

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: Economic Development
Lead person: Phil Cole	Contact number: 2475545

1. Title: Broadband Initiatives

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

Leeds Bradford Super Connected Cities programme

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

The Super Connected Cities programme will deliver a number of projects across Leeds and Bradford which will seek to widen access to superfast broadband. The programme is primarily business focused. Individual residents will be the beneficiaries of two of the four projects within the programme. However, the bulk of the funding is focused to supporting SME businesses to improve their broadband connection at their business premises.

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 West Yorkshire Local Broadband Plan (WYLBP) and the Super Connected Cities (SCC) programme will facilitate the installation of infrastructure that will allow providers to roll out superfast broadband. For businesses and residents across the wider Leeds MD it is anticipated that this will drive the cost of broadband down making it more accessible and affordable for all socio-economic groups.

In the SCC priority zone (the corridor running between Leeds and Bradford city centres

and extending to the LCR Enterprise Zone in south east Leeds and to Shipley/Saltaire north of Bradford) the infrastructure element will be less comprehensive and gaps in provision of superfast broadband are likely to remain at the end of the programme.

Within the programme there are two projects providing extensive free wireless internet access. These projects 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 residential and commercial premises across Leeds. The remaining 'hard to reach areas' will be able to receive at least 2mbps. Modelling suggests that Leeds is average in terms of inaccessible areas.

Due to State Aid issues the original SCC programme has been revised and there are concerns that this could result in areas within the SCC Priority Zone, and this includes Leeds and Bradford city centres and the corridor in between, missing out on enhanced broadband infrastructure and services. As several of the most deprived areas within Leeds 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. However improving residential access on a comprehensive scale is outside of the scope of the revised SCC programme.

The most significant element within the SCC programme, the connection vouchers scheme has no sector restrictions and can award vouchers to businesses operating in any business sector. There is a potential issue around equality if the scheme is not promoted in a way which encourages uptake from businesses across the entire business population.

- **Actions**

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

Both the WYLBP and SCC projects will be complemented by an extensive demand stimulation campaign explaining and promoting the benefits of using superfast broadband and getting online. There will be both residential (WYLBP) and business (WYLBP and SCC) messaging within this promotion.

The Marketing and Communications Plan for the SCC connection vouchers scheme outlines the ways in which the scheme will seek to engage with a wide variety of business networks to promote vouchers and encourage uptake across the entire business community.

The SCC Project Board and Project Team will continue to work with Government and infrastructure providers to seek solutions to so called broadband 'white spots' where there is poor internet connectivity. Ward members and politicians will continue to be briefed on these issues.

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/
Phil Cole	Head of Business Support	13/11/2013

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	13/11/2013
Date sent to Equality Team	
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	