

Project: Urban Forest Strategy Draft

Date: 04-Sep-25

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1. IMPACT ON CARBON EMISSIONS (MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE)							
HOW WILL THIS PROJECT/PROPOSAL AFFECT THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS:		WHAT IS THE IMPACT CONSIDERED TO BE? <i>See guidance in the purple box, below, to help you assess the degree of the negative and positive impacts e.g. High, Medium or Low</i>	CLIMATE CHANGE RATING: <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT MOVE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF BEING NET ZERO CARBON BY 2030? <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT MOVE THE CITY CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF A NET ZERO CARBON CAMBRIDGE BY 2030? <i>Use drop down list</i>	PLEASE DETAIL HERE THE ACTION THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID, MITIGATE OR COMPENSATE FOR THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND MAXIMISE POSITIVE IMPACTS?	HAS A NET ZERO CARBON OPTION BEEN CONSIDERED? PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS.
1	ENERGY USE	Positive Impact: Energy use will be reduced or renewable energy will be used	Medium Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: - Reducing demand for energy - Specifying energy efficiency measures (e.g. insulation, low energy lighting) - Generating renewable energy (e.g. heat pumps, Trees provide shading, reduce energy demand, and sequester and store carbon.	no
		Nil Impact: No extra energy use is involved					
		Negative Impact: More energy (gas and/ or electricity) will be consumed (by CCC or others)					
2	WASTE GENERATION	Positive Impact: Less waste will be generated OR amount of waste that is reused/ recycled will be increased	Nil	No	No	Consider: - Will resources be reduced or reused? - Will you use recycled goods? - Will recycling facilities be increased? There is no direct other than wood waste which is recycled by our contractors. Indirectly, pollution will be ameliorated through improved air quality, as trees intercept particulates and absorb pollutants. Non-potable stormwater will be captured and stored by trees and their root systems, reducing the volume entering the drainage network for treatment and lowering associated carbon	no
		Nil Impact: No waste will be generated					
		Negative Impact: More waste will be generated (by CCC or others)					
3	USE OF TRANSPORT	Positive Impact: The use of transport and/or of fossil fuel-based transport will be reduced	Medium Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: - Will you purchase an electric vehicle? - Will you specify the use of public transport? - How will you reduce the need to travel or transport goods? Reduced reliance on vehicles through shading and increased active travel	no
		Nil Impact: No extra transport will be necessary					
		Negative Impact: CCC or others will need to travel more OR transport goods more often/ further					
4	SUSTAINABLE FOOD	Positive Impact: Food will be locally grown and/ or meat-free	Nil	No	No	Consider: - Use of locally grown/ produced food - Reducing use of imported food - Reducing use of meat Not directly relevant to food, but indirect benefit through community orchards.	no
		Nil Impact: No change in supply of food					
		Negative Impact: Food will travel long distances and include meat					
2. IMPACT ON RESILIENCE (ADAPTATION) TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE							
HOW WILL THIS PROJECT/PROPOSAL AFFECT THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS :		WHAT IS THE IMPACT CONSIDERED TO BE? <i>See guidance in the purple box, below, to help you assess the degree of the negative and positive impacts e.g. High, Medium or Low</i>	CLIMATE CHANGE RATING: <i>Use drop down list</i>	WILL THE PROJECT HELP CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL TO BE MORE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?	WILL THE PROJECT HELP CAMBRIDGE TO BE MORE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE? <i>Use drop down list</i>	PLEASE DETAIL HERE THE ACTION THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID, MITIGATE OR COMPENSATE FOR THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND MAXIMISE POSITIVE IMPACTS?	HAS A NET ZERO CARBON OPTION BEEN CONSIDERED? PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS.
5	HEATWAVES	Positive Impact: Increased/ improved shade & natural ventilation	High Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: Building orientation and installing measures such as Brise Soleil to reduce heat gain and plant hydration methods. Significant contribution to shading, reducing overheating impacts.	no
		Nil Impact: No impact on existing levels of shade & ventilation					
		Negative Impact: Lack of or reduced shade (e.g. from trees or buildings) & natural ventilation					
6	WATER AVAILABILITY	Positive Impact: Provision made for an enhancement of water efficiency measures to minimise the impact on water resource availability	Nil	No	No	Consider: Managing water use efficiently, installing measures to use less water such as low water use taps, planting drought resistant plants and using rainwater for irrigation. No direct benefits. Indirectly, urban cooling from trees reduces local heat stress and evaporation, helping conserve water resources while providing shade and comfort.	no
		Nil Impact: Levels of water use will not be changed					
		Negative Impact: Water use will increase and/or no provision made for water management = Negative Impact					
7	FLOODING	Positive Impact: Sustainable drainage measures incorporated, positive steps to reduce & manage flood risk	Low Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: The installation of measures to reduce the speed and increase the absorption of rainwater e.g. green roofs, SuDS, permeable paving etc. and alternative arrangements (business continuity) Trees reduce runoff, improve infiltration, and contribute to SuDS.	no
		Nil Impact: Levels of surface water run-off & flood risk are not affected					
		Negative Impact: Levels of surface water run-off will increase, no management of flood risk					
8	HIGH WINDS / STORMS	Positive Impact: Exposure to higher wind speeds is being actively managed & reduced	Low Positive	Yes	Yes	Consider: the need to install stabilisation measures and ensure robust structures resilient to high winds Urban trees reduce wind tunnelling and exposure, but minor overall effect.	no
		Nil Impact: No change to existing level of exposure to higher wind speeds					
		Negative Impact: Exposure to higher wind speeds is increased or is not managed = Negative Impact					
9	FOOD SECURITY	Positive Impact: Opportunities & resources for local food production are increased/ enhanced	Nil	No	No	Source food locally, and provide meat-free catering to reduce vulnerability to food shortages and reduce emissions from transport and farming of food Not directly relevant to food, but indirect benefit through community orchards.	no
		Nil Impact: No change to opportunities & resources for local food production					
		Negative Impact: Opportunities & resources for local food production are reduced					
10	BIODIVERSITY	Positive Impact: Biodiversity will be protected/ enhanced	High Positive	Yes	Yes	Provide net gain mitigation if required and seek enhancement in projects of all types and scale Trees enhance habitat connectivity and biodiversity, strengthening the city's resilience to climate change.	no
		Nil Impact: Level of biodiversity will not change					
		Negative Impact: Biodiversity will decrease					
Weighing up the negative and positive impacts of your project, what is the overall rating you are assigning to your project?:			Medium Positive	This overall rating is what you need to include in your report/ budget proposal, together with your explanation to be included in the red box below			

Guidance on Assessing the Degree of Negative and Positive Impacts:

Note: Not all of the considerations/ criteria listed below will necessarily be relevant to your project

Low Impact (L)	* No publicity * Relevant risks to the Council or community are Low or none * No impact on service or corporate performance * No capital assets; or capital assets with lifetime of less than 3 years
Medium Impact (M)	* Local publicity (good or bad) * Relevant risks to the Council or community are Medium * Affects delivery of corporate commitments * Affects service performance (e.g.: energy use; amount of waste; distance travelled) by more than 10% * Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 3 years
High Impact (H)	* National publicity (good or bad) * Relevant risks to the Council or community are Significant or High * Affects delivery of regulatory commitments * Affects corporate performance by more than 10% * Capital assets with a lifetime of more than 6 years

In the box below please summarise the projects impacts (the reasons for the ratings given in column E above) to explain how the overall rating for the project/ proposal has been derived (Cell E37). Please also highlight any negative impacts your project may have and how you plan to avoid, mitigate or compensate for these (as you will have detailed in column I above).

The overall impact of the Urban Forest Strategy is assessed as moderately positive, with benefits across rating areas of energy use and heatwaves, transport, and biodiversity. In terms of mitigation, the Strategy supports carbon sequestration through the protection and planting of long-lived, large-canopy species, reduces energy demand from buildings by providing shade that lowers summer cooling requirements, flooding, storms and biodiversity. In terms of adaptation, the Strategy supports carbon sequestration through the protection and planting of long-lived, large-canopy species, reduces energy demand from buildings by providing shade that lowers summer cooling requirements, and improves local air quality by intercepting pollutants and particulates. For adaptation, the Strategy delivers urban cooling to reduce heat stress, reduces surface water runoff, and promotes species diversification and drought-tolerant planting to increase resilience under changing climate conditions. In relation to biodiversity and the wider environment, the Strategy enhances habitat connectivity, secures biodiversity sustainability and enhancement through new planting and sensitive management of veteran and high-value trees, and improves stormwater quality by capturing and filtering non-potable water before it enters the treatment system. While the overall benefits are medium rather than high because the Strategy's indirect contributions to carbon reduction are less significant than direct emissions savings, no significant negative impacts have been identified.