

# 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:</b> City Development	<b>Service area:</b> Forward Planning and Implementation
<b>Lead person:</b> David Feeney / Helen Miller	<b>Contact number:</b> 2478132

## 1. Title: Natural Resources and Waste Development Plan Directorate

Is this a:

☒

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The Natural Resources & Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) is one of a number of planning documents currently being prepared as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The preparation of this document has been driven by the requirements of national planning guidance (PPS10), the implications of European Waste Management Directives, the City Council's commitments to managing environmental resources and tackling climate change and the need to identify sufficient sites for waste management activities (aligned to the Council's own municipal waste strategy).

The Natural Resources & Waste DPD contains a range of planning policies relating to Minerals & Aggregates, Water Resources, Air Quality, Sustainable Energy Use and Waste, as part of an overall integrated approach, which seeks to minimise and manage the use of natural resources. As well as containing specific planning policies and site allocations, it is also envisaged that the document will have an influencing role in supporting the City Council's wider strategic objectives for the environment.

A number of key issues are addressed through the document. These include:

- planning for sufficient minerals & aggregates supply (whilst managing environmental assets and amenity),
- planning for a shift to non-road based freight,
- planning for municipal, commercial and industrial waste activity, including site specific allocations, (whilst seeking to reduce waste arisings overall)
- Seeking to reduce flood risk, through mitigation and adaptation, in taking into account the effects of climate change.
- Promoting a shift from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable forms of energy.

The Natural Resources and Waste DPD has previously been subjected to Equality Impact Assessment Screening. The proposal now is to consider the report of the Inspector who has examined the Plan and to request the Council to proceed to adopt the Plan. This EIA Screening is an update to the previous EIA Screening.

### **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)

If yes please provide details

The preparation of the Natural Resources and Waste DPD (NRWDPD) has been undertaken within the context of the LDF Regulations (and SEA Directive) and the City Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

This means that all the policies in the NRWDPD have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA considers the impact of the proposed policies against two SA objectives. These are - SA8 to increase social inclusion and active community participation and SA9 to increase community cohesion

The Sustainability Appraisal assessed the impact of the NRWDPD against the following questions:

*Social inclusion*

a. Will it help to reduce poverty?

b. Will it provide more services and facilities that are appropriate to the needs of ethnic

minorities, older people, young people and disabled people?

c. Does it enable less-well resourced groups to take part?

d. Does it take steps to involve not yet reached groups?

*Community participation*

a. Will it give the community opportunities to participate in or towards making decisions?

b. Will local community organisations be supported to identify and address their own priorities?

*Community Cohesion*

a. Will it build better relationships across diverse communities and interests?

b. Will it increase people's feelings of belonging?

c. Will it encourage communities to value diversity?

d. Could it create or increase tensions and conflict locally or with other communities?

For any policies that scored poorly against the SA objectives we looked for ways to improve them or mitigate the impacts.

The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were agreed with the statutory consultees in February 2008. The results of the SA were written up in an SA Report and this is available on the Leeds City Council LDF website or on a separate CD. The SA Report was the subject of public consultation for 8 weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 alongside the Publication Draft of the DPD. The only comments relating to the SA related to the cumulative effects on air quality. This was an issue that was examined by the Inspector and which he has concluded is sound.

The NRWDPD is a district wide strategy for the entire Leeds Metropolitan District and the development of the strategy has evolved and been informed by the preparation of a wide ranging evidence base. This includes a series of technical studies (including waste forecasting, mineral studies and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment ) as well as information and responses derived through a series of informal and formal stages of public consultation, as part of the ongoing and iterative plan making process.

Consistent with the SCI, the emerging NRWDPD has been the subject of a number of phases of consultation. Initial scoping work was undertaken in 2008 with key stakeholders. This was followed by a 6 week period of formal public consultation on an 'Issues & Alternative Options' document in May/ June 2008. Subsequently, a further 6 week period of consultation was undertaken from 18th January to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, on a 'Policy Position' consultation document. A further 8 week period of consultation took place on the Publication Draft from 15th December 2010 to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011. There have also been three other 6 week consultations on changes to the DPD.

Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration, have therefore been considered from a number of perspectives. This relates both to the strategy itself and associated policies and the provisions which have been made for consultation via a range of opportunities.

Once adopted, the NRWDPD will be subject to an annual review through the Annual Monitoring Report (soon to be called the Authority Monitoring Report) (AMR). The AMR will use a series of indicators to determine whether the NRWDPD is being implemented appropriately in delivering its objectives and seek to identify if it is having its intended effect. The AMR should be used to help evidence required changes to decision making, if the NRWDPD is not having its intended effects. The AMR offers an opportunity to ensure that the issues raised by the EIA are reviewed and followed up.

- **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 Natural Resources and Waste DPD has a basis in improving sustainability and the overall management of resources in the District. It therefore has a general beneficial effect for the good of the District as a whole. The Plan is divided into a number of topic areas, the key issues for these topic areas are as follows:

#### Minerals

The DPD includes targets for mineral extraction as Leeds share of the West Yorkshire Sub Regional apportionment. These aim to ensure that we have a sufficient supply of minerals to meet demand. This is done by safeguarding existing sites and allocating new sites, preferred areas and an Area of Search. By identifying the most appropriate locations for mineral extraction and ensuring we have provided sufficient locations we help to reduce pressure on areas where extraction would have a detrimental impact on communities living close-by.

Policies include the safeguarding of existing rail sidings and canal wharves in order to protect our ability to transport materials by canal and rail. There are also policies to encourage the remediation of contaminated land and urban tree planting.

Creating the opportunity for road-based freight to shift to using water and rail based freight has a beneficial effect on all groups since it helps to reduce overall levels of pollution caused by vehicular emissions. The reduction in greenhouse emissions also is beneficial to all groups as it helps to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Enabling minerals to be transported by rail or canal means that people who live close to the strategic road network are subject to fewer HGVs and emissions.

#### Waste

The NRWDPD makes provision for Leeds to be self-sufficient in waste management in the future, apart from some cross- border movements of specialist waste. Policies set out our approach for providing sufficient land to enable us to manage all the different types of waste over the plan period. This is done by safeguarding many existing waste management sites where appropriate, allocating new strategic waste sites and identifying industrial estates as preferred locations which have the potential to provide more waste facilities within them. There are no new landfill sites allocated because it is thought that there are already sufficient approved landfill sites to meet the need for the plan period. This strategy benefits all Leeds residents and businesses by ensuring that the City can manage its waste and that a sufficient range of sites is provided in the right locations. It therefore reduced the chance of pressure for facilities in the wrong locations. An efficient and adequate waste management strategy is important for the health of the economy so that businesses can operate effectively.

The plan is seeking to achieve a major change in the way waste is managed. In line with national policy, a fundamental objective is to drive the treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy thereby reducing disposal to landfill to an absolute minimum. To achieve this, the plan's strategy provides a framework for a significant increase in the non-landfill

forms of waste management capacity. To achieve this, the DPD allocates sites for strategic waste management purposes. These are the product of an extensive site selection process across the whole District, that in particular considered site availability and deliverability as a part of the selection criteria, as well as the other criteria listed in PPS10. Being largely away from residential areas, the Lower Aire Valley is the traditional area within Leeds where utility and heavy industries have located. Following the extension of the M1 motorway and the completion of the new A63 link into the City Centre, it now has excellent road transportation links. Consequently, the three sites that have been allocated performed the best against the analysis criteria. and three of these have been allocated in the plan for the development of strategic waste facilities. A fourth site was also identified but was not needed. Whilst some residents of Osmondthorpe objected to the strategic waste allocations, the provision of such sites is essential for the City as a whole and the locations identified are the most appropriate. The independent Inspector who examined the plan stated ' I am satisfied that all of these sites and the discounted fourth site are appropriate in principle for the location of strategic waste facilities.'

All three strategic waste sites are located in the same part of the City and therefore the DPD considered whether this could lead to any potential cumulative impact of negative aspects of waste operations, however there is no evidence to suggest that three strategic waste plants could not operate in the same area without giving rise to unacceptable adverse impacts. Each detailed proposal will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment; and, in establishing a baseline environment on which to assess any potential impacts, each assessment will have to include the effects of any other existing or proposed major developments, including strategic waste plants.

### Energy

Objectives for energy in the NRWDPD follow national policy in seeking to reduce the carbon burden of the UK energy supply, whilst at the same time increasing the resilience of its infrastructure.

Policies aim to encourage the use of renewable energy and to provide criteria for assessing suitable locations for wind energy development. A table is included which shows how the Regional Spatial Strategy target for grid-connected renewable energy generation could be achieved from different types of renewable energy (and thus help to meet the Government's national target for renewables).

These policies are beneficial to all groups since they help reduce reliance on the fossil fuels that are running out. This makes it more likely that elderly and vulnerable people will be able to afford to heat their homes. It also supports industry and businesses by enabling them to reduce running costs.

### Water

The DPD contains a suite of policies designed to help manage flood risk from both river flooding and surface water flooding. There are also policies to encourage water efficiency and minimise water consumption. These policies are beneficial to all groups but they are of particular benefit to those people who live or work in areas that are at risk of flooding.

### Air Quality

Policies aim to require all developments to incorporate measures for improving air quality where appropriate and to consider the potential for the introduction of Low Emission Zones and Low Emission Strategies. Improving air quality is beneficial to all residents of

Leeds, particularly to those who suffer from asthma and other breathing-related problems.

- **Actions**

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

This has primarily been achieved through the completion of a Sustainability Appraisal to integrate economic, social & environmental objectives and to identify ways that policies can be improved so as to take account of any equality impacts.

A number of policies in the NRWDPD provide support to industry and businesses and this in turn helps to promote the local economy and employment as a basis for tackling unemployment and job growth opportunities in key economic sectors across the district. Energy policies help to reduce fuel poverty which is especially important for the elderly and vulnerable people.

Water policies are designed to manage flood risk and reduce the likelihood of flooding and the effects of flooding when it does occur. This is particularly important for those living or working in flood risk areas.

Air quality policies are of particular benefit to those who suffer from asthma and other breathing-related problems.

Provision of a sufficient range of sites to be able to manage all forms of waste is beneficial to all groups in Leeds. Strategic waste sites have been identified in the most appropriate locations in the District.

Sufficient mineral sites have been identified to ensure that Leeds can meet the targets for mineral demand during the plan period (although the actual delivery of this will depend on the minerals industry). This helps to reduce pressure for mineral extraction in locations which would have a detrimental effect on neighbouring communities.

A key aspect of the plan will also be to monitor the implementation of policies via the LDF Annual Monitoring Report. The Annual/Authority Monitoring Report will be produced each year with the remit to evaluate policy implementation. This will be done through the monitoring framework, which will need to be adopted as part of the NRWDPD.

The monitoring framework will be set up to monitor the objectives which underpin all the policies. These objectives have a number of indicators which will be used to help gauge whether the NRWDPD is being implemented appropriately and that the anticipated effect of implementation is being achieved.

With regards to equality it is important that the monitoring framework also reports on equality issues, and where appropriate, link the reporting back to the EIA.

**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
David Feeney	Head of Planning & Economic Policy	19/12/2012

#### **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	
--------------------------	--

Date sent to Equality Team	
----------------------------	--

Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	
--	--