

<b><u>Project Title:</u> Our Future City Central Birmingham Framework 2045</b>				
<b><u>Department:</u> Place, Prosperity and Sustainability</b>	<b><u>Team:</u> City Centre Development Team</b>		<b><u>Person Responsible for assessment:</u> Matthew Pullan</b>	
<b>Date of assessment: March 2024</b>		<b>Is it a new or existing proposal? New</b>		
<b>Brief description of the proposal:</b> ‘Our Future City Central Birmingham Framework 2045’ is a non-statutory development growth framework for the city centre and the central neighbourhoods of Birmingham. It sets out the Council’s vision and aspiration for growth within the area up to the year 2045. Following its publication it will help inform the city’s growth strategy in the forthcoming Birmingham Local Plan, which will be subject to an SA process.				
<b>Potential impacts of the policy/development decision/procedure/ on:</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>	<b>No Specific Impact</b>	<b>What will the impact be? If the impact is negative, how can it be mitigated, what action will be taken?</b>
Natural Resources- Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air	✓			<p>The Framework will have a positive impact upon natural resources.</p> <p>Improving the city’s natural environment and reducing the impact of development growth upon the city’s natural resources is a key theme within the Framework and is embedded within the plan’s vision statement and guiding principles.</p> <p>Specific interventions in the Framework which seek to positively impact upon the city’s natural resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding and enhancing the green infrastructure network across the central area, increasing tree canopy cover and supporting vulnerable species of wildlife and their movements across the city.</li> <li>• Expanding the network of active travel (pedestrian and cycling) based routes across the central area, making these forms of clean transportation more attractive to people.</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting ‘car free’ development opportunities in appropriate locations across the central area</li> <li>• Reallocating road and highways space to greenery and planting, supporting wildlife and enabling the creation of habitats.</li> <li>• Restoring and widening natural watercourses (e.g. River Rea through Digbeth and Highgate)</li> <li>• Support the shift towards a carbon neutral public transportation network</li> <li>• Create developments and public spaces which are resilient to extreme weather events such as flooding and heatwaves</li> </ul>
Energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	✓			<p>The Framework will have a positive impact upon energy use and helping to reduce carbon emissions. The Framework encourages the prioritisation of nature based solutions to support socio-economic outcomes including improving people’s health and wellbeing, reduced energy costs, improved drainage and water quality, and removing pollutants from the atmosphere.</p> <p>The Framework identifies major development opportunities on previously developed land and on the site of existing buildings. In delivering growth ambitions, the reuse of land and existing buildings will be encouraged wherever possible, thus minimalising emissions generated through construction. However, due to the levels of growth required for Birmingham’s central areas, it is likely that there will be demolition of existing buildings in order to bring forward viable development projects. The Framework encourages utilising modern construction methods for new development, including the need to offset carbon emissions throughout the construction process. The Framework also encourages development projects to follow principles of the ‘circular</p>

				<p>economy' which aims to minimise or eliminate unnecessary waste production from industrial processes</p> <p>New buildings will be required to save on their energy use and utilise renewable sources of energy for power generation which will help them maintain low levels of emissions.</p> <p>Other interventions in the Framework which seek to impact positively upon energy use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding and enhancing the green infrastructure network</li> <li>• Expanding the network of dedicated active travel (pedestrian and cycling) routes across the central area</li> <li>• Supporting the shift towards a carbon neutral public transportation network</li> <li>• Supporting green economic growth and the transition towards a carbon neutral/green economy.</li> </ul>
Quality of environment	✓			<p>The Framework will have a positive impact upon the quality of the environment. At its heart, the Framework's vision promotes a placemaking strategy for the central areas, through the identification of major development opportunities that will rejuvenate deprived parts of the central area into clean, green, lively and prosperous places. This placemaking strategy is supported by wider objectives such as improving connectivity in and around the central area, expanding the green infrastructure network (with an emphasis on enhancing existing natural assets), protecting and enhancing the historic and cultural environment, adapting to the changing climate, and contributing towards a transition to carbon neutrality.</p>

<p>Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>The Framework will have a positive impact upon local green spaces, open spaces, and biodiversity.</p> <p>‘City of Nature’ is a major theme within the Framework; key principles of this theme include creating a multi-purpose network of green spaces which meet the needs of communities, encouraging community interaction with nature, delivering biodiverse environments which protect and enhance existing habitats and protect vulnerable species, and restore urban waterways for ecological and recreational purposes.</p> <p>A major part of this strategy is to increase the number of green spaces within designated ‘growth zones’ which will be the focus for delivering the city’s development growth needs, and alongside this will be new greenery, green transport routes, open amenity space (both public and private), protection and enhancement of existing wildlife corridors, and tree planting. This seeks to have a significant impact upon the city’s green infrastructure networks and the ability for local communities to access it.</p> <p>The Framework contains a major proposal across its plan area called ‘Greenways’ which seeks to re-allocate road space along major transport corridors to green infrastructure at a variety of scales. The greenways will have positive impacts upon local green/open space provision for communities who reside along or close to these routes, as well as the local ecology along these routes, creating new opportunities for biodiversity creation.</p>
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Use of sustainable products and equipment	✓			The Framework encourages new developments within the central areas to utilise modern methods of construction techniques and sustainable building materials, including recycled building materials in particular for projects which involve the demolition of buildings.
Minimising waste	✓			Whilst the Framework does not specifically set out objectives on how waste generation will be minimised across the central area, a number of proposals and objectives within the plan have the potential to help reduce waste more generally; such proposals include promoting major development opportunity sites containing existing buildings which can be re-used/converted or put back into active use, and encouraging the use of recycled building materials for development projects which involve the demolition of buildings.
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	✓			The Framework supports the Council’s commitment in tackling climate change. This is reflected in the Framework’s vision, its key principles and the proposals contained within the plan. The Framework sets out an overarching strategy to create greener, healthier and more affordable communities in the central areas of Birmingham, and this approach will be taken forward for the Birmingham Local Plan.
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	The Our Future City Central Birmingham Framework 2045 will have an overall positive impact upon the environment and sustainability of the neighbourhoods within the plan boundary. Tackling and adapting to climate change and enhancing the natural environment is central to the vision of the Framework and is reflected in its guiding principles and proposals, providing practical and deliverable objectives that will help achieve this ambition.			

If you require assistance in completing this assessment, then please contact: [ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk)