

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: Highways and Transportation
Lead person: Gary Bartlett	Contact number: 0113 24 75319

1. Title: Bridgewater Place

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

The equality screening focuses on the Executive Board Report seeking approval to accept the revised Leeds City Council’s protocol on actions to be taken when high winds are forecast in relation to Bridgewater Place in light of the Assistant Coroner’s recommendation to the Council.

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)

- Following the Coroner's Inquest, Senior Officers of the Council have met (again) with the agents and also the owner's representative. The latter have provided updates on the progress of the design of the remedial works and the timetable for submitting a planning application and construction.
- A presentation has been given to the City Plans Panel on 16th January 2014 and subject to planning permission being granted, construction will start on site in summer 2014, with a 9-12 month construction period.
- A communications and publicity campaign has been developed by the owners around the proposed remedial works and planning application. To date this is being handled remotely without a spokesperson being put forward to discuss the issues in the media The Council continues to press the owner to put forward a spokesperson.
- Full public consultations will accompany the Planning Application.
- A meeting has been held with the agents to coordinate the management of access to and from the site during windy conditions.
- On-going engagement is taking place with the local businesses to ensure that they are considering appropriate responses when high winds are forecast e.g. encouraging staff to work from home or getting their staff to use public transport if appropriate, when the junction is closed in the future. Access to staff car parks within the closed area will be maintained, wherever possible. Such arrangements and liaison will continue until the remedial measures are installed by the owners.
- Early notification of closures will be issued via the Leeds Alert system operated by the Peace and Emergency Planning Unit and the Council's Communications Team will publicise the closure using appropriate media.

- **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)

Following the recommendations made by the Coroner it is proposed to revise Leeds City Council's protocol when dealing with high winds in respect of Bridgewater Place by introducing the following protocol below:

- Employing a variable message sign on Victoria Road visible to traffic entering the city centre on the approach to Bridgewater Place giving a warning of gusty winds when wind gust speeds reach 15m/s (35mph);
- Diversion of all high sided vehicles from the junction of Victoria Road / Water Lane / Neville Street when wind gust speeds reach 20m/s (45mph);
- Closing the road to all vehicles when wind speeds of 30m/s (approx. 65mph) are reached.

Positive Impacts

- The introduction of the revised protocol will continue to remove the risk of conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, and reduce the risk of accidents.
- The closure of the pedestrian crossing points at the Water Lane / Neville Street / Victoria Road junction will guide pedestrians away from the central areas of the junction and the strongest winds, channelling pedestrians around the eastern edge of the junction to the formal crossing points improving pedestrian safety which will be of particular benefit to the more vulnerable groups, such as parents with young children and pushchairs, the disabled, people with mobility issues and carers supporting wheelchairs.
- LCC Staff to act as chaperones when the road closures are in force which will be extremely beneficial for people who are visually impaired; young and old people; carers supporting wheelchairs/pushchairs and the disabled.
- Additional and larger wind warning signs to highlight the safety issues and encourage them to be more vigilant.
- Additional signing to better direct traffic around the city when the full closure is in place.
- Extensive guard rails are in place that can be used to gain extra stability when moving through the area in high winds which will be particularly beneficial to the more vulnerable groups described above.
- Continuing liaison with the agents for the owners to coordinate the management of access too and egress from the site during windy conditions.

Negative Impacts

- The introduction of the road closures will have a negative impact on motorists and pedestrians; however, this is mitigated against by the need to ensure public safety at all times.

- **Actions**
(**think about** how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)
- On-going monitoring of Bridgewater Place High Wind Protocol, until the remedial measures are installed by the owners

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
Gary Bartlett	Chief Officer Highways and Transportation	20 January 2014

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.

If this screening relates to a **Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, full Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** a copy should be emailed to Corporate Governance and will be published along with the relevant report.

A copy of **all other** screening's should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk. For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).

Date screening completed	20 January 2014
If relates to a Key Decision - date sent to Corporate Governance	
Any other decision – date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)	