

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:	Strategic Planning
Name of person completing the assessment:	Alison Cooke
Job title:	Development Officer
Directorate:	Economy and Place
Date Completed:	25th February 2019
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?
	Local Plan update and revised Habitat Regulation Assessment
1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal?
	The main aim of the report is to update Members on progress of the Examination of the Local Plan and the outcomes / recommendations of the revised Habitat Regulation Assessment following the completion of additional evidence, including a main modification of the Local Plan to remove a strategic site allocation.
1.3	What are the key outcomes?
	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. Following additional HRA work and consultation with Natural England we consider that a main modification to the Plan is required for the plan to remain sound and satisfy the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 ("The Habitat Regulations").

Section 2: Evidence

2.1	<p>What data / evidence is available to understand the likely impacts of the proposal? (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics)</p> <p>The Local Plan is underpinned by a diverse and comprehensive evidence base, which was submitted alongside the plan for examination. This report includes an update to the Housing Needs Assessment for York (2019) following the release of new data and a revised Habitat Regulation Assessment (2019) (HRA) following correspondence from Natural England and the commissioning of new evidence. Annexes to the HRA include the visitor surveys commissioned for Strensall Common SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Skiptwith Common SAC.</p>
2.2	<p>What public / stakeholder consultation has been used to support this proposal?</p> <p>The Local Plan process has been subject to several consultations, the latest of which was the Publication (Regulation 19) Consultation which took place between February-April 2018. The outcomes of this consultation were submitted alongside the Local Plan in May 2018 for consideration by the appointed Planning Inspectors. Public hearings on matters set out by the Inspectors will be held in due course. Further consultation on any modifications to the Local Plan made as a result of the Examination will be undertaken in due course.</p>
2.3	<p>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?)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared in accordance with the submitted Local Plan and are subject to their own consultation procedures under the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations. Changes to the plan may impact on the preparation of or influence the content of emerging Neighbourhood Plans across the authority.</p>

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	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 Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	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 Help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented	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 Improve the physical health or emotional wellbeing of staff or residents?	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 2017 update. Providing homes to meet the needs of people will also have a positive impact on people's well being.
3.5 Help reduce health inequalities?	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 Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Neutral	The Local Plan encourages healthy lifestyles through the safeguarding and provision 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.

3.7	Reduce crime or fear of crime?	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).
3.8	Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	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.

Local Plan update and revised Habitat Regulation Assessment

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.9	Help improve community cohesion	Neutral	Community cohesion and the development of strong, supportive and durable communities is promoted through the creation of sustainable, low carbon neighbourhoods.
3.10	Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	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	Improve the cultural offerings of York?	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.
3.12	Encourage residents to be more socially responsible	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)

Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water

		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?	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.
3.14	Minimise the amount of water we use or reduce the amount of water we will use/pay for in the future?	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.
3.15	Provide opportunities to generate energy from renewable / low carbon technologies	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.

Zero Waste

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
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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 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.
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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 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.
3.18	Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	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.

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?	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.

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	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?	Positive	<p>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.</p> <p>The updated Habitat Regulation Assessment (2019) identifies that currently the Local Plan includes two allocations which may have adverse impacts on the integrity of Strensall Common SAC and recommends their removal from the Local Plan. This main modification is proposed in the office report to ensure that no significant adverse effects on Nature Conservation sites occur as a result of the Local Plan.</p>

3.22	Improve the quality of the built environment?	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 (2017).
3.23	Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	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	Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	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. This is supported by the open space study (2014, updated 2017) and the Green Infrastructure policies set out in the Local Plan.

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
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 (2019) 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 (2019) 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	25th February 2019	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 (2019) provide relevant evidence for this, including the need for affordable housing.	Comfortable standard of living

4.12	Veterans, Armed forces community	neutral	The Local Plan and supporting evidence considered 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. However, this officer report seeks to remove ST35: Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall and H59: Howard Road, Strensall as allocations from the Plan following updated Habitat regulation Assessment and identification of potential adverse effects on the integrity of Strensall Common.	n/a
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Local Plan update and revised Habitat Regulation Assessment

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 subject 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
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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.

	<p>Taking into consideration your responses about <u>all of the impacts</u> of the project in its <u>current form</u>, what would you consider the overall impact to be on creating a fair, healthy, sustainable and resilient city?</p>
5.1	<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. The modification proposed by the Officer report following updated Hbaitat Regualtion Assessment avoids adverse impacts on nature conservation adding to the resilience of our green infrastructure network.</p>

	<p>What could be changed to improve the impact of the proposal on the <u>One Planet principles</u>? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)</p>
5.2	<p>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. The modification proposed by the Officer report following updated Hbaitat Regualtion Assessment avoids adverse impacts on nature conservation adding to the resilience of our green infrastructure network.</p>

	<p>What could be changed to improve the impact of the proposal on <u>equalities and human rights</u>? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)</p>
5.3	<p>No mixed or negative impacts on equality and human rights are considered likely.</p>

Section 6: Planning for Improvement

	<p>What further evidence or consultation is needed to fully understand its impact? (e.g. consultation with specific communities of identity, additional data)</p>
6.1	<p>Members will use the recommendations to decide the future approach for the Local Plan which will then be submitted to the appointed Planning Inspectors for their consideration. Public hearings on matters set out by the Inspectors will be held in due course. Further consultation on any modifications to the Local Plan made as a result of the Examination will be undertaken in due course.</p>

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**

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. Following additional HRA work and consultation with Natural England we consider that a main modification to the Plan is required for the plan to remain sound and satisfy the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 ("The Habitat Regulations").

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>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?</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>What changes have you made to your proposal to increase positive impacts?</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>What changes have you made to your proposal to reduce negative impacts?</p> <p>No negative impacts anticipated.</p>
1.4	<p>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?</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>Any further comments?</p>