

Appendix 5. Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 5, Endorsing the HWB Strategy 2025

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Encouraging young people to take up Independent Travel Training may have a marginal impact on carbon emissions from public transport services due to increased patronage. Ultimately, the overall carbon impact depends on many factors outside the Council's control.	If Independent Travel Training leads to increased patronage of public transport services, there may be a marginal increase in carbon emissions from those services. Increased patronage may support public transport services' viability in the longer term, as will be needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from transport in line with the Council's 'Net Zero by 2040' climate change target.		This will be monitored in-line with the Health and Wellbeing meetings, as well as in the annual reporting structure.

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown		Potentially increase in emissions due to increased access to services and necessary equipment and supplies.	<p>There are clear opportunities to mitigate the carbon impact from waste. Where items are presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board that require service specifications, these can be used to eliminate single use plastics from contracted services, wherever possible; contract tenders should be evaluated with respect to a scored question on waste management; internal governance should ensure that all sites arrange for the separate collection of recycling, food and residual waste, as required of all non-household municipal premises since 1 April 2025.</p> <p>During the last Health and Wellbeing strategy the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic incurred a significant environmental cost in the form of disposable personal protective equipment which included the incineration of a large amount of equipment that was unusable (see https://www.bmj.com/content/377/bmj.o1435 for reference). The Health and Wellbeing Board has a responsibility to ensure that the lessons taken from such a recent and significant crisis in public health are utilised to ensure more sustainable and robust responses to future public health challenges.</p>	This will be monitored in-line with the Health and Wellbeing meetings, as well as in the annual reporting structure.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase		Two of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's stated aims are to support the population of Rotherham to live in good and improving	The Council encourages its commitment towards borough-wide net zero by 2040 which is represented by the Health and Wellbeing Board on all communications as a partnership representing the interests of the organisation.	This will be monitored in-line with the Health and Wellbeing meetings, as well as in the annual

			(i) physical and (ii) mental health. If this means that more people live in their own homes for longer, then there may be a marginal impact on carbon emissions from domestic energy use in the Borough.	Any marginal increase in carbon emissions from domestic energy use should be mitigated by ongoing decarbonisation of the UK electricity system. Cold homes and poor indoor air quality from damp and mould are significant drivers of mental and physical ill health: increasing homes' thermal performance (while ensuring adequate ventilation) is an urgent priority for health and wellbeing, as well as climate change mitigation.	reporting structure.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	Supporting the creation of new charity, community and health and wellbeing organisations will increase the need for extensions of existing or the provision of new health and wellbeing services. This will require new or refurbished premises for service delivery. The recent proposal to develop a Town Centre Health Hub is an example of activity that needs to be considered for carbon mitigation and reduction where possible.	Supporting the creation of new charity, community and health and wellbeing organisations and groups will increase the number of events supported by the council as well as by partner organisations.	<p>The Council's Responding to the Climate Emergency policy, which pledges to reach organisational net zero by 2030 and borough wide net zero by 2040, will be represented through all communications used by the board.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation can be achieved through site selection, preferring to refurbish existing premises than to construct new ones, especially if construction entails demolition of an existing buildings, and specification of low carbon materials and sustainable methods of construction. Such practical considerations are the responsibilities and sit ultimately with the Council's building design consultancy, but partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board has a responsibility as a client does to specify environmental sustainability as a key element of all future designs to ensure mitigations are not omitted due to financial pressures.</p>	This will be monitored in-line with the Health and Wellbeing meetings, as well as in the annual reporting structure.

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	Schemes such as social prescribing offer a framework for the Health and Wellbeing Board as a partnership to promote use of land within both the public and private estate to create new green spaces. Specific initiatives should be encouraged by the Health and Wellbeing Board in the future that aim to increase the productivity of the public sector estate and resources to resound to the impacts of climate change.	Green initiatives such as social prescribing and others offer the Council and partners the opportunity to enhance the offer of their land to increase the opportunities for increased carbon emission capture, increased shade provision, and benefits to the wildlife and ecosystem of the borough.	N/A	N/A
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Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

The holding of bi-monthly Health and Wellbeing meetings and subsequent events will incur mainly IT usage but also the use of materials such as paper, increased impact of personal travel and other secondary energy consumption implications such as air conditioning and heat pumps.

The Board meets as often as necessary and does not encourage travel, events and other activities that encourage unnecessary energy consumption where it is not strictly necessary.

Printing and the usage of other material is kept strictly to a minimum with all activities at Health and Wellbeing Board meetings and related activities being environmentally conscious. The new strategy will not increase any adverse usage of energy consuming activities and will not vary significantly from the current consumption patterns of the board.

Rotherham's Sustainable Food Places' Bronze award is a noted recent achievement, in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Key elements of the award framework are rooted in environmental sustainability, local cultivation and the elimination of food waste. Maintaining or exceeding the Borough's present accreditation should help to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the local food system, in the longer term.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

Climate change is a health issue as there is a strong and increasing evidence base for the effects of flooding, extreme heatwaves, vector-borne diseases, food insecurity and wildfires on people's health, caused or exacerbated by climate change. Moreover, health and wellbeing outcomes are themselves key determinants of exposure to the effects of climate change.

The climate in Rotherham is already changing, with visible impacts throughout the Borough. Hotter summers are increasing the risk of extreme temperatures such as those experienced in July 2022, as wetter winters and more intense rainfall are increasing the risk of floods such as those in 2007, 2019 and 2023. More information on climate change impacts in Rotherham is available from:

<https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfd69cf36238f/E08000018>.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will have the ability to support residents in adapting to climate change through commissioning relevant items and workstreams that focus on the health and wellbeing impacts on events such as extreme heatwaves, flooding and other climate change impacts. In this respect the Health and Wellbeing Board will be able to mitigate the impact climate change has upon the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The most significant impacts of this new strategy will be the continuous support offered for the creation of new charity, community and health and wellbeing organisations and groups that will continue to maintain ongoing services as well as encourage notable events sponsored by the council and partner organisations. The impact of both ongoing services across partner organisations and events will be mitigated by following council procedures regarding climate change impact consciousness and mitigation advice as well as observing council practices regarding commitments towards net zero pledges. The most significant climate impact arising under the Health and Wellbeing Strategy relates to people's resilience and capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change. This is reflected in the JSNA and considered in the Strategy itself to ensure efforts are made to support people to adapt to the impacts of climate change in a manner that supports their health and wellbeing.

The effectiveness of the Health and Wellbeing Board to commit to reducing its climate impact will be monitored through the Health and Wellbeing meetings which are held six times a year, as well as in the Annual Reports in line with the pre-existing structure used by the Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Supporting information:	
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Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 510 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer