

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:	Regeneration and Major Projects
Name of person completing the assessment:	Lucy Atkinson
Job title:	Sustainability Project Manager
Directorate:	Economy and Place
Date Completed:	09/06/20
Date Approved (form to be checked by head of service):	Andy Kerr 15/6/20

Section 1: What is the proposal?

1.1	Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed? Economic recovery strategy (COVID-19): Transport and Place - Priority Implementation Measures
1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal? An economic recovery plan is being prepared in response to the covid 19 pandemic, comprised of three strands - 1 Business Support, 2 Transport & Place, 3 Skills & Training. Part of the second stream 'transport and place' has been accelerated to support the reopening of non essential retail from 15th June 2020, and in the context of social distancing and health and safety requirements. The main aims of the priority proposal are:
1.3	What are the key outcomes? Key outcomes include: - pedestrians enabled to safely move through York's streets whilst maintaining social distancing measures. - implemented measures enable safe reopening of York for non-essential retail, in line with government advice. - measures allow for businesses to reopen safely, reducing long-term economic impacts on businesses in the city centre.

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) Current government guidance around social distancing, and positive health/ pandemic management impacts is widely available, and updated regularly. The UK is currently being managed daily through an alert management system, in order to balance the social and economic impacts of the approach with health/ pandemic management imperatives
2.2	What public / stakeholder consultation has been undertaken and what were the findings? The priority measures have been developed at pace in response to an imminent reopening of the City Centre and retail, with the ability to consult constrained by this. The emerging proposals were publicised through press communications, and direct dialogues established with individuals and organisations as a consequence. In addition a bespoke workshop was held with an extended 'My City Centre Stakeholder Group' with representatives from business sectors, police, city stakeholders. community safety, CVS, BID, Make it York and

	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	Parking measures within the city centre. The impacts of this initiative are considered within this assessment.



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	The proposals will enable the safe reopening of businesses in York city centre. There may be mixed impact on businesses depending on the type of street they are located on and social distancing measures
3.2 Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	Neutral	As the proposals relate to reopening of existing businesses within the city centre, it is unlikely that proposals will result in additional employment or training opportunities. Though they will allow the
3.3 Help improve the lives of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups?	Mixed	Whilst the proposals as a whole are designed to support the economic robustness and social function of the City Centre- optimising benefits to all, changes to street access in terms of managing pedestrian circulation, could negatively impact on those with

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	The proposed measures are likely to have a positive impact on emotional wellbeing of residents and visitors to the city centre. For example, -> enabling adherence of social distancing which will
3.5 Help reduce health inequalities?	Positive	These measures will allow most individuals to move safely around the city centre, enabling access to public spaces whilst managing the pandemic and its health impacts
3.6 Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Positive	Measures enable individuals to take responsibility for their own health (and that of others) by adhering to social distancing measures, reinforced by appropriate signage from the local authority
3.7 Reduce crime or fear of crime?	Neutral	Proposals do not specifically address crime or fear of crime, though reopening the City Centre safely will repopulate these areas, improving natural surveillance.
3.8 Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	Neutral	Proposals do not specifically target children or young people.

Culture & Community

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.9 Help bring communities together?	Neutral	The proposal will allow the reopening of the city centre area; markets, shops, services and public spaces. This may help to bring the local community together in terms of being able to support city centre businesses
3.10 Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	Mixed	Reopening the city centre will allow businesses to reopen, which is likely to improve access to services for many residents. Displacement of parking for blue-badge holders may
3.11 Improve the cultural offerings of York?	Positive	Alternative uses of public spaces, such as Castle Car park, may provide opportunities to expand York's cultural offerings given the lockdown measures, whilst ensuring the safety of residents and visitors
3.12 Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?	Unsure	Proposals are not expected to impact on residents social responsibility.

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?	Mixed	Parking proposals (through displacement of blue badge holders to Monk Bar) will lead to an additional taxi shuttle service from Monk Bar car park into the city centre. This would use additional energy, though depending on journey of blue badge holders, may lead to reduced travel for individual vehicles.
3.14	Minimise the amount of water we use and/or reduce the amount of water we pay for?	Neutral	These proposals have no direct impact on water use.

Zero Waste

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.15	Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?	Unsure	Signage produced may create waste, especially if guidelines change and signage needs to be updated. Signage has been designed to minimise this

Sustainable Transport

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.16	Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?	Positive	Extension of the footstreets is likely to affect how people travel to the city centre positively and the priority measures are aligned with a broader transport and place strategy designed to lock in sustainable transport benefits accruing over the COVID lockdown.
3.17	Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	Positive	Extending footstreets will likely have a positive impact on local air quality to those streets, as restricting traffic movement within the city centre. Enabling a greater area of the city centre to be opened for pedestrian

Sustainable Materials

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.18	Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?	Negative	Signage will not be able to be reused or recycled, though is small scale in terms of consumption

Local and Sustainable Food

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.19	Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?	Positive	The safe commercial reopening of the centre will support those local and sustainable food initiatives which form part of the centres overall commercial makeup

Land Use and Wildlife

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.20	Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?	Mixed	As previously stated, likely to have a positive impact on local air quality due to extension of footstreets. Re-opening of the city centre businesses may encourage more people to travel to the city centre.
3.21	Improve the quality of the built environment?	Mixed	Proposed new signage and social distancing measures are likely to have a minor and temporary negative impact on the quality of the built environment. Signage may clutter streets and restricted pedestrian
3.22	Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	Mixed	Proposed new signage and social distancing measures are likely to negatively impact on the character and setting of York due to signage cluttering streets this is likely to be a minor and temporary impact. Reopening
3.23	Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	Positive	Enables safe reopening of York city centre and associated public spaces for residents to enjoy (e.g. Museum Gardens).

3.40	Additional space to comment on the impacts		
There are a number of negative or mixed impacts outlined within this assessment. These measures should be considered within the broader context of national legislation around enabling the opening of non-essential retail whilst ensuring public safety through social distancing measures.			



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	Mixed	The proposals may negatively impact on the elderly. The elderly have a greater likelihood of physical mobility issues, therefore one-way systems and limits to pedestrian travel around the city centre may impact on their ability to move around. These
4.2	Disability	Negative	Reallocation of blue badge holders to Monks Bar car park will likely extend distance for these users to city centre services. Provision of a mobility taxi shuttle will provide some mitigation for this.
4.3	Gender	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact.
4.4	Gender Reassignment	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact
4.5	Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact
4.6	Pregnancy and maternity	Mixed	Similarly to the elderly, pregnant women may have limited mobility, therefore rearrangement of footstreets may cause additional difficulties in accessing shops and services due to one-way system along certain streets. This is however limited to just
4.7	Race	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact
4.8	Religion or belief	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact
4.9	Sexual orientation	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact
4.10	Carer	Negative	Proposals may negatively impact on carers. Those caring for blue badge holders may find additional difficulty in having to park further from the city centre, and being able to safely walk from Monk Bar car park to the city centre. Provision of a bus service
4.11	Lowest income groups	Positive	Those on low incomes may benefit from the reopening of free public space, such as Museum Gardens, deriving both physical and mental health benefits from green space.
4.12	Veterans, Armed forces community	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to have an impact.

Human Rights

Consider how a human rights approach is evident in the proposal

	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
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4.13	Right to education	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to impact.
4.14	Right not to be subjected to torture, degrading treatment or punishment	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to impact.
4.15	Right to a fair and public hearing	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to impact.
4.16	Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to impact.
4.17	Freedom of expression	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to impact.
4.18	Right not to be subject to discrimination	Neutral	Proposals are not expected to impact.
4.19	Other Rights	Neutral	These proposals impact on the ability of people to move freely around the city centre. However this is required to ensure social distancing can be maintained.

4.20	Additional space to comment on the impacts		
<p>In all cases, appropriate social distancing measures implemented are likely to have a positive impact on the overall health of the population by enabling people to adhere to social distancing, and therefore reducing the potential to spread / exposure to COVID-19.</p>			





Section 5: Planning for Improvement

5.1	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)
	The proposal considers the safety of residents and visitors to the city centre given the current social distancing measures. The proposal set out enables changes to be made and adaptations to take place in the city centre as any changes to social distancing measures are made.

5.2	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)
	The proposal has identified the potential negative impact to a number of groups. Continued engagement with representatives (such as charities) will ensure that proposals minimise the impact on these groups. The design of signage and circulation systems has been undertaken with a view to minimising negative impacts.

5.3	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)
	Continued engagement with businesses to ensure they are able to open and work within the measures outlined.

5.4	Please record any outstanding actions needed to maximise benefits or minimise negative impacts in relation to this proposal? (Expand / insert more rows if needed)
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Action	Person(s)	Due date
Ongoing Business Community Engagement	Andy Kerr/Gareth Wilce	Ongoing
Ongoing consultation and liaison with communities of interest	Andy Kerr/Gareth Wilce	Ongoing
Ongoing liason with blue badge holders	Graham Titchener	Ongoing
Continuous review of the impact of highway measures, changes to government guidance, and compliance with	Tony Clarke	Ongoing

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.