

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: Janet Howrie	Contact number:78200

1. Title: A New Heart for Holt Park- Completing the Picture Informal Planning Statement for Holt Park District Centre

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Planning Statement has been prepared to provide a vision for the redevelopment of land at Holt Park District Centre. The aims of the vision are to deliver:

- A new focus for Holt Park by reconnecting the centre's new and existing facilities
- An improved shopping environment
- A new public space within a greener setting
- New housing, including older people's housing
- New routes for pedestrian access connecting with neighbouring areas
- Improved public safety

The document has been produced for the community of Holt Park and neighbouring

communities; organisations with an interest in Holt Park including local businesses; and prospective developers to provide a framework for the development of individual development sites identified by the planning statement.

The proposals set out in the planning statement have been prepared within the context of the Vision for Leeds and existing planning policy, including the Leeds Unitary Development Plan (Review) 2006 and the Local Development Framework (the emerging Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan). The UDP predates the EIA process, however the Core Strategy has been subject to EIA and the Site Allocations Plan was subject to EIA when the Issues & Options document was produced.

Consultation Process

The public consultation period for the draft Planning Statement commenced on the 13th October for 6 weeks ending on the 26th November 2013. Notification letters were sent to the Members of the Adel & Wharfedale and the adjoining Weetwood Ward and Greg Mulholland MP. Letters or emails were also sent to local organisations and stakeholders with an interest in Holt Park District Council, including Asda, the NHS, Holt Park Health Centre and Highfield Surgery, Kids Academy and local schools. Where contact details were not available, brochures and posters advertising the consultation process were hand delivered to occupants and tenants within the boundary of the planning statement.

The consultation was advertised in the October edition of 'North Leeds Life' through Cllr Anderson's monthly article in the Community News page, a webpage was placed on the Council's website and posters were placed in a number of venues across the Holt Park area.

Two consultation events were held. A presentation was given by officers to the Holt Park Forum on the 16th October at the newly opened Holt Park Active which was attended by approximately 40 people. A public drop-in exhibition was also held at Holt Park Active on the 23rd October. 4 officers attended to explain the proposals and answer questions. In the region of 50 people looked at the exhibition. Following the consultation events, the exhibition panel was placed in the reception area of the Development Enquiry Centre (DEC) at the Leonardo Building, Rossington Street for the remainder of the consultation period.

The Planning Statement, technical appendix, summary brochure and comments forms were made available at Holt Park library, DEC and were also provided as a download on the Council's website.

Subsequent to the consultation process Asda approached the Council with an alternative development proposal for the redevelopment of Holt Park District Centre, albeit broadly reflecting the development mix outlined in the planning statement. The discussions with Asda have slowed down the process for taking the planning statement back to Executive Board for final approval. Revisions have been made to the planning statement to provide greater flexibility to enable an alternative development scheme to be considered, however proposals will be expected to reflect the vision, objectives and design principles set out in the planning statement. The document has also been revised to update the development guidelines section

to reflect the adoption of the Core Strategy. The Executive Board report advises that when the proposed development proposal is advanced, that further public consultation is undertaken.

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)

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Key considerations which have been considered and addressed by the Planning Statement are:

- Enabling improved connectivity of existing and new uses within the district centre which are currently separated as a result of recent developments at Holt Park, by providing new footpaths for pedestrians between the different uses. In terms of equality characteristics improving connectivity can assist the disabled, elderly, women and the elderly.
- Providing better linkage to Holt Park from the surrounding residential area and greenspace (including Tinshill Recreation Ground) by new and improved footpaths.
- Creating an improved shopping environment encouraging access to existing services at Holt Park for the community and other stakeholders
- Improving the existing public space including addressing disabled access and public safety concerns. In particular this impacts the equality characteristics to include women, the aged and BME groups.
- Bringing a derelict site back into use, thereby addressing public safety concerns. This will have an impact on all equality characteristics but in particular those affected by safety concerns such as women.
- Enabling improved and new existing sheltered housing and new older people's housing. and thereby improving their access to health services.
- Enabling access to public transport including the proposed NGT proposal, which would improve accessibility for all equality characteristics but in particular those on lower incomes

- **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 effects on equality have been considered as an integral element of the planning statement preparation and it is considered that there will be significant benefits to the community and users of Holt Park district centre arising from the proposals set out in the planning statement as detailed in the section above.

22 responses were received during the consultation period of the Planning Statement. Respondents were positive overall about the proposals made. The approach to regeneration of the District Centre, the need for redevelopment and the comprehensive nature of the proposals was welcomed.

Comments made with specific relevance to equality issues are summarised below:

- Support for new housing in particular the emphasis on providing for older people and affordable housing as part of the development scheme benefiting those on lower incomes in particular, and the young.
- There is a need for better provision for younger people, for both young and older children. The improved public space was suggested as a possible location for a children's play area, although a number noted the possible amenity concern for elderly residents if in close proximity. Ralph Thoresby School are interested in having an input into the design process, possibly through the school's student parliament.
- A number of respondents wished to see a wider range of facilities at Holt Park and the inclusion of a community centre and church.

- **Actions**

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

As highlighted above, it is considered that there will be significant benefits to the community and users of the facilities at Holt Park as a result of the proposals set out in the planning statement. In response to comments made about provisions for young people, the design and implementation of the renewed public space will be incorporated into the detailed planning process. The provision of new facilities will be guided by the tender process, in particular the expressions of interest made for Site E, the site proposed for new retail. As the project proposes EIA screenings will be

undertaken at required stages.

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

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)**