

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

Service submitting the proposal:	Transport
Name of person completing the assessment:	Gary Frost
Job title:	Major Projects Manager
Directorate:	Economy and Place
Date Completed:	02/06/2017
Date Approved: form to be checked by service manager	

Part 1

Section 1: What is the proposal?

1.1	Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed? Proposed York Outer Ring Road Improvements
1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal? The main aim of the proposal is to upgrade existing junctions on the A1237 north York Outer Ring Road (YORR) to provide increased capacity for vehicular traffic.
1.3	What are the key outcomes? 1. To improve journey time reliability in order to increase economic productivity for the City of York. 2. To reduce traffic congestion in order to improve air quality. 3. To provide road layouts designed to the latest standards to ensure a high standard of safety in order to contribute to reducing road accidents.

Section 2: Evidence

2.1	What data / evidence is available to understand the likely impacts of the proposal? (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics) 1. This programme of improvements is endorsed in the York Local Transport Plan 2011-2031. 2. Traffic modelling has been developed to identify the extent of current congestion and deal with it in accordance with the standards. 3. Preliminary results for the A59/1237 Junction Improvement Evaluation Report (due late 2017).
2.2	What public / stakeholder consultation has been used to support this proposal? None recently, this is a long term strategy provided for in the policy document City of York Local Transport Plan 2011-2031. See Strategic Theme 2 'Provide Strategic Links' (a- improve journey time reliability; b- undertake strategic improvements).
2.3	Are there any other initiatives that may produce a combined impact with this proposal? (e.g. will the same individuals / communities of identity also be impacted by a different project or policy?) Not aware of any.

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 Impact positively on the business community in York?	Positive	These proposals will improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion on the YORR. These conditions will be attractive in order to do business in York and to locate in York, especially on allocated commercial sites around the YORR. Many studies have been carried out which propose that modern transport infrastructure is essential for a dynamic and entrepreneurial economy. This is endorsed in the HM Government document 'Programme for Government', 2010 and the DfT Business Plan 2011-2015 'Engine for Economic Growth'; HM Government Green Paper 2017 'Building Our Industrial Strategy'.
3.2 Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	Positive	These proposals will improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion on the YORR. These conditions will be attractive in order to do business in York and to locate in York, especially on allocated commercial sites around the YORR. The net outcome of this is that more SMEs will locate in York and employ more people. Many studies have been carried out which propose that modern transport infrastructure is essential for a dynamic and entrepreneurial economy. This is endorsed in the HM Government document 'Programme for Government', 2010 and the DfT Business Plan 2011-2015 'Engine for Economic Growth'; HM Government
3.3 Help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups to improve their skills?	Unsure	It will help them get around the City more easily in general. More employment opportunities will be opened up which may be available to disadvantaged groups, but there are no specific gains for this group.

Health & Happiness

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.4 Improve the physical health or emotional wellbeing of staff or residents?	Positive	These improvements are likely to improve health and wellbeing because it will contribute to enabling people to get to their destinations more quickly, reducing frustration and allowing more quality time with family or friends. Improvements for all road users at the targeted junction upgrades may provide motivation for people to walk or cycle to their destinations rather than drive. These upgrades will link where possible with established or proposed cycle/pedestrian networks.
3.5 Help reduce health inequalities?	Positive	The time taken to travel to health services at York Hospital will be reduced when accessed from the YORR.
3.6 Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Unsure	This programme of junction upgrades may encourage residents to improve mobility and fitness by encouraging more use of cycling and walking.
3.7 Reduce crime or fear of crime?	Mixed	The junction upgrades will provide open well lit road junctions which are usually free from crime. However, this proposal includes the provision of subways at some junctions to improve pedestrian/cycle links from severed communities. Subways will have to be designed with consideration to the possibility that some crimes could be carried out there.
3.8 Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	Neutral	N/A

Culture & Community

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.9 Help improve community cohesion?	Positive	Provision of better transport links for communities severed from the city by the construction of the YORR in the 1980's.
3.10 Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	Neutral	N/A
3.11 Improve the cultural offerings of York?	Positive	Reducing congestion on the highway network and improving journey time reliability will enable citizens to get about more easily in order to attend cultural offerings.
3.12 Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?	Neutral	N/A

Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water		
Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.13 Minimise the amount of energy we use, or reduce the amount of energy we will use/pay for in the future?	Unsure	The YORR Improvement programme has overarching objectives to increase productivity. By it's nature this will mean more energy is used by increased volumes of vehicular traffic and the establishment of new businesses.
3.14 Minimise the amount of water we use or reduce the amount of water we will use/pay for in the future?	Unsure	See 3.13 above.
3.15 Provide opportunities to generate energy from renewable/low carbon technologies?	Neutral	No

Zero Waste		
Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.16 Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?	Positive	The design and specification for the YORR proposals will include provision for minimising waste and applying WRAP principles.

Sustainable Transport		
Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.17 Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?	Positive	The YORR improvements will address severance issues which have existed since the A1237 was constructed in the 1980's. Better provision will be made for cyclists and pedestrians who live outside the YORR, thus encouraging them to use these modes.
3.18 Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	Positive	Less queuing traffic and vehicles moving more quickly through the junctions will reduce concentrations of exhaust pollutants.

Sustainable Materials		
Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.19 Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?	Positive	Some of the materials used in road construction are non renewable e.g. Concrete. However it will be possible to consider renewable resources during the design process.

Local and Sustainable Food		
Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.20 Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?	Neutral	N/A

Land Use and Wildlife		
Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.21 Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?	Mixed	Some of the junction upgrades will be close to habitats and affect existing trees. The project team will undertake landscape and visual appraisal and ecology surveys as a minimum at each site. Thie outcome of these pieces of work will form the basis about decisions for mitigating and improving environmental conditions at the junction sites.
3.22 Improve the quality of the built environment?	Positive	The YORR improvement will use the latest highway design standards to provide the improvements at junctions. Overall standards for safety should be better than existing. Other aspects such as LED lighting will be provided to reduce light pollution and improve energy efficiency. Use of bunding and landscaping will be provided to screen new highway construction and also to reduce noise impacts on nearby houses.
3.23 Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	Neutral	N/A
3.24 Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	Unsure	The YORR improvements are aimed at improving journey time reliability, so this does not really apply. However, in a roundabout way, there will be encouragement for greater walking and cycling, and there may be opportunities for some public art or landscape design.

3.25	Additional space to comment on the impacts	



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 indicators
4.1	Age		
4.2	Disability		
4.3	Gender		
4.4	Gender Reassignment		
4.5	Marriage and civil partnership		
4.6	Pregnancy and maternity		
4.7	Race		
4.8	Religion or belief		
4.9	Sexual orientation		
4.10	Carer		
4.11	Lowest income groups		
4.12	Veterans, Armed forces community		

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	
4.14	Right not to be subjected to torture, degrading treatment or punishment	
4.15	Right to a fair and public hearing	
4.16	Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	
4.17	Freedom of expression	
4.18	Right not to be subject to discrimination	
4.19	Other Rights	

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	The main aim of the proposal is to upgrade existing junctions to provide increased capacity for vehicular traffic. Funding is in place because a rigorous assessment has been made to demonstrate value for money in terms of commercial growth. City of York Council want to provide the conditions for this growth which the improvements will enable. Secondary benefits also apply which help individuals in their everyday lives. On balance the overall impact will be good.

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	Changes that could be made: More effort into researching renewable materials. Careful consideration for more or better quality landscape treatment Careful consideration about treatment for subways in terms of possible places which attract crime.

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	N/A

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	Consultation is planned with local communities to understand their concerns and ideas about making the improvements work for them.

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 rows if needed)	
---	--

Action	Person(s)	Due date
Researching renewable materials.	Snr Project Manager	Mar-18
Consideration for more or better quality landscape treatment	Major Projects Manager	Mar-18
Consideration about treatment for subways in terms of possible places which attract crime	Snr Project Manager	Mar-18

Additional space to comment on the impacts	
6.3	Note that March 2018 is the anticipated programme date for the design to be completed on the first of seven junction improvements.



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

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	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?

1.2	What changes have you made to your proposal to increase positive impacts?

1.3	What changes have you made to your proposal to reduce negative impacts?

1.4	<p>Taking into consideration everything you know about the proposal <u>in its revised form</u>, what would you consider the overall impact to be on creating a fair, healthy, sustainable and resilient city?</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>

1.5	Any further comments?