

**Perennial Planting in Long Gardens and reduction of Hanging Baskets**



**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.

**This summary of the CIAT should be used to aid your decision making. Please note that red/amber segments simply mean that mitigations and changes should take place not that the project cannot go ahead.**

Environmental	Scores	Justification	Recommendation
<b>GHGs</b>	2	Once the planting scheme has been transitioned to perennials the reductions in resources used to produce and maintain the annual plants	0
<b>Air quality</b>	0	There will be no impact in air quality changing from one style of planting to another	0
<b>Sustainable Transport</b>	0	This is a landscape project	0
<b>Land use change</b>	0	The land use remains amenity / landscape	0
<b>Biodiversity</b>	8	Perennial plants are more beneficial to pollinating insects than seasonal bedding plants, and the Long Garden will enhance and better connect the urban habitat network	0
<b>Soil and waterway health</b>	0	There will be no change in land use	0
<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	4	The plant selection will take account of the changing climate, and utilise plant species that require less irrigation and can cope with extended spells of dry weather. The scheme has the potential to act as a showpiece of good practice in a high profile location	0

<b>Energy Use</b>	8	Once plants are established permanently in the ground there will little or no energy costs associated with producing seasonal bedding plants annually in heated green houses, significant reductions in irrigation water, and transportation costs between seed house germination, nursery and end customer.	0
<b>Sustainable Materials</b>	8	Energy costs associated with the production of perennial plants are encountered only once in their initial production unlike seasonal bedding plants which are twice annually. Similarly material resources, such as compost and pots are only used only once. The Long Garden currently utilises 14000 plant containers, albeit they are sent back to be recycled or reused if possible	0
<b>Waste</b>	#VALUE!	The current practice requires all the plants to be dug up and disposed of twice per annum, albeit they are transported to a Cheltenham allotment site where tenants can reuse them as compost or soil conditioner. Plants in the new scheme will remain in the ground, and will not be required to be dug up and disposed of. Some of the herbaceous material will die back and need removing from site, where it will also be composted.	0

<b>Social</b>	<b>Scores</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>Food</b>	0	This is an amenity landscape scheme	0
<b>Health</b>	4	The Long Gardens contribute significantly to the quality of green infrastructure in the town. Access to and interaction with good quality green space (particularly semi-natural), are proven to benefit peoples mental well being	0
<b>Housing</b>	0	This is an amenity landscape scheme	0
<b>Education</b>	0	The perennial scheme could serve as an exemplar scheme showcasing good sustainable horticultural practices	0
<b>Community</b>	4	The Long Garden	0

<b>Culture</b>	0	People will still be able to experience and enjoy the visual impact of the Long Gardens as a free and accessible public amenity	0
<b>Accessibility</b>	0	People will still be able to experience and enjoy the visual impact of the Long Gardens as a free and accessible public amenity	0
<b>Local Economy and Jobs</b>	0	Part of Cheltenham's attraction to visitors is it's environmental quality with prized green spaces set amongst Georgian architecture. The Long Gardens will continue to be an important piece of the green space network at the centre of the town. Loss of hanging baskets and window boxes may be viewed as a loss to environmental quality where they are no longer hung out	0
<b>Safety</b>	0	Well maintained public spaces are known to deter vandalism and anti social behaviour due to the implied attention they receive from maintenance teams and the many people that frequent them	0
<b>Equity</b>	0	The Long Gardens will remain accessible for everyone to enjoy in an accessible, and central location close to a central transport hub	0
<b>Democratic Voice</b>	2	Previous engagement with green space volunteer groups has generated support for this style of planting. The last customer survey undertaken by the Council indicated high levels of satisfaction with Cheltenham's parks, and indicated support for nature based approaches to garden maintenance	0