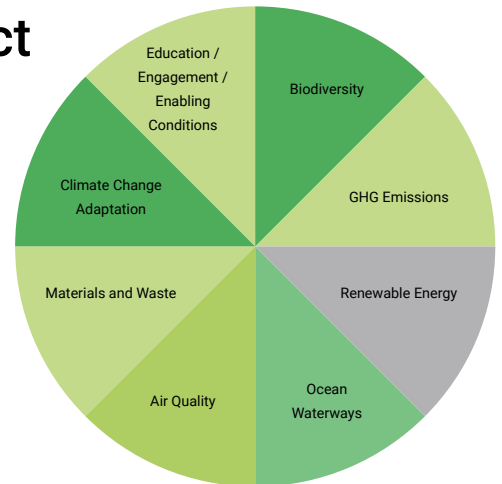


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Assessment ID: REV595

Assessment Author: Richard Bara

Assessment Project Summary:

This is an extensive public realm project that embeds a number of holistic benefits to improve sustainability characteristics of a pedestrianised inner city urban highway.

The scheme has considered the climate impact of the proposal from its very inception and seeks to significantly improve the fundamental condition, and quality the landscape's soils, use of existing natural materials, management of rainfall, and provision of environments for trees and plant-life, providing unique aquatic habitats, reedbeds, open water, bee and bug hotels as well as bird boxes.

The scheme also embeds solar panels to help offset power requirements for its water features and ornamental lighting.

The scheme promotes active travel with the provision of a segregated cycleway, improved footpath routes for the public, as well and useable spaces either side of the route for public enjoyment. this is all made possible by the redesigned layout which incorporates the principle of the Beaux Arts Design improving visibility along the length of Armada Way, ordering the spaces to make them more practical and improving legibility of the city centre for all.

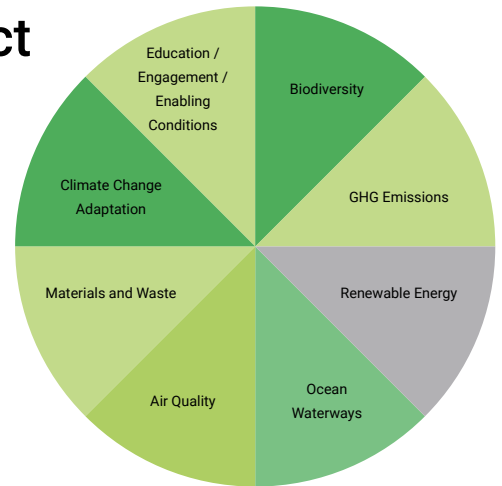
The benefits of this scheme are long term and go well beyond 2030.

Assessment Final Summary:

As can be seen from the resulting assessment wheel the scores for the various criteria are well balanced and predominately provide long lasting to short term positive benefits for this environment. This is as expected given the holistic approach the scheme has taken from its onset as a comprehensive public realm regeneration, balancing the various needs and expectations of the City, it's residents, businesses and the wider public, and identifying these through its many public consultation exercises.

Over recent years Armada Way has seen a serious decline in footfall, with many empty shop units. It has features that are in dire need of repair and haven't been updated since the 80s. There are areas that are unusable or inaccessible, with growing concerns over public safety, which have resulted in virtually no night-time economy.

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The area is dated, run-down and in serious need of investment.

Our ambition is to bring a large amount of residential development into the centre, giving new leases of life to tired, vacant buildings, encouraging more people to dwell in and use the city centre both during the day and at night.

The current layout of Armada Way does not encourage investment or inspire confidence from developers.

Plymouth City Council wants to change this and feels that Armada Way deserves investment to put it on a similar footing to other major city centres across the country.

The intention for the new scheme is to:

Recapture the scale and grandeur of Armada Way. Include more trees and greenery.

Include a huge and exciting new destination play village for families. Help wildlife and nature.

Be water smart.

Improve safety for all, especially women and young girls. Have more places to sit, relax and eat.

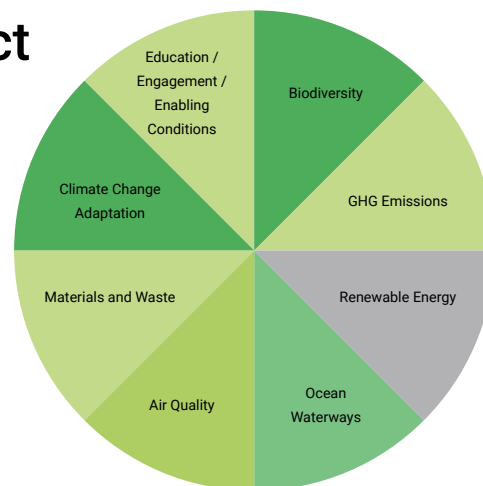
Include a new cycling path for people of all abilities.

Have plenty of pop-up spaces for retail, arts, culture, and entertainment.

Biodiversity Score: 5

Biodiversity Score Justification: Nature is at the heart of this scheme. It will positively support wildlife in the city centre. It is proposed that there will be a total of 202 trees in the scheme - 49 more than there were before. All the trees planted will be at a height of 3.5-8m. The trees will be a diverse mix of UK native and ornamental trees avoiding a monoculture. The species have been selected for their resilience to disease and climate change. They are also less likely to suffer in future from stress and sporadic growth from the base of the trunk and will be planted in high quality root infrastructure allowing for the future cultural requirements and growth. In addition to

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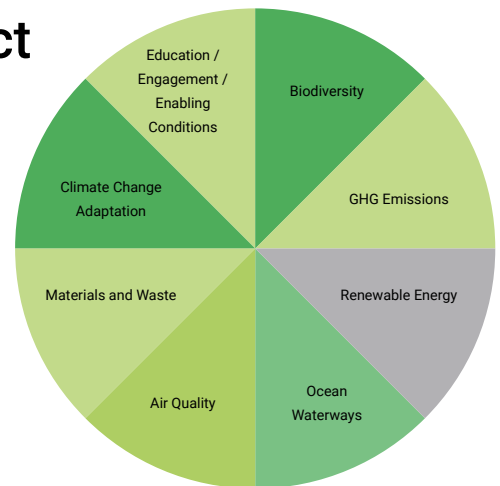
the trees and shrubs, the underplanting, which in the main will be drought resistant and highly floriferous, will provide pollen and nectar for wildlife as well as homes, and wildflowers will be planted to encourage pollinators like bees. Bug hotels and bird boxes will also be installed throughout to encourage wildlife. Reed beds will provide natural filtration for the water being recirculated from the drainage system so that chemicals don't have to be used. This water will maintain the trees in addition to filling the shallow stream running down the scheme. Short-term negative impacts of the scheme include the immediate removal of tree canopy where the trees were felled in March 2023, until the new trees are planted. The long lasting and positive impacts offered by the scheme are deemed to outweigh the short-term negative impact of temporary loss of tree canopy to create an overall score that is a long lasting and extensive positive impact. In addition to this a further 525 trees will be planted across the city to achieve a biodiversity net gain of 20%.

Biodiversity Score Mitigate: No

GHG Emissions Score: 4

GHG Emissions Score Justification: The project will create a one-off increase in greenhouse gas emissions during the construction phase through soil disturbance, the laying of granite as a hard landscape material and the use of construction vehicles and machinery onsite as well as the transportation of materials. However, materials have been selected for durability and longevity, which will reduce the need for replacement and ongoing maintenance with associated embedded carbon. These valuable materials can be recycled over time. The scheme will also recycle existing natural and man-made materials into the new project (soil, slabs and kerbs) saving significant quantities of greenhouse gases in relation to transport and product manufacture. There will be a longer-term energy requirement for the running of the new rill which requires pumps in order to operate as well as the new lighting. However, the scheme includes the installation of solar panels and battery storage to offset the additional energy requirements and the installed lighting will be a highly energy efficient LED lighting system. The mature trees have been removed from Armada Way and will be replaced by an increased quantity of younger, healthier, semi-mature trees (an additional 49 trees) specified to thrive in an urban environment, which will ultimately sequester more carbon in the long term. One of the driving factors of the scheme is to promote active travel through walking and cycling as an alternative to car use, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the long-term. We anticipate this scheme after implementation would typically generate a combined total number of cycle movements of

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around 400 per day.

GHG Emissions Score Mitigate: No

Renewable Energy Score: 3

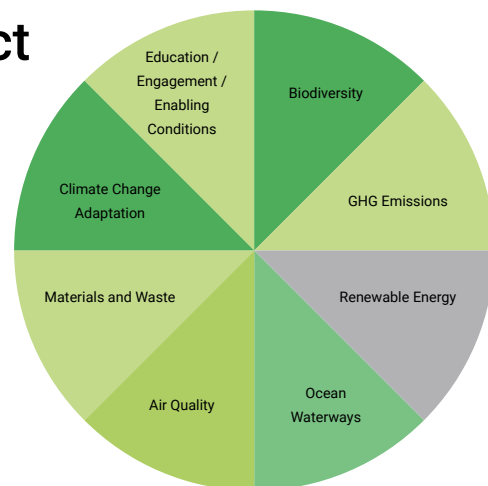
Renewable Energy Score Justification: The scheme will require energy in order to run the SuDS and ornamental water feature. However, the scheme includes installation of solar panels to help offset some of the additional energy needed to power the water feature. The existing street lighting scheme is being replaced with an LED street lighting system which is more efficient than the old scheme. The spread of light is greatly improved.

Renewable Energy Score Mitigate: No

Ocean and Waterways Score: 5

Ocean and Waterways Score Justification: The scheme will deliver a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to manage all of the surface water which falls on Armada Way. This will involve the use of rain gardens, and in certain parts of the site this will allow water to naturally infiltrate into the ground. Any excess will make its way to underground storage tanks which will fill with rainwater after being filtered through natural reed beds. The water will be recirculated around Armada Way through an ornamental stream which will run along the length of the proposed scheme. The water will also be used to irrigate the trees at times of drought. Through this process, the majority of clean rainwater will be prevented from entering the combined sewer and therefore avoids the need for the water company to treat it in its sewage treatment plants. It also removes significant quantities of water from the combined system which at times of high rainfall can cause the system to overflow and damage to the quality of bathing waters. The system, therefore, is more climate resilient and uses water wisely which will be beneficial at times of extreme weather events. The SuDS will be primarily powered by gravity and as such fails safe in all events. The ornamental rill is powered by solar energy via pumps using battery storage. This system delivers a long lasting and extensive positive impact as it reduces maintenance and watering costs by retaining rainwater to water the trees; it reduces the likelihood of foul water ending up in our catchment watercourses and eventually in the Sound; and reduces flood risk for our city centre.

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Ocean and Waterways Score Mitigate: No

Air Quality Score: 4

Air Quality Score Justification: This scheme includes a total of 202 trees, 49 more than there were previously, as well as more beneficial greenery including underplanting, wildflower meadows and reedbeds to encourage wildlife generally and pollinators. One of the driving factors of the regime is to promote active travel through walking and cycling, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the alternative use of cars and improving air quality in the long term. We anticipate this scheme after implementation would typically generate a combined total number of cycle movements of around 400 per day.

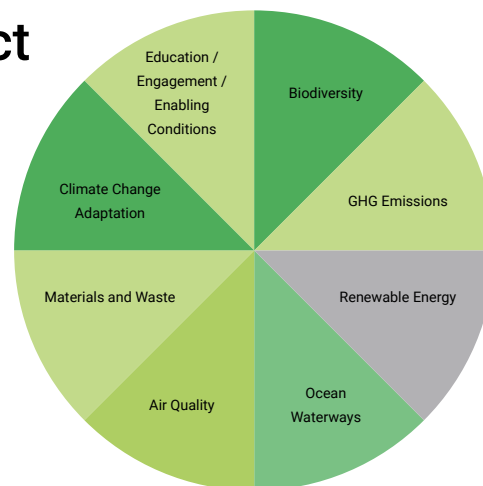
Air Quality Score Mitigate: No

Materials and Waste Score: 4

Materials and Waste Score Justification: There will be a short-term negative impact during the construction phase due to waste that is generated and materials that are taken up. However, materials have been selected for durability and longevity, which will reduce the need for replacement and ongoing maintenance with associated embedded carbon. These valuable materials can be recycled over time. The scheme will also recycle existing natural and manmade materials into the new project, saving significant quantities of greenhouse gases in relation to transport and product manufacture. The scheme will deliver SuDS which uses clean rainwater wisely and avoids it being used as waste water which has significant benefits. There will be a comprehensive construction and waste management plan. The scheme includes like for like recycling infrastructure. The final scheme will include bins at regular intervals along Armada Way. The provision of waste bins will be of the combined litter and recycling type, recognising the role that recycling bins have in encouraging a more sustainable approach to waste, which is essential near shops in the city centre. The scheme incorporates a minimum of one water bottle refilling station, supporting the Plan for Plastics.

Materials and Waste Score Mitigate: No

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Climate Change Adaptation Score: 5

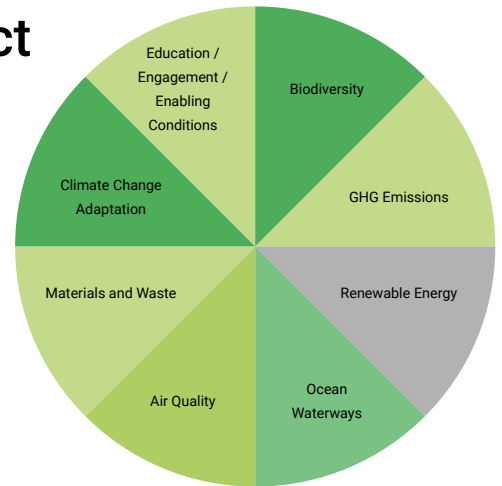
Climate Change Adaptation Score Justification: The scheme will deliver a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to manage all the surface water which falls on Armada Way. This will involve the use of rain gardens and underground storage tanks which will fill with rainwater after being filtered through natural reed beds. The water will be recirculated around Armada Way through an ornamental stream which will run along the length of the proposed scheme. The water will be used to irrigate the trees. Through this process, the majority of clean rainwater will be prevented from entering the combined sewer and therefore avoids the need for the water company to treat it in its sewage plants. It also takes out significant quantities of water from the combined system which at times of high rainfall can cause the system to overflow and damage to the quality of bathing waters. The system, therefore, is more climate resilient and uses water wisely which will be beneficial in times of extreme weather events. The SuDS will primarily be powered by gravity and as such fails safe in all events. The ornamental rill is partly powered by solar energy generated from the scheme's solar panels. This system delivers a long lasting and extensive positive impact as it reduces maintenance and watering costs by retaining rainwater to water the trees; it reduces the likelihood of foul water ending up in our catchment watercourses and eventually in the Sound; and reduces flood risk for our city centre. In addition, the species of the trees which have been selected for planting in Armada Way have been specifically selected for their resilience to disease and climate change. These trees will have a significant effect on the microclimate of Armada Way through the transpo-evaporation of water which has the effect of reducing the urban heat island. Thought has been given to providing shelter and shade throughout the scheme with the installation of solar canopies and the planting of trees under which people can stop, rest and be both sheltered and shaded from the weather.

Climate Change Adaptation Score Mitigate: No

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions Score: 4

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions Score Justification: There are opportunities within the scheme for interpretation to explain the benefits to the public and impart positive messaging to the public, promoting the use of PVs, SuDS, bio-diversity gain, use of recycled materials, the functioning of the ornamental rill, using water wisely including irrigation, the future installation of district heating and other future-proofing, infrastructure delivered by the scheme which helps to make it more carbon neutral. There will also be opportunities for engagement with

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schools about the environmental benefits this scheme delivers. One of the driving factors of the regime is to promote active travel through walking and cycling, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of cars in the long term. There will be extensive engagement around behaviours linked to the conflicts between these different modes of travel.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions Score Mitigate: No

Wheel Key

- Long lasting or severe negative impact
- Short term or limited negative impact
- No impact or neutral impact
- Short term or limited positive impact
- Long lasting or extensive positive impact