

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: Regeneration Services
Lead person: Mike Cheung	Contact number: 0113 247 4108

1. Title: Richmond Court, LS 9 - Approval to remove the asset from the Capital Receipts List and dispose at 'less than best' consideration.

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Exercise will screen whether the proposal to dispose of Richmond Court to Yorkshire Housing (YH) at less than best consideration to enable an affordable housing opportunity will impact on issues relating to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. The details of the proposals are summarised below.

The former homeless hostel, Richmond Court, LS9, was declared surplus by the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate 21st April 2011. Various options have been considered for the hostel including redevelopment for supported housing or for general needs. However, no demand was identified for supported housing in the area and cost involved in the redevelopment for general needs did not represent value for money. In August 2011, the Council approached several Registered Providers (RPs) operating in the City to obtain expression of interests for the site. Of the RPs contacted, Yorkshire Housing (YH) have shown the most interest and have

an option to purchase the adjacent Butterfield Manor which they intend to combine with the Richmond Court site to produce 37 units of family accommodation. YH have an indicative programme with the Homes and Communities Agency for 200 units in the current funding round, 2011 – 2015, and the redevelopment of the combined sites would assist YH in achieving the target. Moreover, it will provide the Council with much needed affordable housing which is a priority for the Council as articulated in the Vision for Leeds 2004 – 2020, and in the Housing and Regeneration City Priority Plan, 2011 – 2015. If the disposal of the Richmond Court site to YH is not agreed, and at less than best consideration (£5K per plot) , it will not be financially viable for YH to redevelop Butterfield Manor in isolation and the Council would potentially lose 37 units of affordable family accommodation.

Consultation has taken place with one Ward Member who is very supportive of the proposals. Consultations with residents and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the planning application submission.

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?	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 x 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings. The new development will have a positive impact in the area by providing 37 units of general needs accommodation built to lifetime home standards. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions 	

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
Christine Addison	Acting Chief Asset Management Officer.	

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	
Date sent to Equality Team	
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	

