

# 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: City Development</b>	<b>Service area: Parks and Countryside</b>
<b>Lead person: Tony Stringwell</b>	<b>Contact number: 3957400</b>

## 1. Title: The decision to be taken by Executive Board to nominate site for inclusion in the Queen Elizabeth II – Fields in Trust Challenge

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**

**Service / Function**

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

Fields in Trust was founded in 1925 as the National Playing Fields Association by King George V. The vision is to have a nation which enjoys the multiple associated benefits from using open recreational spaces.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields challenge is the current flagship UK-wide programme to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, London Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as the 2014 Commonwealth Games. The objective is to permanently protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces by the end of this year.

Fields in Trust are promoting this scheme on the principle that access to outdoor space is vital for communities and plays an important role in providing a place for both physical activity and relaxation. Green spaces of all typologies can be included within the scheme, ranging from playing fields to nature conservation areas.

There is an opportunity for Leeds to participate in the scheme and provide a lasting legacy of the Queen's jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics. In addition, national sponsors of this initiative, including ASDA and LV= have highlighted their intention to work with the council to improve sites in Leeds for recreational use.

Given the objectives of the initiative, a number of sites have been nominated for inclusion in this scheme. The nominated sites are:

- Butcher Hill playing fields
- Halton Dene
- Holt Park
- Post Hill Woods
- Skelton Woods and playing fields
- Street Lane Recreation Ground
- Thorpe Wood
- West Park playing fields

A report has been drafted for consideration by the councils Executive Board. The purpose of this EDCI screening document is to assess the decision that will be taken to actively participate in this scheme.

### 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"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>		

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)

In terms of management and day to day interaction with the nominated sites, parks and countryside users and the wider public will be unaffected by the decision participate in this scheme. Management of the site will continue to be the responsibility of Leeds City council and service provision will not be positively or adversely affected.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields initiative will provide a unique opportunity to encourage and involve volunteer participation from individuals and businesses in varying aspects of green space development and maintenance. Since late 2010, the Parks and Countryside service has been working to increase volunteering opportunities with the aim of engaging communities in the management of their local sites. As a consequence, 2011 saw a large increase in volunteering resulting in the service now working with over 1,000 volunteers, including members of about 150 volunteer community groups. These volunteers work to maintain and improve the green spaces, wildlife and general environment of Leeds in partnership with Parks and Countryside staff.

- **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 decision to engage in the Queen Elizabeth II Fields initiative will result in those sites nominated being protected in perpetuity by a deed of dedication. This is a positive outcome of this decision as it will protect in perpetuity those sites nominated and therefore the of site by Leeds residents.

A further positive outcome is the opportunity to enhance volunteer opportunities in the development and maintenance of parks and green spaces in Leeds.

- **Actions**

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

The parks and countryside service will continue to promote volunteer opportunities within parks and green spaces.

**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
Tony Stringwell	Senior Projects Manager	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2012

**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**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2012

**Date sent to Equality Team**

**Date published**

(To be completed by the Equality Team)