

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: City Development</b>	<b>Service area: Asset Management</b>
<b>Lead person: Lee Arnell/ Rowena Hall</b>	<b>Contact number: 0133 24 75408</b>

**1. Title: Establishment of a Social Inclusion Fund**

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**

**Service / Function**

**Other**

**If other, please specify: Formation of a social inclusion fund**

**2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening**

Leeds acquired the rights to grant a casino licence following a competitive process. The Leeds bid that resulted in powers being granted stated that the city would use financial proceeds of a licence to establish a Social Inclusion Fund.

In 2011, there was wide ranging public consultation on an amended gambling policy which set out how a Social Inclusion Fund would be established using moneys accrued by the council granting a large casino licence. This principle was subsequently agreed by Council, following two Executive Boards and a Scrutiny Board meeting.

In 2010, Executive Board agreed that social programmes linked to the mitigation of potential harm arising due to the operation of the casino would be delivered by the council directly using financial proceeds generated by the licence.

With the casino licence now granted, the council is in a position to establish the Social Inclusion Fund.

In September 2013, recommendations will be made to Executive Board to establish the Social Inclusion Fund and for Executive Board to agree to utilise the fund to finance anti-poverty initiatives and also to fund programmes that mitigate against any potential harmful effects a large casino may cause. Executive Board will also be asked to approve the governance arrangements of the Social Inclusion Fun with the Citizens and Communities directorate to oversee and govern the fund

This screening is not evaluating the decision to grant a casino licence or evaluating the social impact of a large casino operating in the city. These matters are not being considered by Executive Board. Rather, Executive Board will consider formally establishing a Social Inclusion Fund utilising money generated by a large casino. The screening considers the decisions to be taken by Executive Board on the formation of a SIF.

However, due regards to ECDI issues were given when deciding to grant a licence, as all applicants were required to provide an equality impact assessment, a health impact assessment and detail the social impacts of their operation. The quality of the assessments and the mitigation measures they proposed formed part of the assessment criteria utilised to determine who to grant the licence to. Also, when the council decided to bid for the rights to grant a casino licence in 2006, a casino task group was formed comprising of local stakeholders including faith groups. This group commissioned research that considered the impacts of a large casino operation (including social impacts) in the city and this shaped the city's proposal to the government.

### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	X	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment		X

practices?		
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	X	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

<p><b>4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration</b></p> <p>If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.</p> <p>Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?</b> (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)</li> </ul> <p>The purpose of the Social Inclusion Fund is to invest in economic and social inclusion in the city. This was agreed in 2010 by Executive Board and subsequently in the Council's amended gambling policy in 2012.</p> <p>Once moneys were gained, consideration was given on what initiatives could be financed to best address social and financial inclusion.</p> <p>Considering wider strategic priorities and feedback from members of the Financial Inclusion Steering Group, there is focussed efforts to tackle poverty in the city, especially due to the continued impacts of the economic downturn, welfare reform and continued public sector cuts. Such impacts for vulnerable citizens – including citizens belonging to equality groups – are of concern to stakeholders.</p> <p>This context has shaped the proposal for the Social Inclusion Fund financing anti-poverty initiatives. If this is agreed by Executive Board, further consultation will take place with the Financial Inclusion Steering Group to establish funding priorities and more specific initiatives that will be funded.</p> <p>With regards to the proposal of the SIF financing programmes that mitigate any harmful effects of casino operation, this too was agreed in 2010. The decision and reaffirming of this proposal will help ensure that any issues that emerge because of the casino can be managed and dealt with accordingly.</p>
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Closer to the casino operating, a baseline impact assessment will consider the specific issues that may arise and mitigation measures will be agreed accordingly. The impacts will be monitored annually and, in consultation, with stakeholders, funding priorities will be set on an annual basis, based upon known impacts. Therefore, there will be on-going equality considerations. By establishing the SIF, there will be greater certainty to this future work taking place, thus the decision will have a positive impact on those impacted by gambling across the city.

- **Key findings**

**(think about** any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The formation of a social inclusion fund to finance anti-poverty measures and programmes that mitigate harmful impacts of casino operations will:

- § Impact positively for citizens who suffer from social and economic exclusion. Research into financial exclusion in Leeds has shown that lone parents (predominately female), are more likely to encounter financial exclusion, therefore the fund can have a positive impact on these equality characteristics. A further study by the Department of Health undertaken in February 2011 showed that people with mental health problems were far more likely to have debt problems. People with depression and anxiety were found to be 3 time more likely to have debts.
- § The fund is likely to be of greater benefit to low income households, due to the focus on financing anti-poverty work.
- § The SIF can have a positive impact on community cohesion, as the types of activity funded will aim to bring those social excluded from within the city closer to support networks.

- **Actions**

**(think about** how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

- § There will be continued dialogue with stakeholders over groups and initiatives that can best utilise funding from the SIF. Consultation will shape funding priorities and this consultation will consider any ECDI considerations, particularly once the casino is open in order to understand any issues.
- § There will be an annual report that sets out the benefits the SIF has generated and this will consider ECDI impacts on an ongoing basis.

**5. If you are **not** already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and**

integration you <b>will need to carry out an impact assessment.</b>	
Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

<b>6. Governance, ownership and approval</b>		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Rowena Hall	Executive Manager	12/07/2013

<b>7. Publishing</b>	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.	
If this screening relates to a <b>Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, full Council</b> or a <b>Significant Operational Decision</b> a copy should be emailed to Corporate Governance and will be published along with the relevant report.	
A copy of <b>all other</b> screening's should be sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a> . For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).	
<b>Date screening completed</b>	12/07/2013
If relates to a Key Decision - <b>date sent to Corporate Governance</b>	
Any other decision – <b>date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)</b>	