



SEVERN ROAD RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

CHAPTER 15

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT APPRAISAL

Viridor

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SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
STUDY AREA	1
Community Consultation.....	1
Methodology.....	1
RESULTS.....	4
Evaluation of Results.....	4
Summary	9
Cumulative Impacts.....	9
Conclusions	9



SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

INTRODUCTION

- 15.1 The principle of sustainable development is relevant not only to environmental issues but also to the implications for social and economic issues. The purpose of this socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) is to identify the potential impacts of the Severn Road Resource Recovery Centre (SRRRC) on the local social and economic environment. The assessment therefore considers the potential impacts of the development against the socio economic aspirations of the area and aims to show whether the development is compatible with the latter.

STUDY AREA

- 15.2 This SEIA is based on a 3km study area from the proposed application site and is shown on Drawing No.1 (Appendix 1). The 3km radius incorporates the wards of Avonmouth, Kings Weston and Hallen in Bristol and Almondsbury ward and Pilning and Severn Beach ward in South Gloucestershire. The majority of the 3km area falls within Avonmouth ward and only a small number of streets in Kings Weston and Hallen are contained within the 3km radius. The area within the 3km radius in South Gloucestershire is largely rural and contains very few settlements.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 15.3 To ensure that stakeholders were engaged with the planning process, the following have taken places; T17th June pre application meeting with Bristol City Council (BCC)
- 22nd June submission of Scoping Opinion Request to BCC
 - 14th July presentation of outline scheme design to the South West Design Review Panel
 - 16/17th July presentation of proposed scheme to local stakeholders
 - 22nd July public exhibition at Hallen village
 - 23rd July public exhibition at Avonmouth village.

Methodology

- 15.4 The majority of data used in this SEIA has been taken from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD 2007) which is largely based on 2001 Census data from the small geographical areas known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs have between 1000 and 3000 people living in them with an average population of 1500 people. In most cases, these are smaller than wards, thus allowing the identification of small pockets of deprivation.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

- 15.5 There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. The LSOA ranked 1 by the IMD 2007 is the most deprived and that ranked 32,482 is the least deprived. Bristol has a total of 252 LSOAs and South Gloucestershire, 162 LSOAs.
- 15.6 Data relating to deprivation in the Bristol LSOAs was clearly set out in the City Council's 'Deprivation in Bristol 2007' document. The relevant sections of the document are set out in Appendix 2.
- 15.7 Data for South Gloucestershire LSOAs was not set out in such an accessible format, although conclusions on the socio economic environment could be drawn from the available data.
- 15.8 The proposed SRRRC will be considered against the aims of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire economic strategies, to assess whether it will help or hinder the identified socio economic development needs and aspirations of the local area.
- 15.9 The IMD 2007 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. The Indicators are as follows;
- **Employment Deprivation:** Measures employment deprivation i.e. involuntary exclusion of working age population from the labour market and includes those out of work due to sickness.
 - **Health Deprivation:** identifies areas with relatively high ratios of people who die prematurely or whose life is impaired by poor health or disability.
 - **Income Deprivation:** includes numbers of adults and children in income support households and job seekers allowance households and national asylum seekers support.
 - **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation:** measures deprivation in educational attainment, skills and training for young people and working age population.
 - **Access to Housing and Services Deprivation:** Geographical barriers such as road distance to GP Surgery, Primary School or Supermarket and also wider barriers such as housing affordability.
 - **Living Environment Deprivation:** Indoor environment i.e. quality of housing and outdoor environment i.e. air quality and road traffic accidents.
- 15.10 A number of documents were considered as a means of establishing the socio economic aspirations of the local area. The documents considered were as follows;

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

Regional

- Regional Planning Guidance 10 for the South West
- Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West

Bristol

- Bristol Local Plan 1997
- Proposed Alterations to the Local Plan 2003

South Gloucestershire

- South Glos Local Plan 2006
- Joint Replacement Structure Plan 2002
- South Glos Economic Development Strategy 2008-2015

15.11 The Socio Economic objectives of the Bristol Local Plan 1997 are set out in **Table 15/1** and the potential implications of the SRRRC for these objectives are also assessed in this Table.

15.12 A number of policies are specific to Avonmouth. For example, Policy EC7 of the Bristol Local Plan identifies Avonmouth as a priority area for promotion and regeneration:

15.13 The 2003 Suggested Alterations to the Approved Bristol Local Plan provide a more up to date picture of Avonmouth and its socio economic profile. Strategically located in relation to the Port of Bristol, the second Severn Crossing and the M49, M4 and M5 motorways, the Avonmouth area, along with the Severnside area to the north, is recognised as an employment resource of regional importance. The area includes substantial amounts of redundant and derelict land, which provides potential for renewable energy and recycling facilities. The document recognises that new development could provide opportunities to regenerate the area and states that the City Council are committed to working with key strategic partners in supporting sustainable development and regeneration in Avonmouth.

15.14 The Draft RSS and Draft South Glos Core Strategy both highlight the potential of the Avonmouth/Severnside area as a major employment location. The objectives of the South Glos Economic Development Strategy 2008-2015 are set out in **Table 15/2** and the potential implications of the SRRRC for these objectives are also assessed in this Table.

15.15 The range of planning documents and economic strategies reviewed, stress the importance of the Avonmouth/Severnside area as a prime area for employment creation and regeneration. Establishing new development in this area is considered to bring benefits in terms of job creation and training opportunities, which will in turn bring benefits to the adjacent South Glos and Bristol LSOAs. The following section reviews LSOA data within the 3km of the site to establish whether the proposed SRRRC will help or hinder the socio economic aspirations of the study area.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

RESULTS

- 15.16 Three Bristol Wards are located within the 3km study area; Avonmouth, Kingsweston and Henbury. Only one LSOA in Avonmouth (Lawrence Weston West) falls within the 50 most deprived LSOAs in Bristol and this SOA is 42nd out of 50. For all other Multiple Deprivation Indicators apart from Education Skills and training Deprivation, Avonmouth falls within the category of 'More deprived than average rank'. For Education, Skills and Training Deprivation, Avonmouth has 4 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% SOAs in England. However, in terms of the outdoor living environment, Avonmouth is 'less deprived than the average rank'.
- 15.17 Kingsweston Ward has 4 LSOAs which fall within the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in England and 2 within the top 50 most deprived wards in Bristol. This is as a result of being in the most deprived 10% in England in relation to Income Deprivation, Education Skills and Training Deprivation and Income Deprivation affecting Children.
- 15.18 Henbury Ward too has a number of LSOAs which fall within the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in England in terms of Employment Deprivation and Income Deprivation affecting Older People.
- 15.19 What this analysis of the relevant Bristol LSOAs shows is that improvements are needed primarily to address deprivation in Education, Skills and Training, Employment Deprivation and Income Deprivation. It is considered that the construction and operation of the SRRRC would provide both employment and skills and training opportunities.
- 15.20 Although the LSOA data for South Glos was not set out in the same way as that of Bristol, it was clear that within the study area, the South Glos LSOAs were less deprived than those in Bristol. This was largely attributed to the South Glos LSOAs being less populated and more rural than those in Bristol.
- 15.21 The two Wards considered in South Glos; Almondsbury Ward and Pilning and Severn Beach Ward in South Glos had a higher % of economically active and a lower % of unemployed people than both the South West and the national average. However, although the South Glos wards are less deprived than the Bristol wards, the creation of additional jobs in the local area can only be a benefit to the socio economic aspirations of Almondsbury and Pilning and Severn Beach wards.

Evaluation of Results

- 15.22 The development of the SRRRC will have implications for the Bristol Local Plan objectives for the economy and South Gloucestershire's socio economic objectives. The potential implications for the Bristol City Council socio economic objectives have been highlighted in Table 1, with a tick indicating a benefit, a cross indicating a cost and a circle indication no cost or benefit to the objectives. The potential implications on South Gloucestershire's socio economic objectives are set out in Table 15/2.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

15.23 Table 15/3 assesses the potential implications of the SRRRC on the Study Area Indices of Deprivation 2007.

Table 15/1
The potential implications of the development on the Bristol Local Plan
Socio Economic Objectives.

✓ **Positive Impact O** **Neutral Impact X** **Negative Impact**

Aim	Achieved	Comment
<p>To promote the use of land and buildings in the city to bring benefits to those people who are seeking work and are disadvantaged when competing for jobs. The city council will encourage proposals which will create jobs and help maintain a wide range of economic activity within the city.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The application site is allocated in the City of Bristol Local Plan for industrial development and the Avonmouth area is supported for the development of renewable energy and waste management facilities. This proposal will regenerate a derelict industrial site.</p> <p>One LSOA in Avonmouth ward falls within the most deprived 10% of LSOAs In England in terms of Education, Skills and Training Deprivation and Income Deprivation affecting Children. It is considered that the construction and operation of the SRRRC will create a range of temporary and permanent jobs in the local area, as well as training opportunities for local people.</p> <p>In addition to direct impacts on the local economy, the wider economy of Bristol may benefit due to the number of companies and support services required by the operation of the SRRRC i.e. haulage, materials supplies etc.</p>
<p>To promote the environmentally sustainable growth of Bristol's economy and to encourage the development of a broad range of employment opportunities that are available in places where people need them so that:-</p> <p>The location of employment does not add significantly to the transportation problems in the city and that, where possible, employment can be located on sites which encourage the use of public transport as a means of getting to and from work.</p> <p>Economic activity that does not harm the environment or disturb local amenity (i.e. non-polluting and visually acceptable.)</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Due to the required size of the facility, it is not possible to locate the SRRRC in a built up area. However, the application site is only around 4km north west of the residential areas of north Bristol and well located in terms of the major highway network and is also accessible via public transport and by bicycle.</p> <p>As part of the Green Transport Plan, Viridor will assess the need and viability of providing a mini bus service from the main residential areas to the SRRRC.</p> <p>The SRRRC would be a state of the art, purpose designed building. The design and materials have been carefully chosen to create an elegant and attractive building.</p> <p>Existing vegetation around the site would be retained and additional vegetation planted to improve the visual impact and biodiversity value of the site.</p> <p>The Air Quality and Human Health Assessments have shown that the operation of the SRRRC will not have an adverse impact on human health or the ecologically sensitive habitats to the west of the site.</p>

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

<p>To protect existing industrial employment opportunities in Bristol by resisting the loss of land and premises suitable for industrial development so as to meet the needs of existing, new, expanding and relocating businesses.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The application site is allocated in the Bristol City Council Local Plan for industrial use. The proposal would develop a derelict industrial site and deal with any contamination within the site.</p>
<p>To cater for the wide range of needs of new and existing businesses in Bristol by ensuring the adequate provision of land, premises and skilled labour.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The proposed SRRRC will not impact directly on new business in Bristol but may offer indirect benefits to existing companies who may be able to supply goods and services to the SRRRC.</p> <p>The SRRRC will also provide a modern, up to date means of managing waste generated by existing businesses in the city.</p>
<p>To promote the renewal and regeneration of key areas of Bristol, where the potential for new development can provide maximum advantage to the fabric of the city and the economic well being of the local community.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Avonmouth is recognised as a key area of Bristol for regeneration and employment provision. Through the provision of a range of jobs and training opportunities, the SRRRC has the potential to make an improvement to the socio economic well being of the local community and promote the renewal and regeneration of a redundant site.</p>
<p>To address the problems faced by those who are disadvantaged in the labour market through the removal of barriers to employment, the promotion of training and the encouragement of economic activities which will provide specific benefits to the more disadvantaged in Bristol.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Whilst Avonmouth is not the most deprived ward in Bristol, it does rank fairly high in terms of Employment Deprivation and Education, Skills and Training Deprivation. Viridor has a role to play in alleviating these indices of deprivation through a commitment to ensuring that the socio-economic prospects associated with the development are translated into real opportunities for local people. This will be achieved by focusing on local recruitment, introducing training schemes, and using locally based firms where practicable.</p>
<p>To achieve community and environmental benefits as part of new economic development.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The SRRRC will bring environmental benefits in terms of de contaminating and re using a derelict industrial site. In addition, the Air Quality and Human Health Assessments have shown that there will be no adverse impacts on the health and well being of local people. Community benefits include a range of job opportunities and training opportunities.</p>

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

Table 15/2
The potential implications of the SRRRC on the objectives of the South Gloucestershire Economic Development Strategy 2008 – 2018.

Aim	Achieved	Comment
To improve productivity and competitiveness and safeguard/increase jobs in key sectors including aerospace, engineering, other manufacturing sectors, defence, environmental technologies, high technology, financial services, creative industries and the rural economy.	✓	The proposed SRRRC will create jobs in the environmental technology sector and create temporary jobs for civil and mechanical engineers during construction.
To increase the number, survival rates and growth rates of starter and small enterprises in South Gloucestershire including social enterprises.	O	The proposed SRRRC will not impact directly on the survival and growth rates of small enterprises in South Glos but may offer indirect benefits to existing small or specialised enterprises which may be able to supply goods and services to the SRRRC.
To raise skill levels and to meet the skill and workforce needs of employers.	✓	Viridor has a role to play in alleviating indices of deprivation in the local area through a commitment to ensuring that the socio-economic prospects associated with the development are translated into real opportunities for local people. This will be achieved by focusing on local recruitment, introducing training schemes, and using locally based firms where practicable.
To meet the employment land and premises requirements of indigenous businesses and key sector businesses where sustainable and consistent with strategic employment and regeneration objectives	✓	Viridor is an established waste management company offering an essential service to industry and commerce in Bristol and the surrounding area. This site will meet the need to provide modern waste management facilities to meet the needs of the local community and businesses. .
To ensure that all parts of South Gloucestershire and all	O	Whist the benefits of the economic development may

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

groups share the benefits of economic development		not all parts of South Glos, the range of jobs provided by the construction and operation of the SRRRC will mean that a range of groups will have job opportunities open to them.
To improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres including Kingswood, Staple Hill, Downend, Yate, Patchway and Thornbury	○	A number of these wards are within a short distance of the proposed SRRRC thus it is possible residents may benefit from training and job opportunities. Increased income in the local economy may then have a virtuous effect in the vibrancy and vitality of the town and district centres.

Table 15/3

The potential implications of the SRRRC on the Study Area deprivation scores (Bristol and South Glos LSOAs).

Aim	Achieved	Comment
Income Deprivation	✓	The employment opportunities associated with the long term construction period and the following operational phase have the potential to make a minor positive impact on income levels in the area.
Employment Deprivation	✓	The 200 jobs associated with the construction of the facility and 65 jobs related to the operational phase are likely to be able to provide significant benefit to employment in the area.
Health Deprivation	✓	The Air Quality Assessment and Human Health Assessment included in the ES concluded that the facility will have no adverse impacts on health issues within the study area.
Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	✓	The construction and operation of the facility have the potential to deliver benefits to the community. The facility will take around 3 years to construct and this will create a number of jobs for a protracted period of time. Upon completion, the facility will require a range of semi skilled and skilled staff to operate and manage the facility. Viridor has a role to play in alleviating these indices of deprivation through a commitment to ensuring that the socio-economic prospects associated with the development are translated into real opportunities for local people. This will be achieved by focusing on local recruitment, introducing training schemes, and using locally based firms where practicable.
Housing Deprivation	○	The proposed development will neither help not hinder housing provision in the area.
Living Environment Deprivation	○	The operation of the facility will not have a significant adverse impact on the living environment. The ES and technical assessments have demonstrated that the facility will not have an adverse impact in terms of air quality or flood risk.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

Access to Services



The development of the proposed facility will not help or hinder access to services.

SUMMARY

- 15.24 This SEIA has considered the potential positive and negative socio economic impacts of the proposed Severn Road Resource Recovery Centre, on the community within 3km from the site.
- 15.25 The proposed development offers benefits to local employment and the local economy and will help the West of England meet its landfill directive targets and therefore avoid costly penalties. The facility will help supply the national grid with 30MW of electricity per year, and offers a potentially low cost form of heat to consumers which offsets the need for fossil fuels.
- 15.26 In considering the impact of the development on the socio-economic environment, the relevance of the scheme to the Bristol Socio Economic Strategy and the South Glos Economic Development Strategy 2008-2015 have been considered. This SEIA has concluded that the development has the potential to benefit the aims of the economic strategies in a positive way.

Cumulative Impacts

- 15.27 The proposed Resource Recovery Centre will redevelop a redundant industrial site in Avonmouth and will create opportunities for a number of temporary and permanent jobs, from semi skilled to skilled. Cumulatively, the development presents an opportunity to make a contribution to the overall economic and social well being of the study area and the wider Bristol and South Glos area.

CONCLUSIONS

- 15.28 The SEIA has considered the potential positive and negative social and economic impacts of the proposed Severn Road Resource Recovery Centre, on the community within 3km from the site.
- 15.29 Whilst the affected LSOAs are not the most deprived in Bristol, they do rank fairly high in terms of Employment Deprivation, Income Deprivation and Education, Skills and Training Deprivation. Viridor has a role to play in alleviating these indices of deprivation through a commitment to ensuring that the socio-economic prospects associated with the development are translated into real opportunities for local people. This will be achieved by focusing on local recruitment, introducing training schemes, and using locally based firms where practicable. Although the LSOAs in South Glos were found to be less disadvantaged than those in Bristol, the creation of additional jobs will help to maintain the current high employment rates and may reduce the unemployment rate.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT 15

- 15.30 The construction and operation of the SRRRC will have direct and indirect employment opportunities for the residents of Bristol and the surrounding area. In addition to construction workers, the facility will directly employ civil engineers and project managers during operation and will require management and sales staff, plant operatives and administration staff etc.
- 15.31 Indirect benefits include the generation of a significant amount of usable energy in the form of heat and power and the avoidance of landfill tax and potential fines associated with not implementing sustainable forms of waste management. In addition, the construction and operation of the SRRRC will create a demand for haulage, HGV drivers, equipment and materials suppliers and other ancillary businesses.
- 15.32 This SEIA has confirmed that the location and operation of a facility like the SRRRC within Avonmouth meets many of the socio economic objectives of the Bristol Local Plan and the South Gloucestershire Economic Strategy. The type and amount of employment opportunities the SRRRC will create will bring benefits to the local labour market and provide training opportunities in the local area.

