

# 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.

<b>Directorate: Resources and Housing</b>	<b>Service area: Property and Contracts</b>
<b>Lead person: Ayoub Khan</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 3781121</b>

## 1. Title: Request to Demolish 4 Council owned garages (G28 to G31) at Weston Park View, Otley LS21 2DU

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 Resources and Housing is being requested to authorise the suspension of lettings, demolition of garages and removal from charge of the 4 council owned garages (G28 to G31) at Weston Park View, Otley LS21 2DU. These garages are part of a larger garage site of 35 garages. The block of 4 garages have been empty for some time and deemed beyond economic repair due to significant vandalism to their structure. The condition of the wider garage site is poor but the 4 garages requested for demolition are in the worst condition. Currently 25 garages are rented across the whole site and 10 are void (including the 4 requested for demolition). The garages are at risk of further deterioration due to sustained vandalism from local children and create the potential for further anti-social behaviour which local residents are very concerned about. The 4 garages are a blight on the wider garage site which is being considered further in terms of the future of the site. Residents and Ward Members support the demolition of these 4 garages. The structures have been

**further vandalised this weekend (1/2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017) and the roof is now collapsing posing a significant risk to the Council therefore emergency demolition is proposed to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> Jul 2017. Following demolition the area will be tarmacked and it will increase visibility across the wider site which it is hoped may reduce the potential for further anti social behaviour.**

### **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.

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
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"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>		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)

Consultation on the proposal took place in June 2017 where residents and Ward Members raised their concerns about the condition of the garages and their negative impact on the area. They therefore fully support the demolition and removal of these four garages and for the area to be tarmacked.

- **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 constant source for anti-social behaviour by local youths which is impacting on local residents many of whom are elderly and potentially vulnerable which is having a negative impact on community cohesion. The demolition and removal of these structures will positively impact on the community. Following demolition of garages the area will be tarmacked. The removal of garages will improve the visibility of the site from both sides of the roads and remove the current hiding place where youths congregate. The 4 garages recommended for demolition have been further vandalised and the roof is in danger of collapse.

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

Removal of the 4 garages will have positive effect on other garages by improving visibility across the remaining site making it more secure and safe. This decision is supported by Housing Management who confirm that the removal of 4 garages will help reduce anti-social behaviour and disturbance for local residents.

Consideration of the site has been discussed with relevant internal council departments

to determine any future development potential. This currently being explored further and will need to be consulted with Ward Members and Residents in due course once more information is available.

As the garages have not been occupied for some time there is no displacement of any tenancies and removal of these garages may help to improve letting ability of the remaining voids on the garage site.

**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
Ayoub Khan	Investment Projects Officer	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
<b>Date screening completed</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> June 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](mailto: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 <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent: