

Stockport Council - Corporate Leaders Team Reports

Environmental Impact Assessment

The purpose of completing this section is to help identify, forecast and understand any environmental impacts/consequences of your proposal at an early stage so necessary mitigations can be considered. For construction projects full EIAs are required. Please see below the table for guidance on completion.

Summary

The environmental impacts of the Economic Plan are anticipated to be positive overall, beneficially affecting the borough as a whole. The Economic Plan interfaces with the Climate Action Now strategy. 'Climate friendly and resilient' has been identified as pillar 3 within the Economic Plan, positioning climate actions, mitigation, and education as integral to economic development and regeneration in Stockport.

Climate Action Now is woven throughout the Economic Plan, with particular priorities and actions identified in the 'Climate Friendly & Resilient' section. Key areas identified are: the growth of green jobs, a need to decarbonise Stockport's office stock and industrial sites, and a need to reduce congestion, enable active travel and improve public transport.

The Economic Plan highlights the urgent need to stay within Stockport's cumulative carbon budget of 7.7 million tonnes up to 2100, which at 2017 emission levels will be spent by 2027 (pages 11 and 28). Green growth, green jobs including in low carbon and digital industries, low carbon infrastructure such as increased renewable energy capacity, and zero carbon and carbon conscious regeneration and construction in the borough will all play a significant role in operating within Stockport's carbon budget.

Criteria	Beneficial Impact		No Impact	Adverse Impact		Cause & Mitigation
	Extent	Term SL/RI		Extent	Term SL / RI	
Nature loss of habitats & species, topography changes			X			The Economic Plan supports the CAN strategy in general. However, no aspects of the plan directly impact on Nature within the borough.
Water Potential for Pollution, flood, drainage, use			X			The Economic Plan supports the CAN strategy in general. However, no aspects of the plan directly impact on Water within the borough.
Air Quality, emissions	B	L/I				The Economic Plan highlights the urgent need to stay within Stockport's total carbon budget of 7.7 million tonnes up to 2100,

	B	L / I				<p>which at 2017 emission levels will be spent by 2027.</p> <p>Priority 5 within Pillar 2 is to 'support Stockport's growing low carbon sector and digital sectors' (page 25) which may have a positive impact on cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from economic activity in Stockport and may have a positive impact of increasing total renewable energy capacity.</p>
Transport Method, fuel type and use, staff travel, supplier miles	B	L / I				<p>The Economic Plan highlights congestion as an issue in Stockport and identifies actions to increase active travel, improve access to public transport, improve commuter experiences, support the SEMMS and other GM strategies.</p> <p>Within Pillar 3, 'Climate Friendly & Resilient', and Pillar 4, "Accessible and Connected", a priority to 'increase active travel and improve air quality by reducing Stockport's car dependency' is identified (page 30) which would have an anticipated positive impact on levels of GHG emissions from transport. Actions to support this are identified as continuing to create active travel infrastructure, Bee Network, the GM Clean Air Plan, electric buses and expansion of Electric Vehicles Network.</p> <p>Within Pillar 4, 'Accessible and Connected' actions to increase access to public transport, address issues with commuting experiences and the accessibility of public transport are identified (page 39) which would have an anticipated positive impact on levels of GHG emissions from transport by reducing some vehicle miles.</p>

Local Resources Energy, materials, paper, electricity, buildings, local sourcing	B	L / I				<p>The Economic Plan identifies an opportunity and need to support the growth of ‘green jobs’ in Stockport to ensure sustainable growth.</p> <p>Priority 5 within Pillar 2 is to ‘support Stockport’s growing low carbon sector and digital sectors’ (page 25) which may have a positive impact of increasing total renewable energy capacity.</p> <p>Within Pillar 2, ‘Enterprising and Productive’, a need to address the quality of office stock and create modern, high quality industrial sites is identified. Please note, full EIAs will continue to be completed for all construction projects as standard.</p> <p>Within Pillar 3, ‘Climate Friendly & Resilient’, a priority to ‘green Stockport’s existing assets and housing stock to lead the change we expect to see of others’ is identified (page 30). ‘Greening’ (decarbonising) residential and commercial buildings will have the anticipated impact of reducing energy use and therefore lowering GHG emissions.</p>
Waste Increase, Disposal, Recycling, non-reusable materials. Does it follow the waste hierarchy: reduce, re-use, recycle	B	S / R				<p>The Economic Plan supports the CAN strategy in general. No aspects of the plan directly impact on Waste within the borough. However, the priority for creating ‘green jobs’ and fostering ‘low carbon and digital industries’ may have a positive impact on the overall quantity of waste from economic activity and processing of waste in the borough.</p>

KEY	
Extent	Term

National	N	Short	S
Regional	R	Long	L
Borough	B	Reversible	R
Local	L	Irreversible	I

Guidance on Completing the EIA Table:

Consider the likely impacts that your activity being reported on could have for each of the criteria. Using the key provided, complete each of the columns as required for beneficial, adverse or no impact outcomes. When doing this take account of the extent of the beneficial or adverse impacts – will it benefit or adversely affect only local areas (e.g. streets, post code areas, wards) or will it affect wider geographies? If there is an impact, will it be short term (days, weeks or a month) or longer term (months, years, decades, etc.) and could the impact be reversed or mitigated? Use the final column to explain the causes and likely mitigation of impacts that could affect reversibility etc. Remember to capture beneficial impacts as well as negative ones since this can help clarify how adverse impacts can be better avoided or managed.

If you feel that you don't have enough knowledge of the criteria to assess impacts to enable you to respond, then consider using an internet search engine to research the terms next to each criteria in the table below to find out more about possible impacts and benefits.

Criteria	Searchable Terms
Nature loss of habitats & species, topography changes	Natural capital; biodiversity net gain; planting native plants / trees; providing space and corridors for plants, insects and animals; pollinators; water features; tree shade; low maintenance native trees & shrubs.
Water Potential for Pollution, flood, drainage, use	Water UK; permeable paving; sustainable drainage; water butts; water efficiency; greywater flushing; Refill.
Air Quality, emissions	Air quality; clean air zones; public transport; active travel; planting to help air quality
Transport Method, fuel type and use, staff travel, supplier miles	Traffic emissions; traffic congestion; accessible routes; sustainable transport; shared vehicles; virtual meetings; home working; electric vehicles; sustainable paving; travel plan; solar car ports
Local Resources Energy, materials, paper, electricity, buildings, local sourcing	Green suppliers and technologies; renewable energy; energy efficiency; sustainable procurement; local economy; food miles; economies of scale; Social Enterprises; procurement policy
Waste Increase, Disposal, Recycling, non reusable materials. Does it follow the waste hierarchy: reduce, re-use, recycle	Waste hierarchy; circular economy; sustainable procurement; recycled goods; Plastics Pact.

For general queries on EIAs please contact the Climate Action Now team: stockportcan@stockport.gov.uk

Remember that the Council's Climate Action Now Strategy has the following aim:

'We will incorporate climate impact assessment into everything we do by incorporating it into decision making, report templates and all key strategies'

www.stockport.gov.uk/can-climate-strategy-stockport/can-overview