**Product / Service:** Furniture, Flooring & Soft Furnishings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Negative Impacts / Risks** |  | **Positive Opportunities** |
| **Environmental** | * Deforestation – loss of biodiversity / natural habitat (human / animal) / climate change * Synthetic textiles made from petrochemicals – hazardous * Use of pesticides in the growth / cultivation of natural textiles * Hazardous chemicals involved in textile processing / protection & furniture manufacture (e.g. glue / varnish) * Production of plastic products uses petroleum (scarce natural resource) and creates chemical waste & air pollution from waste gases * Vehicle fuel & emissions (carbon impact) – high order frequency * May be delivered in excessive packaging * Disposal of products (desire to frequently update offices/labs) –landfill impact / some materials have low decomposition rates | * Consider wood free alternatives / recycled wood / reclaimed wood * FSC accreditation (promotes responsible management of forests) * Avoid the purchase of exotic (particularly endangered) woods * Use of natural (organic) textiles from sustainable sources * Avoid textiles processed using hazardous chemicals & bleach * Consider biodegradable & ‘compostable’ plastics (c.f. oil-based plastics) * Recycle plastics or consider as a source of thermal ‘energy from waste’ (via incineration) * Consolidated orders & reduced delivery frequency * Low CO2 vehicles for delivery * Reduce levels of packaging / use recycled packaging * Opportunity to reuse/recycle products (various waste streams) |
| **Social** | * International supply chains (potential for issues such as child labour / poor pay & working conditions / health and safety breaches) * Frequency & timing of deliveries – congestion & noise impacting residents | * Job creation in rural communities in sustainable forestry & fair trade textile production * Opportunity area for supported businesses * Apprenticeship opportunities * Consolidated orders & deliveries * Donation of items in good condition to charity / schools |
| **Economic** | * Desire to frequently update offices/labs – may result in disposal of usable products & unnecessary costs * Waste disposal costs | * Modern facilities attract new students / research groups – new funding * Rural communities benefit from forestry / fair trade revenues (but products may be more expensive) * Many UK manufacturers & distributors – opportunity to support local economy * Invest in robust and durable products – whole life cost |

**RELATED PROC HE:** FB / FC / FD / FE / FF / FG / FL / FN / FR / FT / FZ