



Oxfordshire County Council
Equality and Climate Impact Assessment

November 2021

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Environment & Place Directorate, Strategic Infrastructure and Planning
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	22/23 Budget Proposals - Environmental and Community bids Supporting the expansion in capacity to prepare for the Environment Bill.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The Environment Bill, currently before parliament, is expected to bring new duties on local authorities. At present the Council does not have the resources to meet these new duties. This service change is to provide additional capacity to meet the new biodiversity duties. Other duties within the Environment Bill may affect other service areas and are not represented here. In summary the change is to provide additional ecological capacity within the service that will allow Council officers to engage with the new duties. There may also be a requirement to support third sector groups in helping deliver these new duties and support the provision of relevant environmental data.</p> <p>The primary legislation has yet to be passed and the specific inputs of the Council in this respect are not yet clear.</p> <p>It is likely that the extent of the new duties will not be fully covered by this new proposal. This should therefore be regarded as a preliminary input to help the Council understand what further inputs are required.</p>
Completed By	Nick Mottram
Authorised By	Rachel Wileman
Date of Assessment	8 th November 2021

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The background will be the primary legislation that is expected to be approved by parliament under the Environment Bill. This brings significant new duties for local authorities and is likely to have particular implications for the Council should it agree to take on the role of Responsible Authority for biodiversity duties set out in the Bill.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>This is a preliminary assessment that will provide additional capacity to allow engagement with the biodiversity requirements of the Environment Bill.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Bill legislation currently before parliament. • Stakeholder discussions and DEFRA briefings on elements of the Bill, notably Nature Recovery Strategies

<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>This is likely to be a new statutory duty, and this is a preliminary stage to allow further engagement with issues arising.</p>
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Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Other Council Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The provision of additional support will help the Council maintain the level of service to existing statutory and operational areas whilst investigating the impact of the new duties.	N/A	This will be captured in service level KPIs where applicable.
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Social Value ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive benefit on social, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities across Oxfordshire.	N/A	This will be captured in service level KPIs where applicable

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Climate Change Impacts

OCC aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Energy use in our buildings or highways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Our fleet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Staff travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Purchased services and products (including construction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Maintained schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

We are also committed to enable Oxfordshire to become carbon neutral by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elements of the Environment Bill are expected to be carbon positive. Provision of additional support will allow more effective Council engagement with the measures that flow from the Bill.	N/A	This will be captured in service level KPIs where applicable

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	Following publication of the primary legislation.
Person Responsible for Review	Director, Environment and Place, and delegated officers
Authorised By	Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy