

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 / Housing Leeds
Lead person: George Munson	Contact number: 51767

1. Title: Citywide District Heating Network

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

Installation of a district heating network to provide lower cost, lower carbon heat from the Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility to city centre buildings, including council multi-storey housing.

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

The council is planning to construct a district heating network (DHN) from the RERF to the city centre and with a branch to the Lincoln Green neighbourhood.

Initial customers are expected to be primarily large non-domestic consumers who will benefit from more resilient heat supplies, lower carbon heat and reduced fuel costs. It will also connect to c2,100 flats in multi-storey blocks including Saxton Gardens, Ebor Gardens and the flats around Lincoln Green, replacing outdated storage heaters and immersion tanks with modern and controllable wet central heating systems.

A previous EIA showed that this connect to housing would have an overwhelmingly positive impact on equalities issues, providing lower cost heat to some of the most deprived residents in the city.

The DHN will be designed with future expansion in mind, to take in additional domestic, non-domestic and development sites and allow other heat providers to supply heat over the network.

This screening is for the overall development of the district heating network.

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

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)

As discussed above, the previous EIA found that connecting flats to a district heating network will replace expensive electrical heating with lower cost and more controllable wet central heating systems.

As such, development of this DHN will facilitate a beneficial effect on equality.

Network development is constrained by the level of heat demand in an area: where demand is too low, it is too expensive to develop and maintain. Therefore, the DHN is only likely to be able to connect to buildings close to the city centre.

Construction of the network will create significant short term disruption for people living and working close to the route. However, those most significantly affected will be most able to connect so the benefits of lower cost heating should outweigh any negative impacts. Additionally, there are no specific equality aspects to this.

• **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 DHN will help facilitate the following benefits for people connected:

Reduction in number of people living in fuel poverty (+ve).
Reduction in cold related illnesses (+ve)

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

Consultation with residents will be carried out to make sure that any residents concerns are addressed during scheme design.

This will particularly address the information required to help people who currently have electric heating to adapt to wet central heating and getting the billing system right for tenants.

Residents and businesses along the route will also be consulted prior to the start of

construction and the construction programme will be designed to minimise disruption.

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
Polly Cook	Executive Programme Manager	14 th January 2016

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

14th January 2016

If relates to a Key Decision - **date sent to Corporate Governance**

14th January 2016

Any other decision – **date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)**