Northumberland County Council

Carbon Impact Assessment

Basic Information

Name	Lara Baker
Proposal Name	Energising Blyth Programme – Northumberland Energy Park - Infrastructure
Service Area	Economy & Regeneration
Proposal Description	The installation of a capping at Ash Barge Dock deep water berth, to bring the dock into operation to service both NEP1 (JDR Cables) and the wider Northumberland Energy Park area, including the £2.6bn new Britishvolt EV battery gigaplant
Confirmed/Estimated Cost	£1,431,621
Will this proposal be submitted to capital strategy group, cabinet or full council?	Cabinet and Capital Strategy Group

Scoring:

When assessing your proposal, score each section subjectively based on your own understanding and knowledge. Scoring ranges from +2 to -2, based on the scoring methodology below. For each section, there are example considerations to guide the scoring; this is not an exhaustive list, nor do all have to apply. Ultimately, decide to what extent your proposal aligns with the net zero 2030 commitment and whether all possible measures to do so have been included. The score will be submitted to the Climate Change Policy Thematic Group for discussion and additional support, before advancing to the relevant decision-making body.

+2: The proposal results in a large reduction of carbon emissions; The proposal is a large improvement on previous practices; The proposal has selected best practice opportunities; The proposal is aligned with the net zero 2030 commitment.

+1: The proposal results in some reduction of carbon emissions; The proposal is an improvement on previous practices; The proposal has selected some best practice opportunities; The proposal is in some way aligned to the net zero 2030 commitment.

0: The proposal has little or no impact; The proposal is slightly or no different to previous practices; This section is not applicable.

-1: The proposal results in some increase in carbon emissions; The proposal is a deterioration compared to previous practices; The proposal misses available best practice opportunities; The proposal is misaligned to the net zero 2030 commitment.

-2: The proposal results in a large increase in carbon emissions; The proposal is a large deterioration compared to previous practices; The proposal actively selects more carbon intensive options in place of best practice opportunities; The proposal is significantly misaligned to the net zero 2030 commitment."

1. Policy

As stated in the Climate Action 2021-2023 All new policy decisions should be carbon neutral or should reduce Northumberland's emissions from their current level unless there is significant justification in terms of other benefits to the county. Where such a policy cannot be carbon neutral, all available options to reduce its carbon impact will be explored.

If this Carbon Impact Assessment is not relevant to policy, please answer 0.

Score: 2
Rationale: The project is aligned to the Blyth Town Investment Plan objective 'Clean Growth Town' with the vision for Blyth as an exemplar Renewable Energy Town and Port within the Programme timeframe. It aligns to all National and local Net Zero Policy objectives.

2. Partnerships and Engagement

The Council cannot achieve its ambition of a net-zero county by 2030 in isolation. Every resident, business and visitor to Northumberland will need to make their contribution to see Northumberland become the UK's greenest county and reach our net zero by 2030 target.

Example considerations (not exhaustive, nor do all have to apply). Consider residents/businesses/the Council.

Does the proposal engage with others about the climate emergency?
Does the proposal encourage others to reduce emissions?

Score: 2
Rationale: The Project will bring into use an additional deep-water berth at the Port of Blyth. This will enable large scale advance manufacturing to service both the offshore renewable energy and electric vehicle battery sector.

3. Heating

As a Council, we will continue to lead the way by reducing the energy consumption of our estate and installing renewable heat and power solutions in our buildings where possible. For new project proposals, renewable/sustainable heating options should be considered as default prior to consideration of fossil fuel sources.

Does the proposal use low carbon heating instead of fossil fuels, where heating is required?
Does the proposal impact heating consumption?

If fossil fuel heating sources are to be installed, could a renewable heating system be easily implemented at a later date?

Score: 0
Rationale: This section is not applicable

4. Transport

As a largely rural and a destination County we recognise the need for the right mix of public and private transport. Our Carbon Action Plan outlines that where possible, transport should be low carbon with zero tailpipe emissions, protecting local air quality and reducing noise.

How are people likely to travel to the proposed site?
Does the proposal encourage or enable active travel or public transport?
Does the proposal encourage or enable electric vehicle usage?

Score: 2
Rationale: The project will support the electric vehicle sector as it will enable a deep water dock to utilised for the import of materials for Electric Vehicle battery manufacture

5. Renewable Energy Generation

Continuing to generate energy from renewable sources across the County is both sustainable and a driver for economic growth. Proposals should show support for renewable technology where installations are technically possible, economically feasible, environmentally advantageous and socially acceptable. #

Does the proposal impact energy consumption?
Does the proposal impact on renewable energy generated in Northumberland?
Does the proposal use or encourage renewable energy tariffs, where energy consumption is required?

Score: 2
Rationale: The proposal will directly support the renewable energy sector by providing an operational dock to renewable energy sector business. The businesses have plans to ensure that manufacturing processes will use all renewable sources of energy when fully operational. The sites are located close to the North Sea Interconnector and EDF Blyth offshore wind which will provide private direct connection to the NEP area as well as to the grid.

6. Carbon Sequestration

The County enjoys a vast spread of land and forestry. Carbon is sequestered by forestry, grassland, wetlands and peat, while carbon losses occur on existing cropland and natural land that is converted to cropland. New proposals should consider integrated land use which enhances, safeguards sequestration and the
associated biodiversity, whilst supporting local climate action and boosting rural economy.

Does the proposal impact trees, peat bogs, soil and other natural habitats?
Does the proposal offset its carbon emissions? Is this offset within Northumberland?
Does the proposal store carbon through use of materials? e.g. local timber, concrete, steel

Score: 1
Rationale: Northumberland Energy Park – Phase 1 enabling works is located at the site of the former Blyth coal fired power station. It is also adjacent to the Port of Blyth which is a designated SSSI and Special Marine Protection Area for a large number of protected bird species. All works and future operations will take place under strict controls over noise and light pollution. Each site has provided significant bio-diversity net gain both off and on site controlled though the Planning system, Local materials will be sourced by the Contractor, particularly concrete.

7. Waste

Our Climate Action Plan states that Northumberland County Council will consider a more circular approach to our economy and reduce waste by supporting efforts to design out waste, keeping materials in operation and productive use for as long as possible in new projects and proposals going forward.

Does the proposal impact waste generation?
Does the proposal follow a circular approach? E.g. design out waste, use of shareable, repairable, reusable and recyclable/recycled materials

Score: 1
Rationale: A Construction Waste Plan will be required as part of the Quality Assurance process. Best practice Quantity Surveying methods will be employed to reduce waste at source.

Next steps

This form will be reviewed by a member of the Climate Change team. Where required or requested, this form will be raised at the Climate Change Policy Thematic Group. This group will be able to provide additional support and guidance around making proposals more aligned with the net zero commitment. This group is not a decision-making body. A carbon impact assessment must accompany all capital strategy group, informal cabinet, cabinet and full

council reports. Carbon Literacy training is now available for all staff. For more information and to register for a session, please visit Learning Together.

8. Would you like to discuss your submitted CIA with the climate change team?
No

9. Do you have any final comments or feedback about this form?

NO