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

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