

Climate implications toolkit

This toolkit is a self-assessment to help officers think about how their projects, procurements, commissioning, and services can align with H&F's net zero carbon target and sixth council value: "Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency". It also supports report authors to draft the climate implications section on decision reports, now required on decisions over £300,000 and procurement strategy reports.



How to use the tool

The self-assessment is intended to help officers reflect critically on their project or service's climate impact. We recommend you answer all the questions, even if the answer is 'not applicable'. It is a reflective tool, not a framework for approving or rejecting a decision, so it will work best if each question is considered honestly and carefully.



The next tab presents a set of questions about the initiative or decision against H&F's five 'climate challenges', and a drop-down range of answers. Each answer is colour-coded to indicate its climate impact and recommended way forward as follows:

Colour code	Recommendation
Dark green	Strong positive impacts for the climate emergency. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green	Some positive impact for the climate emergency. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Yellow	Some negative impacts for the climate emergency. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red	Considerable inconsistency with the council's net zero objective. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.
Grey	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

These questions should be considered for services, goods and projects we procure as well as those we deliver directly. Delivery models, specifications and tender evaluation should be shaped to ensure our contractors are aligned with our net zero commitment.

When answering these questions you should consider **direct** and **indirect** impacts. For example, a highways project to install traffic reduction measures might not use electric vehicles or plant in its delivery, but still lead to reduced vehicle use once in place.

Against each climate challenge, the toolkit presents possible actions to improve the climate impact of the decision.

Please email your completed copy of the form to Jim.Cunningham@lbhf.gov.uk and Hinesh.Mehta@lbhf.gov.uk, along with your draft climate implications for verification (if completing a report).

Version	Date
1.0	09/03/21
1.1	17/05/21

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Guidance for use

Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

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Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Name of project/service:	H&F Food Plan 2025 -2030
Brief description (1-2 sentences):	This report seeks approval for a 5-year borough-wide H&F Food Plan 2025 to 2030 that has been coproduced with the Food for all Partnership in which the Climate Team are a key member.

Homes, buildings, infrastructure and energy

Question	Impact (select from list)	Reasons / possible mitigations
1 What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Not applicable	
2 What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Modest or short-term reduction	The strategy will raise awareness and promote use of local services, so that residents travel less for support especially in areas of the borough identified as food deserts. Food and cooking advice will include no cook healthy recipes. Some surplus food donations for reuse for most of the food aid providers gets collected by e-cargo bikes (i.e. from Chiswick House)
3 Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? <i>E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours</i>	Yes	The partnership approach allows for sharing of resources. There will be a focused drive on utilising unused community gardening spaces such as Normand Park growing space, increasing the use of garden/growing spaces in schools and also underused community spaces on estates. Partnership members will also been looking to delivery pop up food provision in spaces such as community halls.
4 Will any new building constructed or refurbishment be net zero carbon-ready in use? <i>(high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., and no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating).</i>	N/A	
5 Does this use more sustainable materials in building or infrastructure? <i>E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete</i>	N/A	
6 Does this use more sustainable processes in any building or infrastructural work? <i>E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel</i>	N/A	
7 Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? <i>e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff</i>	N/A	
8 Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	N/A	

Ways to align with net zero:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps.
- Construct new buildings to a net zero standard (see the LETI design guide: <https://www.leti.london/cedg>)
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a renewable energy provider.
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Travel

Question	Impact	Reasons / possible mitigations
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Ways to align with net zero:

9	Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	Modest or short-term reduction	The strategy will raise awareness and promote use of local services, so that residents travel less for support especially in areas of the borough identified as food deserts. The current meals and chat service delivers meals to residents via E bikes. Further initiatives in the plan that involves food distribution will also consider use of bikes also.
10	Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles?	N/A	
11	Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? <i>E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport</i>	Yes	The strategy will raise awareness and promote use of local services. It is envisaged that pop up food services, more wrap around support being part of exiting services in the Borough such as debt and advice services so that residents wont have to use travel to get to multiple services for support.
12	Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	Yes	The strategy will raise awareness and promote use of local services, so that residents travel less for support especially in areas of the borough identified as food deserts. Projects that support Older People, children and families such as sheltered housing and estates and Family Hubs will be partnered with to deliver some of the initiatives in the food plan.
13	Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? <i>Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times</i>	Yes	E-bikes are currently used to deliver meals as part of the meals and chat service delivered by the Nourish Hub. Also as above in line 12.

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds.
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet.
- Specify electric vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport.
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives.
- Use zero-emission deliveries e.g. H&F's e-cargo bike service.
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the service or deliveries

Consumption		
Question	Impact	Reasons / possible mitigations
14	Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?	One of the 4 objectives of the H&F Food Plan, in which it is structured around, is sustainable food systems. The impact of food is well understood, and the borough works to waste less, recycle more, eat food that is more sustainable and have healthier diets.
15	Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? <i>E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership</i>	N/A
16	Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	Nourish Hub has been commissioned by numerous Council events to provide nutritious, climate-friendly catering. Catering packages include vegetarian and vegan food made with surplus food to reduce food waste. Revenue generated through these commissioned offers are put back into Nourish Hub to provide low-cost meals for the community and offer education sessions for disadvantaged children and adults.

Ways to align with net zero:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership.
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods.
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life.
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item.
- Reduce meat and dairy in food provision.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.

17	Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	Yes	The work of the partnership will support this in a number of ways including: enabling residents to feel connected to where food comes from and how it is produced; local food growing will be increased, and people will feel confident in preparing nutritious meals. Sharing regular messaging with residents; promoting the benefits of reducing meat and dairy consumption including information about organic, sustainable and higher welfare food production and food waste.
18	Is there a plan to reduce waste?	Yes	The work of the partnership will support this in a number of ways including: to produce and promote guidance to retailers about how to donate surplus food to support community projects. to work with partners on a joined-up approach to Food Waste Action week and engage business and residents to pledge for reducing food waste. to work with the allotment management organisations to develop a community allotment model and to engage with current allotment holders' opportunities to share any surplus produce with food banks and other shared food settings.
19	Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? <i>E.g. minimal meat and dairy; minimises food waste; seasonal produce; locally sourced.</i>	Yes	Work of the partnership will support this in a number of ways including •Identify where procurement contracts are related to food and explore if targets are or can be set in relation to sustainable diets, sourcing and food waste. •to explore effectiveness of place-based buy-local campaigns with the potential to replicate. Work with organisers of high-profile events in H&F to encourage best practice in serving sustainable and nutritious choices and reduce food waste and packaging

Ecology		
Question	Impact	Reasons / possible mitigations
20	What effect does this project have on total area of green space?	Modest or short-term increase
21	Does the project create more habitat for nature? E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers	Yes
22	Does it make changes to green space that can have a negative impact on nature? <i>E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species</i>	No

Ways to align with net zero:

- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels'
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

23	Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage them to support it in their private and community spaces?	Yes	One of the main aims of the plan is to encourage and support community-led growing initiatives. This will also increase volunteering opportunities for priority groups identified in the plan and support more intergenerational projects.	
Adaptation				
	Question	Impact	Reasons / possible mitigations	Ways to align with net zero: - Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets - Re-use grey water in new developments - Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading - Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing. - Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS). - Plant drought-tolerant plants
24	Does any planned construction or building use include measures to conserve water?	N/A		
25	Does any planned infrastructure or building use consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme heat?	N/A		
26	Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? <i>E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving areas; green roofs</i>	N/A		
27	Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)	N/A		
28	Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?	N/A		
Engagement and influence				
	Question	Impact	Reasons / possible mitigations	Ways to align with net zero: - 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents and businesses to promote understanding of the climate emergency.
29	Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?	Yes	Yes throughout the plan in key areas above. The plan supports the priorities in the H&F Climate and Ecology Strategy. The Food for all Partnership secured official partnership status from Sustainable Food Places 2024 which will further strengthen initiatives aimed at raising awareness	