

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: Highways and Transportation
Lead person: Andrew Hall	Contact number: 0113 2475296

1. Title: Bridgewater Place Wind Amelioration Scheme – Development Agreement

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The construction of the Bridgewater Place Building (“the Building”) was completed in April 2007. Subsequently it became apparent that the building has had a significant impact on wind speeds in the environs of the building.

At times, the wind speeds have been accelerated to levels at which Highway users have been put at risk and in some cases actually harmed. In March 2011, Dr Slaney was tragically killed as a result of a lorry being blown over on to him by a greatly accelerated gust of wind at the junction of Victoria Road and Water Lane.

Officers have been working with the building owners and their agents since 2008 to ensure that the optimum solution to ameliorate the unacceptably high wind speeds in the vicinity of the building was identified. As a result of that work, the proposed amelioration scheme has been worked up, tested and ultimately agreed by all parties and the developers of the Bridgewater Place building were granted planning consent

in November 2014 for a scheme of wind amelioration works to address the identified issues.

Based upon the specialist advice the Council has received, authority is now being sought from Executive Board to conclude and enter into the Development Agreement with the Building Owners which includes the necessary provisions for the construction of the consented works to proceed on the public highway.

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)

Consultation on the proposals has taken place with the following stakeholders:

- The proposed wind amelioration scheme has been subject to a planning application by the owners of Bridgewater Place which was approved in November 2014. It has therefore been the subject of a previous planning application and the associated consultation process.
- The highway works associated with the approved scheme are the subject of a Section 278 Agreement under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980 which has been endorsed by the Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation for which an EDCI screening has previously been completed.
- In accord with the EDCI screening further assessment will be undertaken during the detailed development and checking of the proposed highway works.

• **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 proposed Development Agreement provides the legal basis for agreement between the City Council and owners of the Bridgewater Place building for progressing to the implementation of the wind amelioration scheme.

Positive Impacts

- The Development Agreement enables outstanding matters to be formally settled and for the work to be progressed to ensure the delivery of measures forecast to provide mitigation to current issues during high wind events in the environs of the Bridgewater Place building.
- The consented Wind Amelioration Scheme has been extensively tested and the proposals are expected to improve pedestrian mobility and the safety of other road users during times of high winds including those equality characteristics of age and disability most susceptible to the present conditions.

Negative Impact

- Necessary adaptations to the highway network to accommodate the specific wind

amelioration measures are included within the scheme and form part of the consented works and through the Section 278 agreement full attention is being given to ensure that the new highway layout continues to meet the mobility needs of pedestrians and other users of the highway within the scope of the Development Agreement.

- The Wind Amelioration Scheme includes baffle measures of a unique nature to be constructed on the public highway measures which the Developers Experts have advised there may be risk of on-going failures of the distress criterion (most of which are anticipated to be marginal failures) in a small number of locations.
- The potential for these remaining wind hot spots necessitates the retention and addition of pedestrian guardrailling at and around the junction to direct pedestrians to safe crossing points, hence potentially increasing pedestrian route lengths.

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

The proposed Development Agreement contains provision for the owner of Bridgewater Place to monitor the performance of the Wind Amelioration Scheme and defines their obligations to monitor the scheme, test its performance, review and implement such further improvements at these locations as are advised by appropriately qualified and independent experts.

The Council has required that an appropriate testing regime is implemented to ensure that the installation is working as intended. The Developer's Experts have advised that the wind effects in the locations at risk of on-going failures of the distress criterion can be mitigated by local street level modifications.

Officers have placed reliance on expert advisors throughout the planning process and the making of the Development Agreement and with advice from an independent specialist wind analyst it has been confirmed that the safeguards contained within the Development Agreement are appropriate.

Additional pedestrian facilities are being provided to ensure safe crossing locations for pedestrians.

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Gary Bartlett	Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation	22 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.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

Date screening completed	22 January 2016
Date sent to Equality Team	
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	