

An assessment must be completed for all key decisions included in the Forward Plan.

Stage 1 This stage determines whether a full assessment is required

1.1 Description of the proposed decision

The lack of any sort of economic strategy was highlighted in the last CPA inspection, and was highlighted as a gap during the development and delivery of other key Council policies. Rossendale Borough Council does not currently have an agreed Economic Strategy to provide the framework for its involvement and investment in regeneration activity. With regeneration being recognised as a priority of the Borough Council it was important that this policy gap was filled. Consequently the production of a RBC Economic Strategy was included in the Economic Regeneration and Strategic Housing Service business plan for 2007/08. Members are requested to consider the economic strategy and adopt it as a key Council policy.

1.2 Will the proposed decision have the effect of flora and fauna of either increasing or reducing the range of species and habitats within the borough

Yes No

If no, proceed no further if yes continue to stage 2

Stage 2 This stage helps understand whether any impact on biodiversity is positive or negative

2.1 Will the proposed decision have a positive or negative impact on biodiversity? (A positive impact would increase the range of species or habitats or increase the protection of existing habitats, a negative impact would do the opposite.)

Positive negative

2.2 Describe the impact, in particular drawing attention to scale. For example removing the only habitat in the North West for a particular plant is clearly of great significance, whereas a negative impact on a very common plant is of less significance.

If the impact is positive you need go no further

Stage 3 This stage allows any negative impact to be balanced against the other positive benefits of the proposed decision using the framework created by the wellbeing power set out in the Local Government Act 2000

3.1 Indicate the benefits which will be delivered by this decision under the following headings. As far as possible quantify benefits (eg by jobs created)

3.2 Are there steps which are planned or could be taken to mitigate the impact on biodiversity (eg relocating certain species during building work)

Stage 4 This stage sets out the balance between the negative impacts on biodiversity and the other positive impacts so that Councillors can make an informed decision.

Positive impacts
 (eg X jobs created)

Negative Impacts
 (eg acres of habitat lost)

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