

Appendix B

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening



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.

Directorate: City Development	Service area: Regional Policy
Lead person: Colin Blackburn	Contact number: 07891 276573

1. Title: Broadband Initiatives

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

West Yorkshire Local Broadband Programme

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

Two digital infrastructure initiatives are underway in the city to improve the availability of next generation broadband:

- The West Yorkshire Local Broadband (WYLB) Programme will provide access to super-fast broadband (+24mbps) to 90% of premises in Leeds and at least 2mbps to remaining areas.
- The Super connected cities (SCC) project will provide access to ultra fast broadband (100mbps+) to a defined small area of Leeds (and Bradford), with city centre wireless and a wireless transport corridor between the two cities.

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

4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

• **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?**
(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)

The WYLB and SCC projects will provide the infrastructure to allow providers to roll out superfast and ultrafast broadband. It is anticipated that by increasing availability and the number of providers will ultimately drive the cost of broadband down, making it more affordable and accessible for all socio-economic groups. The infrastructure roll out will be complemented by existing programmes in place to encourage and facilitate the wider use of the internet by disadvantaged and different age groups. Included in the SCC project will be an element of free wireless. Whilst the primary aim of the project is to increase the economic vitality of the city centre, it is anticipated the free element will fulfil an important digital inclusion role.

• **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 WYLB project will roll out superfast broadband to 90% of premises across Leeds. The remaining 'hard to reach areas' will be able to receive at least 2mbps. The process to procure a private sector delivery partner for the WYLB programme is in the final stages of procurement, so details of the commercially sensitive bidder proposals cannot be disclosed.

However, detailed mapping and cost modelling was undertaken by independent consultants for the Partnership as part of developing the West Yorkshire Broadband Plan, which have informed the procurement process. The mapping and modelling sought to identify the hardest to tackle properties (where the market is not expected to go) to be targeted by the limited funding available.

After the project there may be a small proportion of the total population who still may not be able to access broadband, although the bidder proposals would seek to ensure that 100% coverage is achieved. Other West Yorkshire authorities will also have these 'white spots,' and the previous modelling indicated that whilst the proportions are currently different, Leeds is average in terms of current inaccessible areas.

The SCC project will roll out ultrafast broadband to a defined area of Leeds and Bradford. The area was chosen due to the inclusion of several key economic priority areas

including Aire Valley Leeds and the Leeds Bradford Corridor. The ability of suppliers to subsequently roll out of services such as telehealth (due to high speeds being available at reasonable costs) will have a significant positive impact on vulnerable and elderly groups.

The expectation is that by using public subsidy in a specific area to demonstrate the benefits and demand, providers will find that further roll out across the city is increasingly commercially viable.

The possibilities with both projects for residents to take advantage of lower cost services through purchasing online and keeping in touch via technologies such as skype and video calling are significant.

However, due to State Aid / Government issues and as the original SCC programme has needed to be amended, there are concerns that this could result in areas within the SCC Zone, including both Leeds and Bradford City Centres and the corridor between, missing out on enhanced broadband infrastructure and services. As several of the most deprived areas with the City are located within the SCC Area, there are concerns that some of the most vulnerable people in the City may be excluded from the opportunities and benefits that superfast broadband would bring.

- **Actions**

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

Both the BDUK and SCC projects will be complemented by an extensive demand stimulation campaign explaining and promoting the benefits of using super-fast broadband and getting online.

5. If you are *not* already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you *will need to carry out an impact assessment*.

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	N/A
Date to complete your impact assessment	N/A
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	N/A

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Colin Blackburn	Executive Officer	9/08/13

7. Publishing

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.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

Date screening completed	
Date sent to Equality Team	
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	