

Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #438

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Foxlydiate First School

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins

Name of Project Manager

Rowanna Hughes

Name of Project Lead

Andy Moran

Please give a brief description of the project

Delivery of a new 2FE first school and nursery on a new housing development site in the Webheath District of Redditch.

Data Protection screening result

Does not need a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document. New housing being built in the Foxlydiate area will attract families with children, and this will create a demand for additional childcare and school places. The scale of the forecast increased demand means that a new first school is needed.

The new major housing development off Foxlydiate Lane will deliver 2,560 new houses by 2037. Worcestershire County Council is proposing that the new school will open initially as a 3-form-entry in 2027, when it is forecast that 30 children in each school year group will live on the new development, increasing to over 60 by 2030. The school will open initially to Reception-aged children and will grow over time as it will take a new cohort of Reception children each September.

The number of children is predicted to double by the time the development is completed and fully occupied, so the school will be built to a model that can easily be expanded to include additional classrooms when they are needed. There are other housing developments in the area, each attracting more families with children, so there will be increased demand on places at existing schools nearby, and this is being monitored carefully to ensure that the right number of additional places will be created in the right places at the right time.

The delivery of a new school in the Foxlydiate area will ensure sufficient places in the locality and ensure an element of surplus which will ensure that:

families have an element of choice, and increases the likelihood that families receive one of their top two preferences
all children who move into the locality during the school year are offered provision within 20 days; and
all children who want to access a place in their local community are able to do so, reducing school travel times

The delivery of a new school provides an opportunity to build on the existing 'Good' first school provision in Redditch and offers more choice of schools, which is important to support our children and young people in achieving good attainment and realising their full potential.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

The project output will be a new 3FE first school in Redditch with a nursery. This will be delivered via a number of workstreams:

- Building the School - Procurement of external consultants and construction
- Education - Academy Sponsor selection and consideration of educational requirements of the school (e.g. inclusivity)
- Communication and engagement - stakeholder management and consultation
- Mitigating school places - ensuring sufficiency of school places in Redditch

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The key expected outcome is to meet the project aim of ensuring sufficiency of school places for first school age pupils in Redditch, with a 5% surplus of places. As a result of building a new first school in Redditch, various other outcomes are likely, which include:

Longevity of first school sufficiency in Redditch in line with housing growth
A reduction in travel times and car use for first school age pupils in Redditch
Certainty that all pupils in Redditch can attend a first school in their community
Increase in jobs for school staff in Redditch

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

Yes

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Commercial and Change

Service Area

Transformation and Commercial

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

September 2027

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

Yes

An overarching screening has already been carried out for the following areas:

Data Protection

Equality and Public Health

Environmental Sustainability

What was the conclusion?

Data Protection assessment not required.

Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment to be completed

Environmental Sustainability Impact Assessment to be completed

Upload previous impact assessment documents if available

No files uploaded

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)? Yes

Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing the assessment.

Please explain your answer below:

The project will be designed to achieve a sustainable net zero carbon building in line with the Council's objectives by 2050.

Construction could produce greenhouse gases, but in the operation of the school we will use sustainable energy methods and consider opportunities throughout the project (procurement, meetings, materials storage to reduce delivery trips etc.). Sustainable heating systems will be used, such as Air and Ground Source Heat Pumps and other sustainable energy sources such as solar panels will be incorporated into the design to reduce the need for gas. Electricity requirements for these alternative heating systems are under review before the decision to remove the gas connection to the site is finalised.

Other considerations for reduced emissions include:

- Reduction of car use by delivering the school in the local community
- Ongoing review through design/delivery of opportunities for emissions reduction
- Site waste management

Have you undertaken an assessment of the project to know if there will likely be an increase in GHG emissions? No

Please explain your answer below:

Not recorded

3 Resources

Will the project result in increased consumption of electricity, gas or other heating fuels? Yes

e.g. project may require use of additional buildings, lighting and heating in buildings, additional ICT equipment, etc.

Please explain your answer below:

The delivery of a new school will result in an increase in consumption of electricity however, the school is required due to an increase in pupils. It is not yet confirmed whether gas will be connected to the school and this will be determined during the design process.

Will the project reduce energy needs and result in reduced consumption? No

e.g. disposal of WCC property assets

Please explain your answer below:

Not recorded

Will the project require additional water resources leading to an increase in water consumption? Yes

e.g. increased use of water through construction processes

Please explain your answer below:

Additional water will be required during the construction process, however the school design will incorporate water saving initiatives for the operation of the school.

We will seek to:

Low water use/ waterless fittings and appliances, while considering maintenance challenges

Provide sub metering to monitor high water use areas/ equipment

Recycled rainwater for irrigation

Recycled rainwater for flushing WCs & other potable water uses - review embodied impact and LCC

Recycled greywater for irrigation - review feasibility and embodied impact.

Grey water management - reed beds etc

Identify a surface water strategy with measures to mitigate climate change beyond statutory requirements, integrated within green infrastructure strategy.

Sustainable Urban Drainage to support biodiversity while supporting site surface water strategy - swales/ green roofs etc

Increase permeable surfaces for climate resilience

Other initiatives

Might there be a decrease in water consumption? Yes

e.g. will the project involve water saving measures or initiatives

Please explain your answer below:

Although this will be a new building, we will seek to mitigate against the additional demand on water supply through implementing the following measures:

Low water use/ waterless fittings and appliances, while considering maintenance challenges

Provide sub metering to monitor high water use areas/ equipment

Recycled rainwater for irrigation

Recycled rainwater for flushing WCs & other potable water uses - review embodied impact and LCC

Recycled greywater for irrigation - review feasibility and embodied impact.

Grey water management - reed beds etc

Identify a surface water strategy with measures to mitigate climate change beyond statutory requirements, integrated within green infrastructure strategy.

Sustainable Urban Drainage to support biodiversity while supporting site surface water strategy - swales/ green roofs etc

Increase permeable surfaces for climate resilience

Other initiatives

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

Please explain your answer below:

We will be seeking to use local resources wherever possible to reduce project resource requirements and reduce risk

4 Transport

Will the project result in more people needing to travel? No

e.g. will there be additional cars on the road

Have alternative transport modes been considered? Yes

e.g. could use be made of public transport/walking/cycling etc.

Please explain your answer below:

The new school will cater for new housing developments in the area so a key outcome for the project is for families to have access to a first school in their local community. This will seek to reduce travel by car and enable more pupils to travel to school by active travel routes, including walking and cycling.

5 Waste

Is there likely to be an increase in waste as a result of the project? Yes

e.g. construction waste, packaging waste etc.

Please explain your answer below:

This project will result in construction waste as part of the construction phase. Options for mitigating this aspect will be fully explored during the pre-planning and pre-construction phases.

Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? Yes

e.g. will recycling facilities be available as part of the project

Please explain your answer below:

Opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste when the building is operational will be considered at an early stage in development, to ensure there is adequate bin storage facilities to deal with segregation of waste to enable ease of recycling, and also to allow for recycling areas within the classrooms/communal areas as appropriate. Waste storage areas will be designed to be adaptable to accommodate changing legislative requirements such as the segregation of food waste.

6 Wildlife and Biodiversity

Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? Yes

e.g. will the project involve removal of green space/trees; have wildlife surveys been considered; result in enhancements to green infrastructure; increased biodiversity opportunities etc.?

Please explain your answer below:

Full ecological and environmental surveys will be undertaken by the developer to reduce disruption to protected trees and habitats where possible.

As part of the school design we will be looking to utilise and enhance the natural environment wherever possible. We will seek to comply with Biodiversity Net Gain requirements in creating new habitats to offset any loss of biodiversity resulting from the build. These new habitats would also provide opportunities for educational learning and enhanced mental wellbeing. The existing site is utilised as agricultural land which has limited biodiversity, therefore any new grassland, trees and habitat that are planted for the school will enhance the biodiversity of the site.

Has a preliminary ecological appraisal been undertaken? Yes

Please explain your answer below:

Undertaken by the developer.

Has there been consideration of statutory assessments? Yes

e.g. Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening?

N.B. This is a matter of legal compliance - All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration – typically referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment screening' – should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects.

Please explain your answer below:

Yes, these will be undertaken in line with what the planning application requirements.

7 Pollution to land/air/water

Is there a risk of pollution to the local environment? No

e.g.

- will there be surface water run-off or discharge into local water source?
- will there be any impact on local water quality?
- will any waste water require treatment?
- is there the potential for spillage of chemicals?
- is there the potential for emissions to air from combustion processes resulting in poor air quality?

8 Resilience to climate risks

Could climate risks affect your project? Yes

N.B. some projects may be more sensitive to future changes in the climate e.g. hotter and drier summers; milder and wetter winters; increased likelihood of extreme weather events. These climate risks may affect project delivery and should be considered at the early stages of project development.

Please explain your answer below:

This building is anticipated to be in use for the next several decades and therefore is likely to be impacted by climate risks. Temperature management (heating and cooling systems) will be required for the building and likely temperatures in future years will be considered

Has the impact of extreme weather events on the project been considered? Yes

e.g. heat waves and flooding.

Please explain your answer below:

Due to excessive temperatures that are already being experienced in the current climate, sustainable heating and cooling systems will be considered such as Air or Ground Source Heat Pumps that can help regulate the temperature of the building.

An initial flood risk assessment suggests the site has a low flood risk.

Is there a business/project continuity plan in place to ensure climate risks are minimised? No

e.g. can you ensure that the project is resilient to climate risks and can continue to deliver on outcomes.

Could the project exacerbate climate risks? No

e.g. increase flood risk or worsen temperature extremes in the locality.

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

Please explain your answer below:

We will be seeking to use local resources wherever possible to reduce project resource requirements and reduce risk

9 Historic Environment

Have you checked with the WCC Historic Environment team as to whether there are any impacts on the Historic Environment (negative or positive)?

No

Check every development with the Historic Environment Team at the planning stage of each project. Further assessment may be required depending on the nature and scale of development. There may also be design options that would negate any need for further assessment (and lessen costs), or even opportunities to enhance heritage assets or their setting through the development.

Does the development have the potential to result in any impacts to the historic environment or opportunities for enhancement?

Yes

If yes, then further assessment will be required. This could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks if the potential is clearly understood and relatively low, or a more comprehensive desk-based and/or field investigation prior to development.

Please explain your answer below:

The relevant archaeological surveys will be undertaken as part of the pre-planning process.

10 Procurement

Could any procurement associated with the project have a detrimental environmental impact? Yes

e.g. procurement of goods from overseas that have to be shipped; use of unsustainable materials or materials that cannot be recycled at the end of their use?

Please explain your answer below:

Unable to answer at this stage but our aspiration is to use local materials and avoid importing materials.

Is there likely to be increased Greenhouse Gas emissions from products purchased for the project? No

e.g. carbon emissions from transport and manufacturing

Will you be able to make use of sustainable products? Yes

e.g. recycled, local, ethical etc.

Please explain your answer below:

Unable to answer at this stage but our aspiration is to use sustainable materials.

Have you considered the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012? Yes

All major contracts let by the Council (those of more than £100,000 in total value) will be expected to deliver a meaningful contribution to our vision of Social Value in the county. The Act requires us to consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

– please see: [Social Value](#)

Please explain your answer below:

Contributing to the vision of social values will be considered in the next stage, including the provision of new jobs and apprenticeships.

11 Declaration

I have confirmed that to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I have confirmed that I will make sure that Environmental Sustainability has been and continues to be considered throughout the project life cycle and should circumstances change in the project a further Environmental Sustainability Assessment Screening will be carried out.

12 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

18/09/2023 15:13:28

Screening Submitted Date Time

18/04/2023 13:40:40

Last Reopened Date Time

18/09/2023 13:52:33

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

18/09/2023 14:52:12

Approved/Rejected Date Time

18/09/2023 15:13:28

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

13.0 People with access to the original screening

[Alexandra Lee \(ALee6@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:ALee6@worcestershire.gov.uk)

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13.1 People with access to this environmental sustainability assessment

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14 Direct Questions

Question:

Hi just a few things to address before I can sign this off. Can you address the point below and incorporate where you are able to please?

Section 2: Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)?

The project will indeed need to be delivered against the net zero target of 2050 and rather than aiming for this needs to be designing for this from the start. UK infrastructure is already gearing up for new builds to not have gas connections from 2025 to reflect legislation. Possibly give suggestions what heating is going to be utilised / shortlisted at this point as opposed having gas as a fall back. Precedent set in the Newtown Road school development, I understand the development has already decided to not connect to gas.

Section 3: Might there be a decrease in water consumption? Consider changing to yes. (see your response to previous question). As this is a new building this will additional demand on the water supply. Possible to mitigate against this by use of grey water systems.

Section 5: Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? Also important to recognise waste service change – food waste will likely be a segregated fraction once this facility is built so waste storage areas must be adaptable to changing legislative requirements.

Section 6: Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? Is there opportunity to mitigate against the negative impact on biodiversity during the build period by development of the outdoor space? Creation of habitats designed in the outdoor space would benefit biodiversity as well as provide opportunities for educational learning and mental wellbeing.

Section 8: excessive temperatures are already a feature of our current climate consider strengthening response. Mitigation against impacts of heat on building users is a must even in current climate.

Regards, Anna Wardell-Hill
Sustainability Team

Asked by Anna Wardell-Hill (AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 18/09/2023 13:52:27

Alexandra Lee (ALee6@worcestershire.gov.uk), Daria Silva (DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk), Nicola Parkin (NParkin1@wrcschildrenfirst.org.uk), Rowanna Hughes (RHughes2@worcestershire.gov.uk), Rachel Kiernan (rkiernan@wrcschildrenfirst.org.uk), and Sarah Wilkins (swilkins@wrcschildrenfirst.org.uk) have been asked this question.

Currently Unanswered

Add Response