

Sustainability Impact Appraisal **A tool for Sunderland**

and sets out the economic, social and environmental objectives which are required to ensure Sunderland has a sustainable future.

to develop projects, services and business plans in a way that maximises the mutual benefit to all of the city's objectives, helping the City work towards the goal of sustainable development

Definition of Sustainable Development

their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations. That goal will be pursued through a sustained, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use

Sunderland's sustainability challenges

outlined within the Local Area Agreement, which is updated every 3 years. It against these challenges that this Sustainability Impact Appraisal aims to score, and improve, projects or services. By using the LAA objectives, this approach provides a focussed, Sunderland-specific approach, addressing local issues in a better way that would be achieved through simply applying all Sunderland Strategy objectives, or by using more general objectives set by regional sustainability appraisals. Currently, among the key challenges outlined in the

Instructions

Sustainability Impact Filter. For projects or service under £150,000 it is assumed that sustainability impacts are not significant.

at key areas of your project or services, to identify whether potentially significant sustainability impacts might exist, and so benefit from a fuller Sustainability Impact Team, at sustainability@sunderland.gov.uk, to be checked, logged and held on file for auditing purposes.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO FILL IN THE FULL SIA WORKSHEET AT THIS STAGE.

significant, the Sustainability Team will contact you with some general guidance on project / service development, but you will not be required to carry out the more detailed Sustainability Impact Appraisal, although would be encouraged to do so independently.

Significant, the Sustainability Team will contact you to arrange for a more detailed Sustainability Impact Appraisal to be conducted. The results of this would be to first identify, and then jointly develop ways to mitigate, any potential negative impacts againsts any sustainability objectives for you to build into service or project plans.

Completing the Full Sustainability Impact Appraisal

the set list of topic areas given. The topic areas are distilled from the key objectives contained in Sunderland's Local Area Agreement, with some additional issues to consider around environmental impacts. For each area think about what impact your project could

Score the perceived impact that your project in 'Impact Score of Project Outcomes' using

Use the 'Evidence' section to provide evidence of how the relative change in impact will occur, this could be for example through a changed business processes, or through
Use the 'Action' section to identify any countermeasure(s) you would need to put in place if the impact is negative. This section can also be used to identify support for a neutral or the questions, with appraisers having an understanding of the process and of the project they are appraising. Where possible as much information should be gathered in advance of the appraisal to inform and guide decision making about the scoring of impacts. This could be in the form of the current environmental, social and economic baseline data, or an understanding of key issues in the area. Discussions around the topic areas will also help

Although it is unlikely that all areas of the assessment will apply to the impacts your project will have it is, however, important that each area is considered for the entire scope of the

Should a significant negative impact be identified for any area on the assessment, please contact the Sustainability Team on 0191 561 2434 for advice.

project Name:	Completed by:

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT FILTER - SCORECARD

This table assesses whether the project being developed/proposed potentially has significant sustainability impacts.

The full sustainability impact appraisal will identify where the project can be improved to address sustainability impacts.

Please enter the information required in the last column which most closely represents your project. Answer all applicable questions.

Cost	Description		
1	Total cost of the project	If the project cost is less than £150,000, you do not need to fill in this column. If ongoing commitment, enter annual costs. If a project, enter full zeros, e.g. 250,000 - do not enter abbreviations, e.g. 75K or 1.2M.	
Economy	Description	Insignificant (Score "0")	Moderate Significance (Score "1")
2	Will the project create employment in Sunderland directly (i.e. funding salaried posts), or indirectly (i.e. increasing demand for labour to provide services)	None expected	Some increased employment expected, up to 50 jobs
3	Are goods and services required available from Sunderland	No potential to use local suppliers of goods / services, which has been confirmed through local business searches	No searches carried out yet for possible local suppliers
Sustainability	Description	Sector	Details
4	The sectors listed opposite tend to have the largest economic, social and environmental impacts which can be influenced locally. Please indicate where the project will spend more than 10% of total budget on these areas (tick all that apply)	Construction	buildings, highways and local roads
		Health and Social Care	operating costs of hospitals, care homes, etc.
		Food and catering	Purchase and preparation of food and drink
		Energy and Fuel consumption	
		Waste disposal	
		Office equipment and furniture	Includes electrical office equipment
		Transport provision	Purchase, leasing, or other use of vehicles
Environment	Description		
5	Could the project potentially cause other environmental and social impacts. Mark any which apply.	Pollute air, soils or watercourses	From combustion, or use of gas
		Increase material consumption	Does the contract use large amounts of materials?
		Import goods from developing world	E.g. clothing, food and other domestic goods
		Create hazardous waste	E.g. chemicals, electrical items

TOTAL:	This represent a score which incorporates the cost of project multiplied by the sum of the impact:		
Significance threshold			
EVALUATION			

If the impact score is greater than 125 then the sustainability impacts are to be deemed 'Significant' and the Susta

Date:

cts, and therefore requires a full sustainability impact appraisal to be carried out by the Sustainability Team
 riorities as outlined by the Sunderland Strategy and Local Area Agreement

pplicable questions.

	Enter Project / service cost, £
this form. value. Enter amount with all	£270,000
Major Significance (Score "2")	2
Significant employment expected, over 50 jobs, either directly, or indirectly	2
Searches done, and several local suppliers exist	0
Waste	Enter 1 if applicable
roads, operations and maintenance	0
are homes, social care	0
ood	0
	0
	0
ment, ICT equipment	0
ce of any transport	0
Energy	Enter 1 if applicable
uses, chemicals or liquids	1
ounts of materials	1
veloping world goods	1
s, batteries, oils, fridges, inks	1

Only supply required are consultants at this stage and was European Level procurement so national.

Only indirectly - by setting a direction for more practical projects

s 2 - 5	324
	125
	SIGNIFICANT

ainability Team should be contacted to carry out a full Sustainability Impact Appraisal

Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) Tool

Project Name: Sunderland Economic Masterplan
Project Aim: The Economic Masterplan is a key strategic statement setting out the aims and objectives for the city economy over the next 15 years and how this will translate into spatial development priorities. The masterplan expresses the economic ambition for Sunderland to be ...'an entrepreneurial city at the heart of a low carbon regional economy'. The emphasis is on promoting sustainable economic growth which is driven by enhanced levels of indigenous enterprise, with a clear focus on a low carbon economy and an enhanced economic role for the city centre. The principles of the masterplan indicate strong sustainability credentials.

Lead Officer: Claire Rogers

Impact Score of project Outcomes	
++	Significant Positive Effect
+	Marginal Positive Effect
0	Neutral or No Effect
-	Marginal Negative Effect
--	Significant Negative Effect
?	Uncertainty Over Effect

Summary

The Economic Masterplan needs to ensure a balance between economic growth and the social and environmental impacts. The need for this balance is recognised but needs to be developed through the Delivery Plans, to determine how this will actually impact on the city. The key negative impacts that have been identified are around resource consumption, and CO2 emissions. Any increase in economic activity is likely to lead to a negative impact on these measures. We need to consider carefully the extent to which we can minimise and even reverse the environmental impact of economic growth.

Description	Impact Score of project Outcomes	Evidence (Detail how the change in impact will occur)	Action - change to project requirement (Identify any countermeasures)	Guidance notes
1. Supports a Prosperous City / Learning City: does the project				
1a. Stimulate economic growth in Sunderland (e.g. by using local suppliers, creating employment for Sunderland residents)?	++	The primary focus of the Economic Masterplan is to stimulate local economic growth by identifying the industry sectors that Sunderland should focus on to deliver the greatest economic benefit for the city. The clear focus on growing the indigenous enterprise base and maximising opportunities for local residents is a highly sustainable proposition for the city.		Think about how the project could impact on the mid to long term sustainable economic growth of Sunderland, how it can help Sunderland improve its productivity, improve levels of innovation, GVA, creativity and entrepreneurship, use local suppliers, create employment for Sunderland residents and increase the City's business birth and survival rates. Will there be opportunities to attract, support or develop green businesses, particularly in relation to recycling, energy generation and waste management?
1b. Close skills gaps and support those currently workless into employment in Sunderland?	+	The Masterplan includes the aim 'whole life inclusive city economy' which is about ensuring that there are jobs at a variety of skill levels that individuals can access, and about developing skills. This project will not look directly at the social aspects of worklessness but will influence other strategies and projects to tackle these issues. A skills strategy is proposed which will provide the framework for ensuring that local residents are offered every opportunity to engage in the new economic activities promoted by the Masterplan. The aim of the skills strategy will be to ensure that the city's workforce is equipped with the right skills to access employment opportunities, particularly in growth areas. Training providers and the business sector will need to work closely to respond to growth in key skill areas, attract and retain new talent, and encourage individuals to develop transferable skills.		Think about how the project could help develop and retain a highly and appropriately skilled population, raising individual aspirations and improving the region's demand for learning, embracing change, and gaining further skills. This might also include opportunities to provide training and awareness raising on key environmental issues and new environmental technologies to support the business sector and develop specialist 'low carbon' skills among the workforce.
2. Supports a Healthy City: does the project				
2a. Improve life expectancy of Sunderland residents to match the national average?	0	Not directly, although there are a number of areas of impact: - Improved quality of life through higher pay and improved working conditions - removing practical barriers to work and focusing on sustainable transport should offer more opportunities for cycling and walking - developing a business culture that embraces diversity in the workforce or promoting 'businesses' as champions for workforce diversity - focus on the healthcare sector as an industry sector of interest may mean improved provision in the city		Think about how your project could impact on the main life-limiting conditions in Sunderland – coronary heart disease, cancer and strokes – through providing services or supporting lifestyles that reduce these conditions.
2b. Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all residents?	+	Not directly, although there are a number of areas of impact: - Improved quality of life through higher pay and improved working conditions - Positive impact of employment on the health of residents who may have been out of work, and the subsequent effect that this would have on their family and household - Greater variety of job opportunities, increased job satisfaction and career progression routes		Think about how your project could encourage residents to participate in social networks. This might be through community groups, through work or via physical activities, all of which are known to improve personal well being and mental health. Also consider any potential impacts on personal stress or worry. Links to the Health Impact Assessment work should be referred to here, in particular the positive effect that employment has on people's health and well-being, as a direct result of a rise in per capita income.
2c. Support people to live independently?	0	Not covered		Think about how your project might help people live on their own, particularly people recovering from illness, mental health, and older persons wanting to remain at home. This could be through impacts on community care facilities or carers.
2d. Improve healthy lifestyles of residents, through exercise, and reducing both alcohol misuse and smoking?	0	Not directly, although there are a number of areas of impact: - Improved quality of life through higher pay and improved working conditions - focus on sustainable transport should offer more opportunities for cycling and walking - focus on the healthcare sector as an industry sector of interest may mean improved provision in the city		Think about how your project might impact diet and exercise of residents, which is behind growing health risks of obesity. And consider where the project might support efforts to reduce smoking and develop responsible alcohol consumption habits.

	Description	Impact Score of project Outcomes	Evidence (Detail how the change in impact will occur)	Action - change to project requirement (Identify any countermeasures)	Guidance notes
Sustainability Appraisal	3. Supports an Attractive and Inclusive City: does the project				
	3a. Improve housing locations, choice, energy efficiency and price in Sunderland?	+	The Masterplan does build in some of the results of the Strategic Housing Assessment. One of the aims of the strategy is to provide appropriate housing to encourage people to move to or stay in the city. The Masterplan makes it clear that the city housing strategy must complement economic objectives, particularly in improving the quality of place and strengthening the city's appeal to knowledge-based workers. The City Village concept is highly sustainable in terms of ensuring an effective link between housing regeneration and economic opportunity for city residents.		Think about how your project might influence the property market in Sunderland, along the entire housing supply chain – e.g. providing housing land, supporting skills/labour of housebuilders, improving housing quality and affordability. Sunderland particularly needs more affordable family homes, and executive housing for higher earners. Domestic properties account for x% of carbon emissions within the City. More innovation in 'whole-house' energy solutions is required to increase energy efficiency levels and meet city-wide carbon emission targets.
	3b(i). Support sustainable patterns of resource consumption and development?	-	By increasing economic activity, and pay and conditions of Sunderland residents, consumption of resources will increase in Sunderland. The challenge for the Economic Masterplan is to also develop residents and businesses behaviour, to encourage leaner, greener living and working. That said, the Masterplan recognises the potential inherent in the designation of Sunderland as a low carbon economic area, for Sunderland to contribute to sustainable consumption through involvement in the offshore wind industry and in the development of electric vehicles. The strategy also recognises that if Sunderland is going to be involved in these industries then it would also be beneficial for the city to be a showcase for sustainable development more generally, for example with City Centre developments, sustainable transport etc. However this ethos needs to be built into activities in a practical and thorough way to support sustainable consumption and development alongside the other intended outcomes of increasing economic development, business activity and personal wealth.		Think about how your project might influence business opportunities, customer awareness and behavioural change, particularly in terms of lifestyle habits, consumer choice, local/green purchasing, fuel poverty and social cohesion.
	3b(ii). Support sustainable use of land with minimum impact on the green belt?	-	The land use element of the Masterplan will be delivered through the Local Development Framework (LDF) preferred Option. This will establish whether or not specific areas of land will be released for employment purposes. The Economic Masterplan is likely to involve increased land use for employment purposes, and whilst a considerable portion is expected to be on existing sites, such as those in the city centre, there is potential for more land to be required, particularly to the West around Washington and potentially also into the Coalfields. The Masterplan promotes a sustainable sequence of new development with an emphasis first on the City Centre and the proposed Technopole around Nissan, and then extension of the City Centre offer to develop the waterfront as a key economic asset. The river corridor and port area contains a range of key brownfield sites which will be a focus for economic growth in preference to any major greenfield releases. These key sites and other development opportunities will be incorporated into a Low		Refer to the LDF, Core Strategy and Low Carbon Place Strategy, where appropriate.
	3b(iii). Support a reduction in Carbon emissions?	-	The Economic Masterplan is about increasing economic activity in Sunderland. This is intended to lead to more businesses, greater use of the City Centre, more people in employment, and more people living in Sunderland. All of this has the potential to increase carbon emissions through increased transport, increased use of heating and lighting, construction projects etc. Even increasing the use of sustainable transport such as electric vehicles, will not reduce carbon emissions unless a renewable energy source is used. The Masterplan does focus on the potential for Sunderland to be involved in generating renewable energy through Offshore Wind - however this will support a national reduction in carbon emissions which may not be felt locally.	a) How can we power electric vehicles, industrial units, public transport etc.. in such a way that they make efficient use of energy, and is their potential for them to directly use renewable energy sources? B) What environmental standards do we, or could we set for businesses that come here (Environmental Management Systems, adopting Carbon Trust Standard)? c) How can we set stricter standards for low carbon development, without deterring inward investment in	Think about how the project will generate carbon emission savings and thereby contribute to the City's targets of achievingby 2020. For more information on the carbon impact of each project please contact Kathryn Warrington in the Sustainability Team on 0191 561 2434.
3b(iv). Reduce waste produced and sent to Landfill?	?	This will depend on resource consumption as above. No activity is currently planned around disposal of waste.		Think about what material resources your project will consume – particularly energy, fuels and physical materials such as paper, construction materials, consumables, ICT equipment. Think about how to reduce their use, and how any waste created can be reduced, or recycled.	

	Description	Impact Score of project Outcomes	Evidence (Detail how the change in impact will occur)	Action - change to project requirement (Identify any countermeasures)	Guidance notes
	3c. Protect and enhance the natural and built environment in Sunderland?	+	The Masterplan recognises the value of Sunderland's natural environment from an economic perspective, in encouraging people to live in the city and businesses to locate here. The allocation of land for the Economic Masterplan will be managed through the LDF, however the Economic Masterplan is starting to suggest that there may be a requirement for further development south of Washington into the Coalfields to support manufacturing around the electric vehicles sector. The strategy is also suggesting the development of the city centre across the northern side of the river. At the moment it is not clear exactly what the land implications are and these need to be monitored on an ongoing basis. A prerequisite of development will be the requirement for a high quality built environment.		Think about what activities could potentially damage the local environment, through air, water or soil pollution or harm locally important habitats and wildlife, or impact on local cultural or environmental assets, such as the coast, the River Wear, or historic buildings and landmarks. Think of how the project could help to protect, preserve, and where possible enhance Sunderland's biodiversity, air, land, water and landscape.
	3d. Develop respect and trust between communities?	0	No direct action although potentially an indirect consequence of improved prosperity. The plan seeks to offer improved access to opportunity across the city. In this sense it will ensure that a more cohesive economy evolves with clear roles for all communities. Shared ownership of the major projects will be required to ensure that the overall City vision is realised and that prioritisation of projects can be made on the basis of economic impact for the city as a whole. This will require firm leadership and decision-making in the investment planning process.		Think about how your project might influence relationships between communities within Sunderland – will it introduce potential conflicts, or maybe create links between different sections of the community? Will the project increase the City's social capital and develop a larger and more diverse third sector?
	3e. Enable local people and groups to influence local projects	0	At the moment the strategy is at a city wide level, and local projects have not been defined. Consultation has begun with Community Spirit and the Independent Advisory Groups. The governance arrangements for the Masterplan will include mechanisms to ensure ongoing involvement of local communities. This will set out measures to ensure that local people can be involved in project delivery, particularly in programmes such as Green Infrastructure to support low carbon economic activities and projects associated with the City Village programme.		Think about how the general public will be involved in your project – through consultation on planning and delivery, and as a customer. Think about how local views can be incorporated into the projects, and fed back to demonstrate where influence was achieved.
	3f. Enhance the cultural and tourism offer within the City?	0	The Masterplan identifies City Centre Marketing and the Cultural and Creative strategy (events / festivals) as key components in shaping the cultural infrastructure of Sunderland and in increasing the number of visitors to the City. An increase in car journeys into the City and other trends will need to be carefully managed and monitored. Sustainable transport options will need to be considered for major capital projects. A full Transport Impact Assessment will be required in some cases.		
	4. Supports a Safe City: does the project				
	4a. Help residents be free from crime, harm and involvement in crime, and reduce their fear of crime?	0	No direct action although potentially an indirect consequence of improved prosperity.		Think about how your project might create opportunities for antisocial behaviour, crime or domestic violence, and how this can be designed out. Will the project reduce or increase the incidence or fear of crime? Does the project improve the natural or built environment while also having a positive impact on safety? Will the project lead to the displacement of crime or anti-social behaviour?
	5. Other environmental issues: does the project				
	5a. Meet environmental legislation?	0	This Economic Masterplan is not directly implementing changes on the ground. However, the ambitions under the low carbon economy objective seek to meet and where possible exceed the requirements under environmental legislation to enable the city to be promoted as a pioneering exemplar in sustainable, low carbon developments, including new commercial and residential buildings which will meet high BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes standards. The Delivery Plan for the Low Carbon Economy will set the course for this and will drive a highly sustainable outcome for the city.		Think about how any current or future environmental legislation could affect the project. For example, legislation exists to control the following: proper disposal of waste generated; hazardous waste; pollution of air, soil and water; noise pollution; protection of wildlife and their habitats. If projects do not manage these issues correctly, the Council could risk being prosecuted. A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required for major projects. For more information on legislative impacts, contact City Solicitors.
	5b. Limit local environmental pollution and hazards?	0	As above.		Think about how the project understands where materials capable of harming human health or polluting the environment may be used. Examples include heavy metals, petrochemicals, asbestos or substances that are radioactive, toxic, carcinogenic, explosive, or corrosive. Their use must be avoided at best, or minimised and managed appropriately where essential. A full EIA will be required for major projects.

	Description	Impact Score of project Outcomes	Evidence (Detail how the change in impact will occur)	Action - change to project requirement (Identify any countermeasures)	Guidance notes
Environmental Impact Assessment	5c(i). Improve sustainable transport and communications?	0	Improved connectivity between the key locations for new economic activity and residential communities is a central feature of the Economic Masterplan. The Masterplan promotes transport in the city that can live up to the principles of a low carbon economic area. The focus on ultra low carbon vehicles, based around Nissan's international pre-eminence in this sector, includes the roll out of charging points to encourage rapid take-up of electric vehicles in the city. This will form part of a Low Carbon Vehicle Strategy for the city which will ensure that a highly sustainable transport outcome is promoted directly by the Economic Masterplan.		Think about where transport is needed by the project, how this can be minimised, and whether it uses technology to help create a well-connected and more accessible region. Projects should: avoid transport where possible (e.g. through online services, virtual solutions); utilise existing transport systems foremost or where dedicated transport is required; use fuel-efficient modes and vehicles, minimising long distance travel.
	5c(ii). Avoid use of transport where possible (e.g. use of ICT solutions)?	-	Potentially, with greater employment, more jobs and more businesses, and more leisure and retail in the city centre, there will be increasing use of transport. However, the Fibre City project will improve the range and quality of broadband connectivity across the city and support reductions in the need to travel particularly for business purposes. Software City also promotes business activity which is highly ICT focused and will ensure that a greater proportion of the city's businesses maximise the use of ICT for both productive and communication purposes. To this extent the Masterplan seeks to limit the need for motorised transport as far as possible.		Think about the impact that the project will have on travel and transport habits. Is remote or flexible working encouraged to enable workers to work from home / neighbourhood locations? How can ICT be used to reduce the requirement to travel? How can the use of public transport be maximised? What other innovative transport solutions can be applied to the project to minimise carbon emissions?
	5c(iii) Reduce the environmental impact of transport?	0	The Economic Masterplan has a strong emphasis on the development of sustainable transport opportunities. However, with increased demand for transport, and the potential that even electric transport is ultimately powered by unsustainable energy sources, more work is required to ensure that the effect is, at worst, not an increased impact on the environment.	a) Focus development in the City Centre which already has strong public transport links b) Focus opportunities in the Coalfields and Washington on locations that allow for public transport c) Consider new and innovative approaches to methods of providing public transport e.g. electric buses d) Build in cycle lanes and footpaths	
	5d. Consider and reduce risks from weather and climate change?	0	Not directly but the focus on low carbon energy, including offshore wind, demonstrates a clear recognition of the importance of an economic strategy that responds to the challenge of climate change and addresses both the risks and opportunities arising from climate change.		Think about where the project could be impacted by extreme weather events, or increase the impact of weather on other receptors that the project might influence. Consider how the project could change business processes to cope with the affects of extreme weather, which may include higher average temperatures, hotter and drier summers, wetter winters, more extreme weather events and increased flood risk.
	5e. Require a statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?	0	The Masterplan does impact on land allocation but only through the LDF, which is having its own SEA. Development sites will need to meet the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 25, including taking the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment into account, applying the Sequential Test (sites within Flood Zone 2 and 3), and reducing flood risk.		Use the flow diagram to determine whether the project will require a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment. Where it is identified that an SEA is required, services that can carry out formal SEA procedures need to be procured or arranged. Please contact the Sustainability Team for advice on the process on 0191 561 2434.

Completed by: Claire Rogers, Policy Team, SCC

Date: 09.03.2010

Updated by: James Gariand, Strategic Programmes & Europe Team, SCC

Date: 30.06.2010

Checked by:

Date: