

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: Housing Leeds
Lead person: John Statham	Contact number: x43233

1. Title: Procurement Options for the “Required Services” to the Empty Homes Purchase Programme 2015-2018

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

One of the Council’s top priorities is to reduce the number of long term empty properties in the city. So much so that the Council has committed to bring back 400 empties per annum within its Housing Growth target of 3,660 new homes per annum.

To support this strategy the Council, utilising its own funds supported by funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, plans to buy back 100 homes. This report seeks the permission of the Director of Environment and Housing to procure a service provider to provide a property valuation service, a repairs valuation service, negotiation of sale, property conveyancing, a 1989 rental valuation and other legal works related to a purchase.

The Council is currently delivering a smaller scheme involving 20 empty properties and the internal services have identified that they could not cope with the work that would be generated from a larger scheme.

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).

A) 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 – see Ai below) with those likely to be affected)

Ai) Is the consultation /engagement listed on Talking Point? Yes
No

B) 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)

C) Actions

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

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

Neil Evans

Type of Decision being assessed

Please tick as appropriate

- Key** (Incurring expenditure or making savings over £250,000 each year and or outcome will have significant effect on communities living in an area comprising two or more wards)
- Major** (incurring expenditure or making savings over £100,000 per year)
- Significant Other** (as Delegated Decision Making definition set out in Pt 3 of Constitution)
- Administrative** (not in conflict with approved policies and do not raise new issues of policy)

Name	Job title	Date
John Statham	Head of Housing Partnerships	8 th October 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.

Date screening completed	21 st October 2014
Date sent to Equality Team	
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	