Impact Assessment Tool - V.1

The purpose of this tool is to consider the wide range of possible impacts that a proposed project/policy could have on environmental and social criteria.
Completing this assessment as early as possible will help shape a project or policy into a strong proposal by highlighting positive areas and areas for improvement.
Use of this tool will also help ensure projects and policies are meeting Council commitments to climate as well as other council priorities.

This section is about addressing the ecological crisis, which has highlighted the negative impact our actions and behaviours have on plant and animal life. The UK has lost a lot of biodiversity (variety of plant and animal life) which is critical for our collective survival. Publica Councils have also declared ecological emergencies, so these factors reflect that.

This section is about addressing the climate crisis and some of the main causes of climate change. All Publica Councils have declared a climate emergency and committed to being carbon neutral by 2030 or 2040. Considering the impact of these factors will help to ensure projects and policies that are approved are in line with these climate commitments.

PLEASE GO TO PROJECT DETAILS TO BEGIN FILLING IN THIS TOOL

FAQS

1. Why are some of the segments missing on the wheel in the Dashboard?
If you do not have 10 environmental segments and 11 social segments, it is

Summary

The purpose of the Impact Assessment Tool is to consider the wide range of possible impacts that a proposed project/policy could have on environmental and social criteria.

Completing this assessment as early as possible will help shape a project or policy into a strong proposal by highlighting positive areas and areas for improvement.

Use of this tool will also help ensure projects and policies are meeting Council commitments to climate as well as other council priorities.

Please complete the following before moving to the **Environment** tab

What is being assessed:

What type of proposal is being assessed?

Area

Service

Name of officer

Date

Aims, objectives, anticipated outcomes of project

The purpose of the Impact Assessment Tool is to improve and document the consideration of the wide range of possible impacts that a proposed project/policy could have on environmental and social criteria

Who will implement/deliver the proposal?

Report authors, normally at Director or Service Manager level

PAGE 1: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Please answer all ten sections marked in orange. There are 3 questions (a-c) for each section. More information is available if you hover over the 'Here's how' tab. Example impacts are detailed in the notes.

1. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

This factor is about whether the policy/project will contribute to GHG emissions. The greenhouse gases are (a) carbon dioxide, which is released when fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil or burnt, e.g. to heat homes or drive vehicles, (b) Methane, which is primarily released by livestock and waste processes (landfill, incineration, treating waste), (c) Nitrous Oxide, which is released by agriculture and industry, and (d) Fluorinated gases, which are released by refrigeration and air conditioning processes. Fluorinated gases have the most significant greenhouse effect, causing average temperatures to rise and the climate to change.

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on GHGs:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the policy/project? [redacted]

c. Will this have an impact beyond the immediate location of the policy/project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

2. Air Quality

This factor refers to the level of pollutants in the air, such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide. Poor air quality can have significant impacts on health, including respiratory and cardiovascular issues, and even children, burning wood and coal and industrial and commercial activity contribute air quality (e.g. roads, dump, gases/chemicals from building materials, emissions from cooking, fuel use and heating stoves.) should be considered. As well as the impact on human health, poor air quality can also damage the natural environment. Consider whether the project/policy will increase the number/ number of car journeys, either permanently or temporarily.

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on air quality:
Poor construction

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will the impact of air quality beyond the intended delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

3. Sustainable Transport

This factor is about whether the project or policy will support a transition from unsustainable transport to sustainable alternatives, such as active travel (e.g. walking, cycling, and cycling), public transport (e.g. buses and trains), and electric vehicles. It also considers the impact on infrastructure that supports sustainable transport, such as the provision of safe cycle lanes, pedestrian crossings, planning laws for EVs). In an urban context, proposing EV (Electric Charger) or Social surface. Would it encourage active 15 minute walkable/ cycle routes or alternatives to fit the area's vision/aim.

How does this matter? [redacted]
Major risks

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on sustainable transport:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact sustainable transport beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

4. Land Use Change

Land use change is the process where humans fundamentally change the use and/or purpose of a piece of land, including how much land is used for a specific purpose (e.g. converting forest to farmland). Land use change can have significant impacts on carbon stocks/ resilience for capacity, and accessibility of green space spaces for recreation/use. Considerations include changes to surface permeability (e.g. new (permeable) concrete at former surfaces versus (permeable/grass) or (paving). Changes in land use can also affect the risk of flooding and the ability of ecosystems to provide services such as carbon sequestration and flood management. Consider whether the change in land use or management is permanent or reversible, when assessing the impact.

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on land use change:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact land use beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

5. Biodiversity

This factor is about the impact your project/policy might have on the plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms in the district. Biodiversity relies on a range of habitats (e.g. woodland, grassland, ponds, living walls, green roofs, gardens), ecosystems and species. Any of these can be impacted by development, land use change, pollution, and climate change (e.g. tree roots in pollutants). Impacts can be direct (e.g. a new development being built on natural land, removing habitat for a species or getting up bird and bat boxes) or indirect (e.g. increased noise and light pollution, rubbish being left behind by construction crews, or electrical runoff into rivers).

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on biodiversity:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact biodiversity beyond the intended delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

6. Soil and Waterway Health

This factor is about the impact your project will have on current contamination of soil/plants, such as nitrates and phosphates. An balanced nutrients, minerals and phosphates control the soil and the health of life which grows from it will feel having humus and which, unbalances the system by changing ecosystem balance (e.g. the use of fertilisers and pesticides in farming, manures and animal waste) can lead to excessive nutrients in waterways, causing algal blooms that deplete oxygen and harm aquatic life. Soil erosion is a problem for (farming/with soil water retention in soil), farms experts / life, can reduce crop yield and increase flood risk. Any project creating a change in land use type or management practices should consider this. Objectives should emphasise

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on current levels:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact soil or waterway health beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

7. Climate Change Adaptation

Adaptation is about improving our resilience and ability to act/respond/ future climate change impacts, such as: heat waves, flooding, drought, and changing weather patterns. Adaptation can be (a) anticipatory (planning ahead), (b) reactive (responding to evidence), (building) natural measures (e.g. green roofs and tree planting), financial support (e.g. for housing retrofit), and behaviour changes (e.g. annual migration/ working/ sleep energy). Appropriate policy and actions encourage multiple benefits (e.g. green roofs can help with flooding, biodiversity, and cooling). Consider whether the project (e.g. a new flight/ground, energy, cooperate building) may encounter overheating, or building on flood plains).

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on adaptation to climate change:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact adaptation beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

8. Energy Use

This is about the impact your project/policy will have on the total amount of energy needed and used to power our lives. Reducing our energy demand is an important component towards meeting our climate targets and includes the energy we have to produce to power our lives. Considerations include whether the project/policy will increase or decrease energy demand. This includes building design (e.g. insulation, shading, natural light), energy efficiency (e.g. efficient appliances, LEDs, switching to heat pumps), where to use these (e.g. whether travel time, heating an area), and behaviour changes (e.g. turning off lights when leaving a room).

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on energy use:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact energy use beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Does this project use fossil fuels (e.g. gas, oil, coal) or renewables (i.e. what ratio)?

e. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

9. Sustainable Materials

This factor is about the impact of the use of materials which are sourced, used and disposed of in a way which does not have a lasting impact on the environment. Considerations should include: (a) whether the materials come from a sustainable, renewable source (e.g. using recycled or natural materials and green or produced in a circular/life way), (b) whether the materials can be reused or recycled at the end of their lifespan, and (c) the environmental impact of the materials' manufacture, and (d) whether the material is toxic, has impact when disposed of (e.g. can the material be decomposed and reused or recycled to minimise waste).

How does this matter? [redacted]

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on sustainable materials:
Poor use/ concrete

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact sustainable material use beyond the delivery location?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

10. Waste

Waste is about the quantity of waste produced by activities in the district. The aim is to decrease the total amount of waste produced and to reuse, recycle or compost as much as possible. Waste can be (a) solid (e.g. household waste, food waste, bag bag running and medical products, inputs), (b) solid (e.g. disease, mycotoxins, antibiotic, pH), and (c) and, and (d) liquids (e.g. soil waste well, wastewater recyclable products), often recycling, other forms of recovery (e.g. microwaves, heat, energy) and disposal (landfill, incineration). Considerations include whether the project/policy will increase or decrease waste. Waste includes food, water, household waste, chemical risks, and waste from cleaning in construction. Projects should consider what materials or products will be used and how these will be disposed.

How does this matter? [redacted] Why does this matter?

a. Please specify the impact your project will have on waste:
Poor use/ concrete

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact waste beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Please explain why you have selected the above answers/ detail expected impacts:

Thank you for completing this section. Please scroll/move to the next tab to answer the Social questions.

[redacted] Scores

Scores

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

- Construction work
- Re-use/ provision or usage of new materials
- Manufacturing/ Factory
- Manufacturing/ Factory (Textiles, Light)
- Processing vehicles/ travel time
- Delivery/ service relocation
- Warehouse/ warehousing
- Use of fossil fuel (private car, waste, delivery)
- Cycle facilities
- Increasing cycling facilities
- Bus routes
- Electric vehicles
- Increasing use of public transport
- Outdoor/ unsheltered or heritage
- Moving ground here

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

- Market development
- Road extension site
- Market development
- Building
- Felling (of trees/ planting)

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

- Car parking
- Existing hedgerows
- Open nature
- Pond/ lakes
- Different/ Unsafest
- Existing light pollution
- Existing noise levels

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

- Waste in the use of pesticides
- Waste in the use of fertilisers
- Waste in the use of fertilisers
- Waste in the use of pesticides
- Farm management
- Farm use
- Water management technology

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

Nowthey!
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply

Consider:
Please tick boxes as appropriate for recommendations

load	good	vehicles
Fail/20	Fail/20	Fail/20
Fail/20	Fail/20	Fail/20
Fail/20	Fail/20	Fail/20
Fail/20	Fail/20	
Fail/20	Fail/20	
	Fail/20	
	Fail/20	

0 0 0

[redacted]

[redacted]

Check if something is
resolvable here: https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/a
For ground in addition https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/energy-efficient-homes/20308
Consecutable certifications to look for: https://www.bnf.ac.uk/home/Standards_for_retrofitted.htm

PAGE 2: SOCIAL IMPACTS

Please answer all blank questions on this page. There are 4 questions (a-d) for each section. Mark as 'not relevant' in one word if you have seen the 'none info' tick. Example: impacts are detailed in the

1. Land

Land confers a about the impact your project/policy has/will promoting healthy and affordable food. This includes physical access (e.g. How close to allotments, supermarkets, markets, restaurants, people and unaffordable? access (i.e. whether food is affordable to people), Access to healthy and varied food is key for health. Local food growers in some areas as a result of poor access to land. Land can be used for allotments, orchards, Food Gardens, community fridges, outdoor spaces of food, and how will this policy/plan/act / take Food as a central focus.

More info Why/about this market?

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on land?

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this be an impact or benefit beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

2. Health & Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing is about providing an equal chance for people to live a healthy life and overcoming factors that positively impact on mental and physical health. Factors impacting health mobility: access to services, quality of housing, air pollution, access to blue and green space on leisure spaces, social connection, access to healthy food, access to employment, education, and training. Consider how your project/policy may affect these (eg. physical activity levels and obesity) Will your project/policy have positive or unable

More info Why/about this market?

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on health:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact on health and wellbeing beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

3. Housing

This is about the availability of and access inequality/ issues/affordable/decisions. Housing is a human right and is a key to personal wellbeing. Quality housing reduces the risk of residents suffering from local poverty and other health issues. Poor housing can be cold, damp and unsafe, leading to poor health outcomes. Poor housing can be high energy cost, indirect impacts (e.g. How a development may affect heavy/affordable/ etc. Consider how your project supports/ impacts

More info Why/about this market?

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on housing:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact on quality or affordability of homes beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

4. Education

Education refers to the availability/equality of educational opportunities in the area and includes lifelong learning. Factors to consider include different types of opportunity (e.g. school, one off event, skills courses), the quality of the education and training provided, and how accessible it is to different groups (e.g. parents, carers, children and people in training or looking for supporting families with childcare/needs, including extra-curricular activities, i.e. holiday clubs).

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on education:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact on education beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

5. Built Community

This is about the impact your project/policy might have on the physical scene which influences the health and wellbeing of residents and communities. Consider how your project/policy may affect the quality of the built environment (e.g. roads, low impact which can be removed/edits, green spaces (e.g. parks, trees, gardens), and access to amenities (e.g. pubs, community halls, allotments). Impacts affecting community could be either long-term or temporary.

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on the built community:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact on built community beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

6. Cultural Community

This is about the impact your project/policy might have on the social and cultural cohesion of all communities. This includes shared sense of services, access to heritage (e.g. crowd funding initiatives, signposting), supporting residents to take part in cultural activities (e.g. arts, sports, leisure activities), and how accessible these are to different groups (e.g. gathers). Social and cultural resources encourage inclusion and community engagement and can include: commercial and community/ subscriptions. Impacts affecting community could be either long-term or temporary.

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on culture:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact on social and cultural resources beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

7. Accessibility

This is about whether your project/policy improves opportunities for access or it's presents any barriers to access. This includes physical barriers (e.g. access to the disabled people, lack of safe routes or transport options), digital barriers (e.g. broadband connection, online skills), social barriers (e.g. isolation, language), and financial barriers (e.g. costs are too high). Consider how to ensure your decision is open, transparent, and supports a fair and willing.

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on accessibility:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact accessibility beyond the delivery location of the project?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

8. Local Economy & Jobs

Ensuring a healthy and sustainable economy is a key part of a flourishing and inclusive community. It supports investments, creates and supports jobs, and contributes to a vibrant economy in the area. Considerations include how the employment (e.g. new facilities, services or businesses), services that support economic activity (e.g. business mentoring, unemployment support), and how accessible these are (e.g. barriers, opportunities or training/ quality of employment (e.g. living wage, underpaid employers), and also consider:

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on the economy or jobs:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact jobs and local economy beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

9. Safety/Crime

This is about the social and environmental factors that might affect safety and influence crime rates. Considerations include factors affecting sense of safety (e.g. lighting, vandalism, 'eyes on the street'), the real risk of harm to individuals (e.g. crime rates, road traffic accidents), and concern about, or the likelihood of someone committing a crime (e.g. reducing evidence of drug dependency, ASB).

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on safety:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact crime beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

10. Equity

Equity is the fair and just treatment of all members of a community, with a particular focus on supporting groups who have historically suffered discrimination. It is important to reduce the risk of discrimination through safeguards and positive action. Consider how your project/policy may affect people with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) and groups experiencing multiple disadvantage/ discrimination (e.g. due to age, disability, gender, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation).

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on equity:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact equity beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

11. Democratic Voice

Democratic voice is about the opportunities available to the public to be involved in the decisions affecting their lives (e.g. being consulted or acting on the decision-making of decisions or being involved in the design and implementation of projects). Consider how your project/policy may affect democratic voice (e.g. how accessible is the decision-making process, and is it open, transparent and supports a fair and willing. Meaningful engagement is about the public not only having an influence the outcome of a project or decision. Potential barriers to involvement should be considered and removed where possible.

More info

a. Please specify: the impact your project will have on participation:

b. Will this impact last beyond the delivery phase of the project?

c. Will this impact democratic voice beyond the delivery location?

d. Briefly explain why you drew these entries:

	Scores		
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Need help?

Need about project related to any of the following? Tick all that apply.

- Land
- Health & Wellbeing
- Housing
- Education
- Built Community
- Cultural Community
- Accessibility
- Local Economy & Jobs
- Safety/Crime
- Equity
- Democratic Voice

Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply.

Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply.

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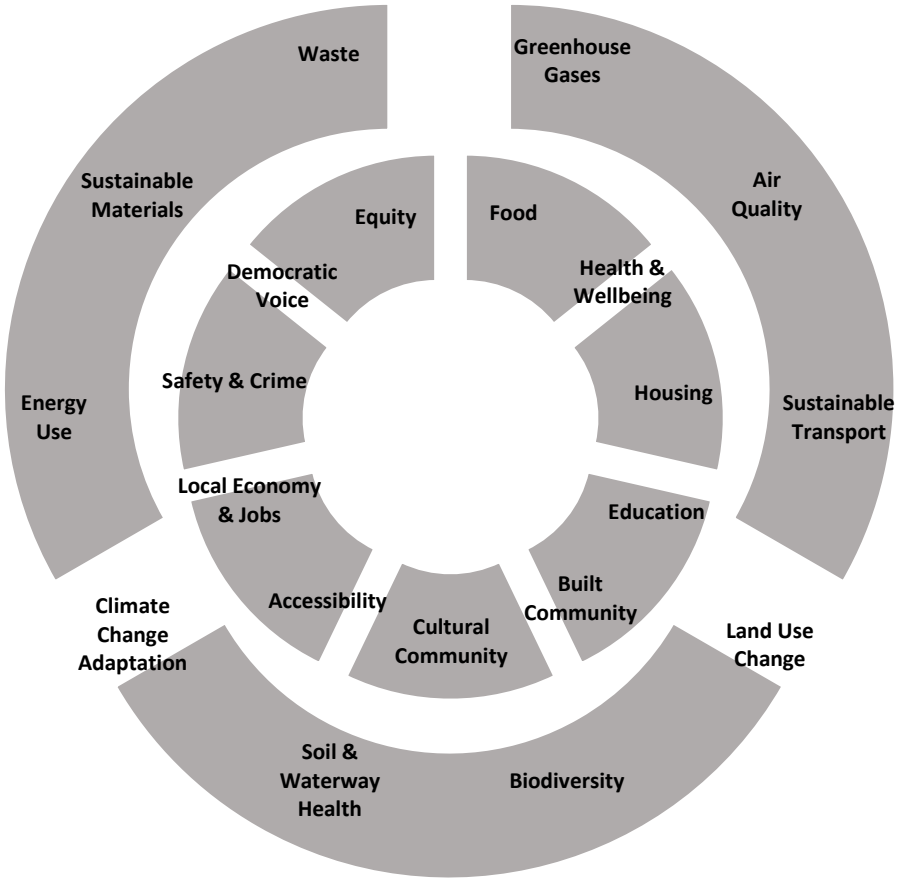
Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply.

Does your project relate to any of the following? Tick all that apply.

Opportunities

Allotments	FALSE	
Food bank	FALSE	
Orchard	FALSE	
Grocers	FALSE	
Arts	FALSE	
Parks	FALSE	
Pros	FALSE	
Mirrors	FALSE	
Cambridge	FALSE	
Cambridge	FALSE	
Food Need	FALSE	
Economy	FALSE	

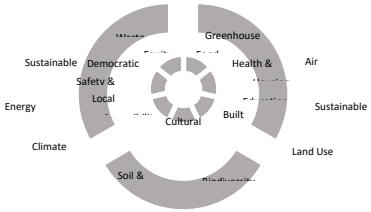
#REF!



Key

	Significant and/or long-term positive impact identified. No changes needed.
	Slight or short-term positive impact identified. No changes needed but could be reviewed to improve.
	Not applicable or no cause for concern.
	Slight or short-term negative impact identified. Review to identify possible improvements.
	Significant and/or long-term negative impact identified. Changes needed before proceeding.

Report: 0



CHECKS

ENVIRONMENTAL	Scores	Action	Justification	Reviewed	Recommendation	Follow up	Conclusion
GHGs	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Air quality	0	No action required.	0				
Sustainable Transport	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Biodiversity	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Land use change	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Soil and waterway health	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Climate Change Adaptation	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Energy Use	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Waste	0	No action required.	0				
Sustainable Materials	0	No action required.	0				

SOCIAL	Scores	Action	Justification	Reviewed	Recommendation	Follow up	Conclusion
Food	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Health	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Housing	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Education	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0				
Community	0	No action required.	0				
Culture	0	No action required.	0				
Accessibility	0	No action required.	0				
Local Economy and Jobs	0	No action required.	0				
Safety	0	No action required.	0				
Democratic Voice	0	No action required.	0				
Equity	0	No action required.	0				