

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: Plans and Policies
Lead person: Nasreen Yunis	Contact number: 0113 2478133

1. Title: White Paper Motion- Locally set building standards for new housing

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

A White Paper Motion relating to the Passivhaus and other similar environmental building standards was approved at full Council in September 2015, the Motion states. “the Council therefore requests that officers investigate the need for even more challenging, locally set building standards, whilst also promoting and supporting self builders, community-builders who will seek to build to Passivhaus or similar standard. Council requests that Executive Board receive a report on this within the current municipal year.” The report sets out the issues and progress to date in relation to this Motion and explores some of the ideas around building standards and potential use of the standards for some of the Councils own build.

The term ‘Passivhaus’ refers to an advanced low energy construction standard for buildings providing comfortable living conditions - being both cool in summer and warm in winter with minimal heating or cooling requirements. Passivhaus buildings are designed for long life and high performance. Passivhaus is a software

application, which allows modelling of walls, roof, floors, windows and all other elements of a house to ensure that the design is efficient and also that the house is orientated properly in order to maximise energy efficiency. However Central Government introduced national guidance which changes building regulations and what is allowed in terms of sustainable construction, and those changes are set out in the Housing Standards Review.

The Government's Housing Standards Review was set out in a Ministerial statement (25th March 2015) and provides a new approach for setting technical standards for new housing. The new standards include new optional Building Regulations, new Building Regulations (and Approved Documents) and a nationally described space standard. The Government has made it clear that the only standards which are permitted are those which are set by the Housing Standards Review. No other standards can be applied to market housing. The intention of the Government is to ensure consistency in the setting of standards nationally, and to avoid different Local Authorities having different standards. Furthermore, in order to apply these standards, they must be supported by evidence of need, undergo a local viability appraisal, and be tested through the formal Development Plan process before adoption.

In response to the issues outlined above and the approach advocated by Central Government, it is suggested that the Council prepare a Development Plan Document (DPD) in relation to minimum space standards, and accessible housing requirements as set out in the Housing Standards Review. As part of the Local Plan process, the DPD will be subject to public consultation, Examination and adoption before it can then be implemented and to be found sound it will require justification on the basis of need and viability. However it will then provide the necessary clarity and certainty to be used as a basis for considering all developments through the planning application process

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?	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)

- **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 progression of a DPD if approved in relation to minimum space standards, and accessible housing requirements as set out in the Housing Standards Review aims to drive up the quality of housing provided in Leeds. The ambition for improving housing quality will benefit all groups as it creates quality housing for all and improves the quality of life for all. In terms of accessible housing this will in particular benefit the elderly and disabled people. All the requirements of the DPD will however require a demonstration of need and then viability testing and Examination before they can be statutorily adopted. The proposals are consistent with the Draft Core Strategy, the Council's Vision for Leeds, Best Council Plan and Neighbourhoods for Living.

In addition the Leeds Standard sets out an approach for the Council's own sites which includes design quality and liveability along with the sustainability elements of the Core Strategy, space standards and sustainability, these standards are above building regulation standards and again benefit all equality characteristics. These standards must also be assessed in terms of the impact on the capital receipt programme.

- **Actions**

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

The White Paper Motion discusses a number of issues which relate to the quality of housing. Housing quality will be beneficial to all the equality characteristics in creating access to housing and choice for housing. In particular younger people who are wanting to access the housing market, and those on lower incomes who are affected by the provision of housing.

An emphasis on high quality sustainable design will have an impact on all groups by

improving access to everyone in the housing market in addition as the Council. If the DPD is approved for progression as part of the Local Plan process, the DPD will be subject to public consultation. A statutory 6 week period of consultation is required and it is important to involve stakeholders, and engage in terms of that consultation.

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:	
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Date to complete your impact assessment	
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Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	
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6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Martin Elliot	Plans and Policies Group Leader	1/4/16
Date screening completed 31/3/16		

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: