

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: Highways and Transportation
Lead person: Kasia Speakman	Contact number: 87533

1. Title: HS2 Phase 2b Design Refinement Consultation - Proposed Response

Is this a:

- Strategy / Policy**

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify: Consultation response

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

HS2 is a national transport infrastructure project which will provide a new high speed rail link between York, the Midlands and London. HS2 in combination with Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) is expected to help transform the economy of the North of England by significantly improving the capacity, frequency and journey time of rail links between the region's main economic centres. The Executive Board report outlines the Council's proposed formal consultation response to HS2 Ltd subject to further technical work.

HS2 Ltd is currently consulting on 11 proposed changes to the design of the HS2 Phase 2b route which includes one design refinement in Leeds. The consultation on these proposed changes opened on 6th June 2019 and closes on 6th September 2019.

The HS2 consultation document describes the design refinement proposed within

Leeds as follows:

Woodlesford to Leeds station (west of the Woodlesford tunnel northern entrance only) the Secretary of State is minded to change the height of the route for 8km on the approach into Leeds station so the line runs predominantly on a viaduct, rather than a combination of at ground level, cutting and embankment.

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)

HS2 can be a major contributor to the Vision for Leeds, Best City and Council Plans where it's economic and investment impacts have great potential for the city, the city region and the North. It will act as a catalyst for regeneration and growth around our main transport hubs, it will improve connectivity to our towns and cities across the Leeds City Region and the North, it will improve the skills and job opportunities for our workforce, it will create opportunities for our businesses and supply chains, and enhance the image and profile of our city region.

At the same time, the HS2 project can pose issues in terms of its visual and noise impact, a risk of severance as well as impact on access to the countryside, greenspaces and leisure. It will also affect community assets. HS2 Ltd will be carrying out its own EDCI assessment as part of their Environmental Statement to accompany the Hybrid Bill.

This EDCI screening concerns the change in design for the area between Woodlesford and Leeds Station, where a viaduct is now proposed for the majority of the route.

- **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 council is clear that it is imperative that due regard to equality be considered throughout HS2 scheme development. HS2 Ltd as the scheme promotor is responsible for ensuring to ensure that due regard is given to the Equality Act, 2010.

HS2 Ltd has consulted on a working draft of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA). This consultation focuses on the potential direct or indirect impacts of the scheme on the 9 protected characteristics. The HS2 route refinement information states that with regard to equality 'The 2018 WDES, WDEQIA and information gathered from continuous

engagement contribute to important route refinement work and will inform the Phase 2b Environmental Statement (ES) and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)'.

The council's response on working draft of the Equalities Impact Assessment acknowledged whilst the areas which are likely to have an impact on the protected characterises are identified, what has not been identified is the actual impact and how this will be mitigated. Given the proposed route refinement, further information is requested with regard to the EQIA at the earliest opportunity.

- **Actions**

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

The council recognises the challenges and complexities of the construction of a high speed line of route to Leeds city centre and welcomes the opportunity to reduce the impacts of construction on local communities and business especially with regard to disruption to the road and rail network.

The current level of information provided by HS2 Ltd is not adequate enough to explain what the proposal will mean to local communities. Alongside outlining benefits of the proposals to the local area in terms of employment opportunities, HS2 Ltd engagement needs to also focus on providing communities with clear and concise easily accessible information on the following key community issues;

- Concern about noise, vibration and the visual impact of the viaduct.
- Concern about construction highway disruption.
- The identification of opportunities for re-the provision of key community assets at the earliest opportunity.
- Concern about impact on businesses both in terms of relocation and compensation.
- The provision of information relating to flood mitigation measures.

As a key stakeholder the council continues to press HS2 Ltd for the highest standards of construction planning and coordination and the development of detailed plans to minimise construction disruption and impact both for the line of route and the new station with the necessary mitigation at the highest levels of quality. In particular this should have regards to:

- Detailed and timely engagement throughout with communities and business with established and enduring points of contact which are available throughout the development and construction.
- Attention to landscaping and mitigation during the construction period to minimise the impacts.
- Clear and well defined access plans with traffic management in place and proposals which avoid construction traffic travelling through residential and local communities.
- Noise and environmental mitigation.
- Where business displacement or impacts form part of the project early action to support and ensure that such disruption is kept to a minimum and allows the uninterrupted continuation of their trading.

- Early and detailed engagement with the local planning, environmental and highways authority which must go beyond statutory requirements to ensure at all stages the best possible outcomes are achieved.

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:	
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Date to complete your impact assessment	
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Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	
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6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Foster	Transport Strategy Manager	11/07/2019

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	11/07/2019
Date sent to Equality Team	11/07/2019
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	