

Guidance on completing the environmental implications and net zero carbon section in board reports

Introduction

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by full council in June 2019, a target was set for Islington to become a net zero carbon borough by 2030. As a result, the council needs to eliminate its carbon emissions and influence our suppliers – especially those based in Islington – to do the same. The council also seeks to minimise its other environmental impacts and is obliged to do so by our environment policy.

To show our commitment to these objectives, all board reports at Islington Council include a section on the environmental implications of the decision in question, as well as the impact on carbon emissions.

Detailing the impacts

In practice, the net zero carbon objective means we should seek to eliminate the use of fossil fuels in buildings (gas boilers), vehicles and plant machinery (diesel or petrol engines), and ensure any remaining energy used comes from renewable sources. In addition, we should consider the carbon emissions of our supply chains and the products and services we purchase.

Other potential environmental impacts should be detailed, both negative and positive, and will include areas such as biodiversity, use of resources and waste generation. It is very unlikely that anything the council does will not have any implications. A list of questions to consider for the different areas of sustainability can be found on pages three and four.

Process

Complete the environmental implications and net zero carbon section and submit the report to the Energy Services Team at energyservices@islington.gov.uk. Please also send any other accompanying documents, such as appendices.

The Energy Services Team will review the text and suggest changes if necessary. Please allow eight working days for this.

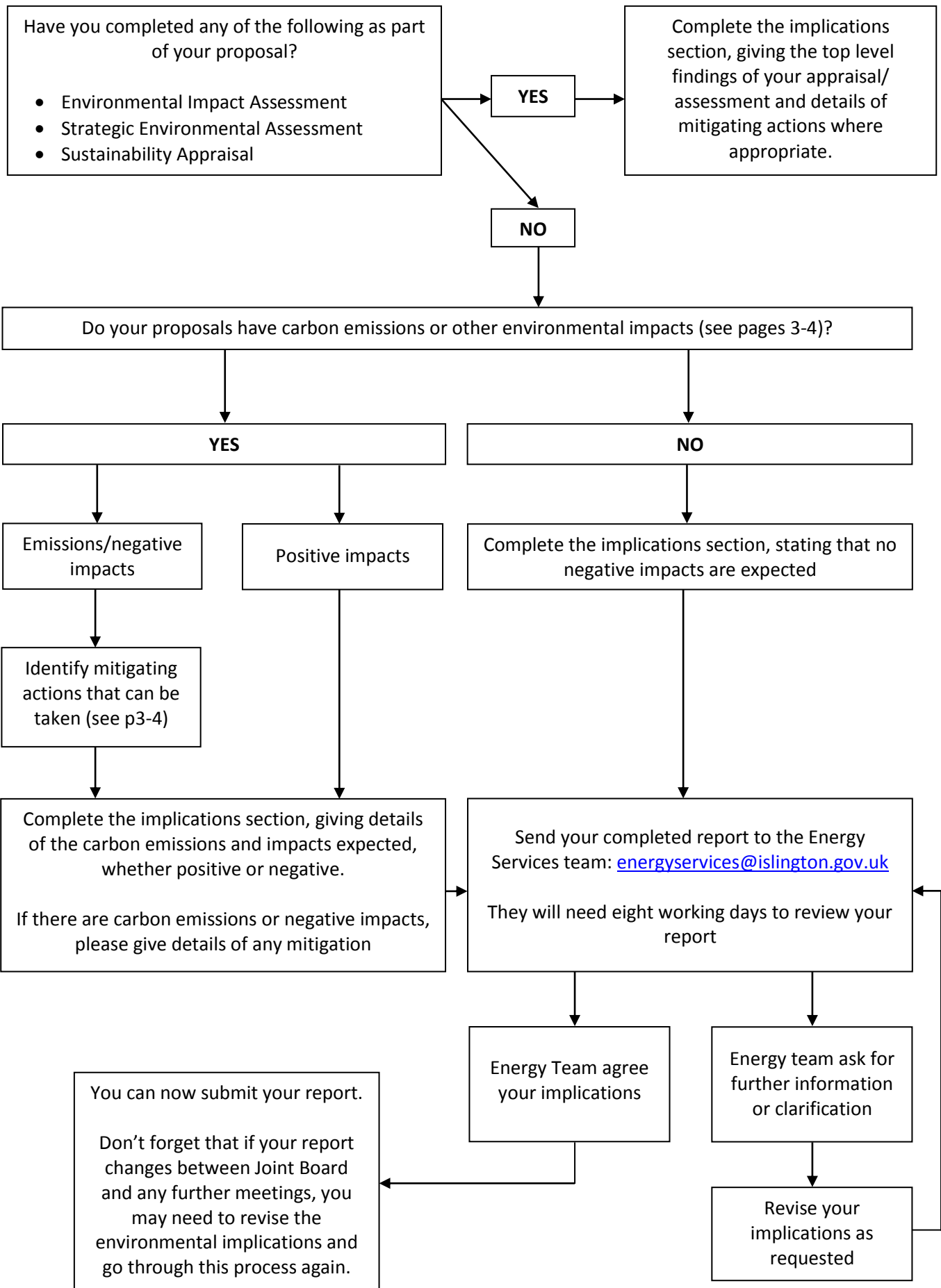
Implications may need to be reviewed if the report is amended between Joint Board and Executive. If you know that your report will be amended between Joint Board and Executive, please let the Energy Services Team know in good time.

Please see the flow diagram overleaf for further information.

How to get further help

If you require support identifying impacts or need any advice on the implications, please contact the Energy Services Team at energyservices@islington.gov.uk

Flowchart



Type of Impact	Background information	Questions to consider
Carbon emissions	Islington Council is committed to a net zero carbon borough by 2030. This means eliminating all carbon emissions from buildings and vehicles and supplying the remaining energy from renewable sources.	Does your proposal result in new carbon emissions or fail to eliminate existing emissions? If so, why have you not been able to eliminate the emissions? Is your proposal at least reducing emissions and preparing for net zero in some way?
Energy use	In order to eliminate our carbon emissions, we need to maximise the energy efficiency of buildings and vehicles to allow them to be powered by renewable energy.	Does your proposal result in energy use starting or continuing? If so, what measures are you taking to minimise energy consumption and maximise the use of renewable energy?
Use of natural resources	You will need to consider the use of resources as components in any goods and materials that you use in large quantities. If you need to use timber, be aware that local authorities are obliged to purchase it from sustainable sources such as those that are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved or similar.	Do you need to use natural resources? If so, are there opportunities to reduce consumption or use renewable sources, reclaimed or second hand products, recycled products or sustainably sourced virgin materials? Can you reduce future use of resources, for example by avoiding things that will need to be regularly painted?
Travel and transport	Even if the vehicles your service use are zero emission, they still contribute to congestion, worsening pollution from non-electric vehicles.	Do your proposals require fleet or deliveries? If so, have you considered ways to minimise the number of vehicles movements or specifying travel/logistics plans?
Waste and recycling	Islington is committed to waste minimisation and recycling. Waste legislation is wide-ranging and complex and a major risk in terms of legal compliance.	Do the proposals generate waste? If so, is the waste hazardous or general? Has your report considered the 3 Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle?
Climate change adaptation	Your report should consider the implications of likely future climate change, such as increased temperatures, changed rainfall patterns and extreme weather events.	Has your report considered the implications of likely future climate changes? Have you considered appropriate adaptation measures? Examples natural cooling, landscaping that prevents surface water run-of etc

Type of Impact	Background information	Questions to consider
Biodiversity	<p>You will need to consider whether your proposals impact on the borough's biodiversity (the diversity of plant and animal life within the borough's ecosystems). New developments, for example, can destroy or enhance habitats (including buildings that animals may live in).</p> <p>If the work will affect any trees, you need to check if any have a Tree Protection Order. If trees are to be removed, you should consult with the Tree Service.</p>	<p>Do your proposals have any impact, either positive or negative, on the borough's biodiversity?</p> <p>Have you thought how your proposals can enhance biodiversity?</p> <p>If the proposal has negative impacts, have you included proposals for mitigating these? This could include nest sites or green roofs.</p> <p>If your proposals negatively affect trees, can your plans be altered to accommodate existing trees or that an equal or greater amount of canopy is replaced elsewhere within the proposal? You can consult the Tree Service on the appropriate tree species for particular locations and for providing good habitat for biodiversity.</p>
Pollution (land/air/water)	<p>You should consider whether the proposals will create emissions to air, land or water.</p>	<p>Will the proposals create air, land or water emissions?</p> <p>If so, have you considered how to avoid these emissions or mitigate their effects? Pollution can be avoided by using cleaner products and technologies and good site management practice.</p>