

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: Property and Contracts
Lead person: Jenny Fern	Contact number: 0113 3781091

1. Title: Request to Demolish 4 Council owned garages (G1 to G4) at Baildon Green, Leeds, LS14 2BA

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify - Administrative

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

The Director of Environment and Housing is being requested to authorise the suspension of lettings, demolition of garages and removal from charge of the 4 council owned garages (G1 to G4) at Baildon Green, Leeds, LS14 2BA. The garages are empty and beyond economic repair with no justification to carry out costly improvements given that there is no demand from residents in this location for garages. The garages are at risk of further deterioration and a potential source for anti-social behaviour with structural damage to one side of the block assumed to be from a vehicle trying to manoeuvre near the garages. They are an unattractive structure in their current state of disrepair and their demolition and removal is fully supported by residents and Ward Members. Following demolition the area will be tarmacked and left as general parking space for local residents.

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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)

The garages are empty with the last two tenancies being terminated in October 2016. Two of the garages have been empty long term (over 5 years).

Consultation on the proposal took place on 13th September and 13th December 2016 with local Ward Members who are concerned about the condition of the garages and the negative impact they have on the area. They therefore fully support the demolition and removal of the garages and have requested the area is tarmacked to provide parking spaces for use by local residents.

Housing Leeds has fully revised the garage waiting list and there is no registered demand for garages at this particular location in the area. Efforts to market the garages have proved unsuccessful and to incur significant costs to refurbish without any guarantee of being able to let the garages is not considered to be spending scarce Council resources wisely.

- **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 garages are a potential source for anti social behaviour which could impact on cohesion and therefore demolition and removal of these structures will positively impact on the community. The removal of the garages improves visibility of two public footpaths which contributes to enhanced community safety. The site will be tarmacked and left as general parking space for local residents. There is a high level of car ownership in the area and parking is at a premium so providing the tarmacked parking spaces will increase the number of car parking spaces available at this location.

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

Removal of the garages will mean no garages will be left at this particular location. This decision is supported by Housing Management who confirm that there is no demand for garages in this area. There are sufficient alternative sites locally that can be offered to cater for anyone in the future who may have an interest in renting a garage locally.

The site does not offer any development potential and this has been confirmed with the Council's Housing Growth Team.
Removal of the garages will have a positive visual impact in the local area.

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
Jenny Fern	Investment Projects Manager	14 th February 2017
Date screening completed 13 th February 2017		

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

Date sent:

Governance Services	
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: