

The 'Better Decision Making' tool has been designed to help you consider the impact of your proposal on the health and wellbeing of communities, the environment, and local economy. It draws upon the priorities set out in our Council Plan and will help us to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services by considering the equalities and human rights implications of the decisions we make. The purpose of this tool is to avoid decisions being made in isolation, and to encourage evidence-based decision making that carefully balances social, economic and environmental factors, helping us to become a more responsive and resilient organisation.

The Better Decision Making tool should be used when proposing new projects, services, policies or strategies, or significant amendments to them. The tool should be completed at the earliest opportunity, ideally when you are just beginning to develop a proposal. However, it can be completed at any stage of the decision-making process. If the tool is completed just prior to the Executive, it can still help to guide future courses of action as the proposal is implemented.

The Better Decision Making tool must be attached as an annex to Executive reports. A brief summary of your findings should be reported in the One Planet Council / Equalities section of the report itself.

Guidance to help you complete the assessment can be obtained by hovering over the relevant question.

Please complete all fields. If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Introduction

Service submitting the proposal:	Housing
Name of person completing the assessment:	Michael Jones
Job title:	Assistant Director of Housing and Community Safety
Directorate:	Economy and Place
Date Completed:	4th December 2020
Date Approved (form to be checked by head of service):	4th December 2020

Section 1: What is the proposal?

1.1	Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed? Energy retrofit works for both council houses and those in private ownership
1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal? To improve the energy performance of council homes to help the city meet its 2030 carbon neutral target and to reduce incidences of fuel poverty. Proposal includes three options, with the favoured approach to deliver energy efficiency works starting in summer 2021 with a long term strategy to be developed alongside this. This includes consideration of funding routes, skills and training and the supply chain.
1.3	What are the key outcomes? Improve the energy performance of the poorest performing council houses through works during 2021. Develop a roadmap and strategy to carbon neutrality in the residential sector by 2030.

Section 2: Evidence

2.1	What data / evidence is available to support the proposal and understand its likely impact? (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics) Stock condition surveys of council houses and EPC ratings for the city's housing stock.
2.2	What public / stakeholder consultation has been undertaken and what were the findings? As part of the production of this report and its recommendations, there has been discussion with the Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods scrutiny panel, CYC Climate Change Delivery Group, The Low Carbon Officer for York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, WYCA, Turner and Townsend lead for the Accelerator programme, CYC's Better Homes contractor, Housing Standards team, and the Home Energy Programme Manager.

	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?)
2.3	There is the potential to include insulation works alongside other planned maintenance programmes such as Tenants Choice, Roofing Programmes, and Windows programmes.



Section 3: Impact on One Planet principles

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on residents or staff.
This section relates to the impact of your proposal on the ten 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	Green supply chain and contractor opportunities
3.2	Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	Positive	The need to upskill the workforce is integral to delivering the carbon savings needed in our housing stock. This would be realised through the development of a long term retrofit strategy, providing confidence
3.3	Help improve the lives of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups?	Positive	Reduce costs and improve the living environment for many vulnerable residents who also live in fuel poverty

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 residents or staff?	Positive	Cold homes are known to affect and exacerbate a range of health problems including respiratory problems, circulatory problems and increased risk of poor mental health. Nationally, estimates suggest that
3.5	Help reduce health inequalities?	Positive	The retrofit works will include houses currently in fuel poverty, helping to address health inequality by reducing the costs of providing a warm and healthy home
3.6	Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Neutral	
3.7	Reduce crime or fear of crime?	Neutral	
3.8	Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	Positive	A warmer home contributes to a more comfortable space to do school work - damp and mould contributes to illness and school absence

Culture & Community

	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.9	Help bring communities together?	Neutral	
3.10	Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	Neutral	
3.11	Improve the cultural offerings of York?	Neutral	
3.12	Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?	Positive	Residents will be able to heat their homes so that they are warm and comfortable whilst reducing their impact on climate change. The programme will enable knowledge sharing

Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
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3.13	Minimise the amount of energy we use and / or reduce the amount of energy we pay for? E.g. through the use of low or zero carbon sources of energy?	Positive	The proposals will reduce energy usage and energy costs for our residents
3.14	Minimise the amount of water we use and/or reduce the amount of water we pay for?	Neutral	

Zero Waste

3.15	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
	Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?	Neutral	

Sustainable Transport

3.16	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
	Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?	Neutral	
3.17	Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	Positive	The proposals will reduce the amount of fossil fuels burnt in the city, thus improving air quality for residents

Sustainable Materials

3.18	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
	Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?	Neutral	

Local and Sustainable Food

3.19	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
	Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?	Neutral	

Land Use and Wildlife

3.20	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
	Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?	Positive	The retrofit works will create long term carbon savings and a reduction in fossil fuel usage
	Improve the quality of the built environment?	Positive	Investing in council homes and facilitating investment in homes within the private sector will improve the overall quality of the built environment - creating greater resilience
	Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	Neutral	
3.22	Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	Neutral	

3.40

Additional space to comment on the impacts

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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?
4.1	Age	Positive Older residents are adversely affected by cold so warm energy efficient homes will provide significant benefit to our older residents
4.2	Disability	Neutral
4.3	Gender	Neutral
4.4	Gender Reassignment	Neutral
4.5	Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
4.6	Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral
4.7	Race	Neutral
4.8	Religion or belief	Neutral
4.9	Sexual orientation	Neutral
4.10	Carer	Positive Older residents are more adversely affected by cold and more likely to need a carer, warmer energy efficient homes will provide benefits to these residents
4.11	Lowest income groups	Positive Notable energy bill savings for all households who receive energy efficiency works, including low income council tenants
4.12	Veterans, Armed forces community	Neutral

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

4.20	Additional space to comment on the impacts

Section 5: Planning for Improvement

5.1	<p>What have you changed in order 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)</p> <p>Developed a preferred option that allows us to get going on retrofit works in 2021 whilst developing a long term strategy alongside this - utilising the learning from the first phase of works and taking advantage of grant funding opportunities</p>
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5.2	<p>What have you changed in order 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)</p>
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5.3	<p>Going forward, what further evidence or consultation is needed to ensure the proposal delivers its intended benefits? e.g. consultation with specific vulnerable groups, additional data)</p> <p>A key factor in ensuring the success of the programme will be establishing support from our residents whose homes will receive energy improvement works. Some of these works can be disruptive and as such we will be engaging closely with our residents. We will help residents understand the long term benefits of the work, both in terms of energy savings and environmental impact whilst making it clear what this will mean in the short term in respect of what and how the works will be carried out.</p>
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5.4	<p>Please record any outstanding actions needed to maximise benefits or minimise negative impacts in relation to this proposal? (Expand / insert more rows if needed)</p>
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Action

Person(s)	Due date

In the One Planet / Equalities section of your Executive report, please briefly summarise the changes you have made (or intend to make) in order to improve the social, economic and environmental impact of your proposal.