the information you have just identified, please consider how the impacts of your proposal could be improved upon, in order to balance social, environmental, economic, and equalities concerns, and minimise any negative implications.

It is not expected that you will have all of the answers at this point, but the responses you give here should form the basis of further investigation and encourage you to make changes to your proposal. Such changes are to be reported in the final section.

**Taking into consideration your responses about all of the impacts of the project in its current form, what would you consider the overall impact to be on creating a fair, healthy, sustainable and resilient city?**

- 5.1 Given the wide range of policy areas covered by the Local Plan and its over all vision which responds to the issues, opportunities and challenges facing the city it is considered that the plan will have a strongly positive impact overall on creating a fair, healthy, sustainable and resilient city.

**What could be changed to improve the impact of the proposal on the One Planet principles? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)**

- 5.2 Preparation of the Local Plan is part of an ongoing process that involves monitoring the success and progress of its policies. The process will make sure it is achieving its objectives and making necessary adjustments to the plan if the monitoring process reveals that changes are needed. This enables the plan to maintain sufficient flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances. Furthermore, the plan is subject to ongoing Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment which appraises the plan and site allocations against a bespoke social, economic and environmental objectives to understand how the plan is contributing the sustainable development objectives for York.

**What could be changed to improve the impact of the proposal on equalities and human rights? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)**

- 5.3 No mixed or negative impacts on equality and human rights are considered likely.

## Section 6: Planning for Improvement

**What further evidence or consultation is needed to fully understand its impact? (e.g. consultation with specific communities of identity, additional data)**

- 6.1 Members will use the recommendations to decide the future approach for the Local Plan which will then be subject to public consultation. A publication draft plan will then be prepared before being submitted to the secretary of state for examination.

6.2 **What are the outstanding actions needed to maximise benefits or minimise negative impacts in relation to this proposal?** Please include the action, the person(s) responsible and the date it will be completed (expand / insert more

| Action | Person(s) | Due date |
|--------|-----------|----------|
|        |           |          |
|        |           |          |
|        |           |          |
|        |           |          |
|        |           |          |
|        |           |          |

6.3 **Additional space to comment on the impacts**

## Part 2

## Section 1: Improvements

Part 2 builds on the impacts you identified in Part 1. Please detail how you have used this information to make improvements to your final proposal.

**Please note that your response to question 1.4 in this section must be reported in the One Planet Council implications section of reports going to the Executive.**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | <p><b>For the areas in the 'One Planet' and 'Equalities' sections, where you were unsure of the potential impact, what have you done to clarify your understanding?</b></p> <p>Given the wide ranging policy areas covered in the plan and the process taken so far in preparing the plan there are inherent links and good understanding of the one planet principles and equalities.</p>   |
| 1.2 | <p><b>What changes have you made to your proposal to increase positive impacts?</b></p> <p>No changes considered necessary, however the monitoring element of the local plan process will ensure the success and progress of the policies are able to adapt to changing circumstances. For example, air quality will be monitored to ensure new development does not result in poorer air quality.</p>   |
| 1.3 | <p><b>What changes have you made to your proposal to reduce negative impacts?</b></p> <p>No negative impacts anticipated.</p>  |
| 1.4 | <p><b>Taking into consideration everything you know about the proposal in its revised form, what would you consider the overall impact to be on creating a fair, healthy, sustainable and resilient city?</b></p> <p>Your response to this question must be input under the One Planet Council implications section of the Executive report. Please feel free to supplement this with any additional information gathered in the tool.</p> <p>Given the wide range of policy areas covered by the Local Plan and its over all vision which responds to the issues, opportunities and challenges facing the city it is considered that the plan will have a strongly positive impact overall on creating a fair, healthy, sustainable and resilient city.</p> |
| 1.5 | <p><b>Any further comments?</b></p>  |