

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: Environment and Housing	Service area: Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Team
Lead person: George Munson	Contact number: 0113 3951767

1. Title: Green Deal Communities Grant

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

We have submitted a decision to the Director of Environment and Housing to spend £4,943,000 of grant funding that has been provided by DECC through their Green Deal Communities Fund to be spent on energy efficiency improvements across the Leeds City Region.

We have agreed with DECC that the fund will be spent in the following ways:

- £3.63m on locally based solid wall insulation projects in Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield (of which £2.4m is to be spent in Leeds as part of Wrap Up Leeds ECO).
- £750k on a discount voucher scheme across the whole of the Leeds City Region to encourage early take up of the LCR scheme due to begin in Autumn 2014.
- £235k on 16 show homes across the City Region to showcase available

- energy efficiency measures through the scheme.
- £100k on training of small and medium enterprises to gear up the local supply chain for the commencement of the City Region wide scheme in Autumn 2014.

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?	√	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		√
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	√	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		√
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 		√

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)

We identified in the EDCI for the Wrap Up Leeds free insulation scheme that “people in fuel poverty (including low income groups and some BME groups) are typically concentrated in inner city terraces which are not suitable for loft or cavity wall insulation (hard to treat properties)”.

Residents of hard to treat properties, as well as being more likely to be on a low income, have been unable to take advantage of the majority of energy efficiency schemes over the past twenty years, as these have tended to concentrate on low cost energy efficiency measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, even though they have been paying for these measures through levy’s on their fuel bills. The greater proportion of this scheme (£2.4m in Leeds) is aimed specifically at those expensive hard to treat measures that have been neglected in the past, therefore it will help to redress this past imbalance, which has negatively affected many disadvantaged groups.

Phase 2 of the scheme will provide an incentive for all groups across the City to take advantage of the City Region Green Deal/ECO scheme, therefore no disadvantaged groups will be negatively impacted.

The Government is in the process of amending ECO, which will result in more households being required to pay a contribution towards many measures. Whilst this is not ideal in terms of helping low income and disadvantaged residents to access

improvements, we are working to ensure that household contributions are kept as low as possible for disadvantaged households within the limits set by DECC. Both the increased funding for hard to treat measures and the voucher scheme will contribute towards this aim. In addition, the training programme for small and medium enterprises should help to ensure that disadvantaged groups within Leeds can take advantage of the employment opportunities provided by the Green Deal/ECO.

- **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)

- Because this project is heavily geared towards improving hard to treat properties, it will help to address the inequality of provision of energy efficiency measures that has built up over many years and will therefore have a positive impact on groups who have traditionally been disadvantaged by this in terms of making it easier for them to heat their homes affordably.
- Under the terms of the project funding, DECC have stipulated that a large proportion of the scheme should be area based. The largest proportion of the funding will therefore only be available to residents in selected areas, which could be seen as having a negative impact on those areas not selected.

- **Actions**

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

- We intend to highlight in our promotional materials the advantages of the scheme to households who have been denied access to expensive hard to treat measures in the past. We will back this up by door to door and localised promotion of the scheme in those areas selected for hard to treat improvements as part of phase one of the project.
- We will also take a whole house approach and use other funding streams (such as the Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation and the discretionary fuel poverty fund) where appropriate to ensure that disadvantaged households are in a position to obtain as much benefit as possible from the scheme for as

small a contribution as possible. The show homes will also be used to provide a physical demonstration to local people of the advantages that would be available through the scheme.

- The first phase of the scheme will be marketed as part of Wrap Up Leeds ECO, therefore disadvantaged households who are not in selected areas for hard to treat measures will still have other funding streams such as ECO and the discretionary fuel poverty fund which they can draw down on (albeit with less funding). In addition, the Government cash-back scheme can reimburse households with significant levels of funding for energy efficiency measures if they are outside of the selected areas.
- The second phase of the scheme will be marketed as part of the City Region wide ECO scheme due to begin in November. This will be available to households across Leeds, and as with phase one, other income streams will be available alongside it.

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:	
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Date to complete your impact assessment	
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Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	
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6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Robert Curtis	Fuel Poverty Officer	28/04/2014

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