

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 or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: City Development	Service area: Highways & Transportation
Lead person: Simon Clothier	Contact number: 0113 3787513

1. Title: Air Quality Improvement - Office for Low Emission Vehicles Grant for Electric Charge Points

Is this a:

- Strategy / Policy**

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

The Secretary of State for Transport awarded the West Yorkshire Combined Authority a capital grant from the Office for Low Emission Vehicle (OLEV) on 30 March 2017 to deliver its Ultra-low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Taxi Infrastructure proposals. This project seeks to improve air quality, by funding and installing up to 88 rapid electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) in West Yorkshire by March 2020. This will remove one of the main barriers that has been identified for the uptake of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) by taxi and private hire operators. The OLEV capital grant award will cover 75% of capital costs per site, up to a cap of £22.5k. Capital costs above this will be part funded by the Combined Authority Local Transport Plan (LTP) and/or private sector capital contribution. A single EVCP supplier will be appointed to deliver the programme across West Yorkshire. This will see delivery of a coherent network that supports interoperability, with consistent site layout designs, branding and signage.

Each charge point has to be in operation for a minimum of 3 years, and will serve two parking bays, with one bay for sole use by taxi and private hire operators, whilst the second bay is accessible by public Electric Vehicle (EV) drivers. Both bays will be configured with accessible dimensions to allow free access around vehicles within the bay.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or 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.

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)

The project aims to increase electric vehicle uptake, in particular amongst taxi and private hire drivers by removing a perception that electric vehicle charge-points are scarce and so incompatible with operating their business or longer journeys.

The project board have considered and discussed potential physical access to the charger bays and resolved to require both to be of accessible dimensions to over-come any physical impediment to users that may exist had the bays both been standard size.

Information on the project proposals has been provided to the taxi and private hire trade in local authority licensing forums and helped inform on the type of location that would be suitable. It is desirable that such locations have 24 hour access, are well-lit and close to amenities such as cafes and toilets.

The grant conditions require that any driver of an electric vehicle may access the charge point and have options to pay for the electricity either by card, an app on a mobile device or a non-mandatory membership scheme.

- **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)

Installation and use of the electric vehicle charge points delivered through this scheme has no impact on any particular characteristic group. It has been considered if language support is required on the Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCP's) for whom English is not the first language - but with the location of the EVCP's to be geographically spread across West Yorkshire, it will not implicate directly to a particular race/community, therefore like existing petrol pumps, it is felt additional language support on the EVCP's is not required.

The project board discussed how a consistent approach should be taken to branding and bay design and so it was resolved to incorporate best practice from the latest guidance available at the point of project development, such as the "Parking SPD, *Additional Guidance on Electric Vehicle Charging Points*, Leeds City Council (2016)" and "*Guidance*

for implementation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, Transport For London (April 2010)". This will support mitigating any accessibility concerns to enable use of the charge points for all EV drivers within the Leeds City Region, including disabled users. Note some sites may have constraints which impacts on the ability to fully influence design and any site access issues identified. However all options will be considered in partnership with the appointed EVCP supplier to fully comply with best practice principles.

The first phase of charge points will be located in off-street carparks and so will not create additional street clutter. There is a low risk that the charge point and cables will create an impediment to blind and partially sighted people.

The charging bays will not displace existing disabled bays within the car parks and so will have no impact on Blue Badge holders.

Encouraging an increase in electric vehicles in the City assists in the aim to reduce roadside pollution alongside the Clean Air Zone. Electric vehicles have no engine noise so are quieter than conventional vehicles although not silent as the tyre-road interaction creates sounds, particularly as vehicle speed increases. There is a perception that quieter vehicles may have a negative impact by reducing the audible que and so making it more difficult for pedestrians, particularly the blind and partially sighted when crossing roads for example. This is a consideration for manufacturers and Central Government to resolve through legislation and/or design. There will be wider benefits of lower environmental noise levels such as reduced sleep disturbance, stress and annoyance and reduced roadside emissions off-set this.

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

A consistent approach to bay layout and design, requiring both bays to be accessible will support mitigating any accessibility concerns to enable use of the charge points for all EV drivers within the Leeds City Region, including disabled users.

Locations of charge-points will be promoted by the supplier, combined authority and council when installed.

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
Gwyn Owen	Principal Transport Planner (Programmes)	23/08/18
Date screening completed		23/08/18

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 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 Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: