

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: Environments & Neighbourhoods	Service area: Strategy and Commissioning
Lead person: George Munson	Contact number: 3951767

1. Title:

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995: Further Report 2013

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other**

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

The Home Energy Conservation Act Further Report is being screened. This is based upon the HECA report 1996 and is required by government to evidence how every Council will help to reduce carbon emissions and alleviate fuel poverty. This report will help to save residents money on their fuel bills, reduce CO₂ emissions, lift households out of fuel poverty and create employment opportunities.

The report presents an ambitious but deliverable programme of works for the next 2 years and outlines our plans for the next 8 years. These integrated carbon reduction and affordable warmth plans are broken down broadly into three categories:

- Improving the energy efficiency of all homes in Leeds in order to reduce home energy demand.
- Supporting vulnerable people in crisis, or at risk of crisis, to reduce the immediate suffering caused by fuel poverty.
- Reducing the cost of fuel and increase incomes in the city.

The report identifies a range of actions, many of which are extensions of existing programmes. New programmes will be individually screened as part of project

development.

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

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)

We identified in the EDCI screening for the Home Insulation Scheme that:

“people in fuel poverty (including low income groups and some BME groups) are typically concentrated in inner city terraces which are not suitable for loft or cavity insulation (‘hard to treat’ properties). We have agreed with our chosen contractor to gather information on those people whose properties aren’t technically suitable so that we can re-contact them with new offers linked to the government’s Green Deal.”

By framing the Further Report as a holistic programme that aims to reduce carbon, support vulnerable people and increase incomes, we will ensure that the environmental aspirations are backed up by social good. Individual programmes (such as the interim Green Deal framework) will be designed to make sure that private sector partners are incentivised to focus on improving heating and insulation in more deprived neighbourhoods as well as promoting carbon reductions from more affluent areas.

- **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 learning from Wrap Up Leeds, and the Green Deal Demonstrator have already fed into plans for a larger and longer-term Green Deal programme. We will also ensure that this is reflected in the interim Green Deal framework.

This will help to ensure that an offer for hard-to-treat properties is available over the medium and long term, to ensure equality of opportunity.

- **Actions**

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

The Further Report will have an overwhelmingly positive effect as it is designed specifically to support vulnerable people in fuel poverty as well as reducing carbon emissions. By integrating the two issues, we can achieve environmental benefits whilst also securing social benefits.

Individual programmes within the Report will typically be supported by either loan or grant funding and all will help residents to save energy and money and make their homes warmer and healthier.

There is no obvious negative impact.

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
Tom Knowland	Head of Sustainable Development	18 February 2013

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)	