

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: Forward Planning and Implementation
Lead person: Helen Miller	Contact number: 2478132

1. Title: Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan Policies Minerals 13 and 14

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Natural Resources & Waste Local Plan was formally adopted by the Council on 16th January 2013 as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Council received a High Court Challenge into a discreet part of the Plan, specifically policies Mineral 13 and 14 regarding the protection of rail sidings and / or canal wharves. The Judge ordered that policies Minerals 13 and 14 be re-submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and be re-examined prior to their adoption.

The City Council commissioned a study to update the evidence base regarding the potential for the use of non-road based freight modes in Leeds and the results of this have been used to inform updates to policies Minerals 13 and 14. The policies are now ready to be the subject of public consultation and Executive Board are being asked to recommend this and, providing there are no significant issues arising from the consultation, to recommend that Full Council be asked to agree the submission of the policies to the Secretary of State.

The policies have previously been subjected to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening on 19.12.12 and this Report provides an update to that screening.

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. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

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)

The EIA screening on 19.12.12 provided a detailed assessment of the impacts of the whole Plan. Only a discreet part of the Plan has been changed and these changes are as follows; the omission of a reference to the potential for a wharf at Bridgewater Road

South, the identification of an area between Holbeck and Stourton as an Intermodal Freight Area, where uses that can make use of the rail and water freight opportunities are encouraged and the modification of the criteria in Minerals 14 so that only one of the criteria need to be met rather than all of them before a site can be used for other purposes. Additionally, to improve clarity, the sites have been specifically named and listed within the policy.

These do not represent significant changes from the previous policies, however the difference now is that they have been backed up by a firm and robust evidence base. The evidence base is being pulled together in a Freight Topic Paper. It is based on the results of studies and meetings with relevant parties, including the Canal and River Trust. The Council carried out a Call for Evidence in January 2014 and two detailed studies have been carried out, one on the potential for freight by non-road based means and one on the use of Marine Aggregate to meet the need for sand and gravel.

As the impacts of these policies are the same as the former policies the conclusions of the EIA screening are the same and no further assessment is required.

- **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 safeguarding of existing rail sidings and canal wharves helps to protect our ability to transport materials by canal and rail.

Creating the opportunity for road-based freight to shift to using water and rail based freight has a beneficial effect on all groups since it helps to reduce overall levels of pollution caused by vehicular emissions. The reduction in greenhouse emissions also is beneficial to all groups as it helps to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Enabling minerals to be transported by rail or canal means that people who live close to the strategic road network are subject to fewer HGVs and emissions with positive effects in particular for those with respiratory conditions.

During the plan preparation process these policies have been subjected to extensive public consultation and have been very well supported by the public, attracting support more than any other part of the Plan. In compliance with the SCI, the emerging NRWLP went through the following phases of consultation:

Initial scoping work was undertaken in 2008 with key stakeholders. This was followed by a 6 week period of formal public consultation on an 'Issues & Alternative Options' document in May/ June 2008. Subsequently, a further 6 week period of consultation was undertaken from 18th January to 1st March 2010, on a 'Policy Position' consultation document. A further 8 week period of consultation took place on the Publication Draft from 15th December 2010 to 9th February 2011. An Examination in Public took place in November 2011 to which objectors were invited to attend. Three other 6 week consultations on changes to the Plan took place before a formal Adoption Notice was issued in January 2013. Following this there was a six week period during which any person who felt aggrieved could submit a High Court Challenge. The Council received one High Court Challenge into policies Mineral 13 and 14 regarding the protection of rail

sidings and / or canal wharves and the outcome of that has promoted this update to the policies.

Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration, have therefore been considered from a number of perspectives throughout the preparation of policies Minerals 13 and 14 and there has been considerable opportunity for public comment and influence.

- **Actions**

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

Policy Minerals 13 has a basis in improving sustainability, improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions by switching road based freight movements to rail and water. It therefore has a general beneficial effect for the good of the District as a whole.

In accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and as required by the LDF Regulations, the City Council proposes to carry out a further 6 week consultation on the update to policies Minerals 13 and 14.

Providing no significant issues arise from the consultation, the Council would then move to formal submission of the policies to the Secretary of State. If significant issues arise from the consultation that require further changes to the policies, the Council would go back to Executive Board again to seek agreement to the changes prior to submission.

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:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
David Feeney	Head of Service	14.5.14
Date screening completed		14.5.14

7. Publishing

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full

Council.

- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: