

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) impact assessment

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. In all appropriate instances we will need to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment.

This form:

- can be used to prompt discussion when carrying out your impact assessment
- should be completed either during the assessment process or following completion of the assessment
- should include a brief explanation where a section is not applicable

Directorate: Communities Housing & Environment	Service area: Climate Energy & Green Spaces
Lead person: Andrew White	Contact number: 0113 37 81561
Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment:	
31/07/2024	

1. Title: Leeds Food Strategy 2023-30
Is this a:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify

2. Members of the assessment team:

Name	Organisation	Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist
Andrew White	LCC	Lead officer, Climate Energy & Green Spaces
Claire Dalton Nobbs	LCC	Lead officer, Climate Energy & Green Spaces
Liz Boniface	LCC	Lead officer, Public Health
Emma Strachan	LCC	Lead officer, Public Health
Emma Schofield	LCC	Lead officer, Public Health
Jo Rowlands	LCC	Lead officer, Financial Inclusion
Meenakshi Parmar	LCC	Lead officer, Economic Development

Sonja Woodcock	FoodWise Leeds	FoodWise co-ordinator
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<p>3. Summary of strategy, policy, service or function that was assessed:</p> <p>Leeds Food Strategy 2023-30 is a long term strategy for the city, led by a partnership between the council, and FoodWise Leeds, a voluntary sector body representing a range of stakeholders.</p> <p>The Leeds Food Strategy sets out our vision for the future of how we produce, consume, and dispose of food across the local authority district. Leeds Food Strategy</p> <p>At the heart of this strategy is our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embrace new techniques and technologies.</p> <p>This means that we believe the foods that we eat should reflect our rich and diverse culture, nourish our social connections, enhance our physical and mental well-being, and make our lives better. It means that our food system should enable people, producers, and our planet to prosper. The strategy sets out what the local authority area can do to work towards this better food future for all.</p> <p>The strategy has three food missions:</p> <p>Health and wellbeing Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in our city through eating well.</p> <p>Food security and economy Our mission is to ensure we can all access affordable, nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.</p> <p>Sustainability and resilience Our mission is to ensure the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.</p> <p>Each of the missions has a set of objectives and actions which have been developed to deliver the strategy in the early stages of its lifespan.</p> <p>The strategy was developed as a post-Covid response to food security and access to food becoming more challenging, on top of existing food inequality in Leeds. Local food banks have seen an increase in demand, with estimates suggesting that thousands of people each week required support to access food. Leeds community food networks have risen to this challenge, however, the ongoing cost of living increases mean that there is still a need to build resilience into our local food systems to ensure better access to food and reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>Food inequality is caused by a range of economic, social and environmental factors. These include low household incomes, a poorly functioning national food sector and local food economy. The impacts of food inequality are profound and wide-reaching, and it causes a range of health, economic, social, and environmental impacts on our city. These include diabetes, obesity, reduced educational attainment for children at school, poor social cohesion, and an environmentally unsustainable food system.</p>

The impacts of food inequality are not evenly distributed and are felt much more in the most deprived areas of the city and by certain groups, not necessarily the groups identified as being protected under Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The food missions, objectives and actions set out in the strategy aim to respond to food inequality, but they will not remove it. The effects of the food strategy are positive for some protected groups and neutral for others.

4. Scope of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment
(complete - 4a. if you are assessing a strategy, policy or plan and 4b. if you are assessing a service, function or event)

4a. Strategy, policy or plan (please tick the appropriate box below)	
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The vision and themes, objectives or outcomes and the supporting guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A specific section within the strategy, policy or plan	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide detail:

The table below sets out the missions, objectives and actions for the strategy. For each objective, there is an assessment of the impact of the strategy on the protected groups, identification of other groups affected. Broadly, the strategy is intended to have a positive effect on the following:

- Age (especially children)
- Carers
- Disability (especially where disability relates to health conditions affected by diet)
- Race/ethnicity
- Religion/belief
- Sex (especially mothers)

The strategy is expected to have a neutral impact on the following:

- Gender reassignment
- Sexual orientation

The strategy addresses, but will not overcome, the patterns of food inequality, which is closely bound up with poverty and inequality in Leeds.

Mission: Health and wellbeing

The mission has the following objectives:

Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing.

Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating.

Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing.

Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases.

Summary paragraph:

The strategy aims to help people to improve their health and wellbeing through eating well. Access to nutritious and healthy food is essential for maintaining a healthy weight, assuring quality of life, emotional wellbeing, and productivity. People from lower income groups face substantial challenges when it comes to accessing healthy food. Many of the actions listed under the Health and Well-being mission align to the cities work on tackling health inequalities and creating a healthier food environment for all.

Mission: Food security and economy

The mission has the following objectives:

Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need.

Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives.

Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers.

Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.

Summary paragraph:

The strategy aims to ensure that all residents of Leeds have access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. It seeks to address food poverty and promote sustainable food practices across the city. The food strategy is part of the larger financial inclusion efforts aimed at mitigating the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and ensuring that the people and communities who will be most impacted are linked to the support and advice in the city that they need.

Mission: Sustainability and resilience

The mission has the following objectives:

Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food.

Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.

Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production.

Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying.

Summary paragraph:

The strategy aims to ensure that the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan. It aims to reduce food waste, improve awareness of healthy, local and seasonal food, and champion sustainable food production and buying.

4b. Service, function, event

please tick the appropriate box below

The whole service
(including service provision and employment)

A specific part of the service
(including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service)

Procuring of a service
(by contract or grant)

Please provide detail:

5. Fact finding – what do we already know

Make a note here of all information you will be using to carry out this assessment. This could include: previous consultation, involvement, research, results from perception surveys, equality monitoring and customer/ staff feedback.

(priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration related information)

The strategy presents a vision which seeks to ensure that everyone in Leeds can enjoy the healthy and sustainable food they need every day. This will enable the vision, missions and objectives shown in section 8 to be achieved and a positive impact in relation to equality.

The council consulted in Autumn 2022 on the draft Leeds Food Strategy, and reported on the results of the consultation in March 2023. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Executive Board, 15/03/2023 13:00 \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#) pp153-166.

An EDCI was undertaken following the consultation and ahead of the report to Executive Board in March 2023. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Executive Board, 15/03/2023 13:00 \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#) pp231-240.

Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information

Please provide detail:

None identified in the consultation.

Action required:

6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested

Yes

No

Please provide detail:

Eatwell Leeds

Feed Leeds

Food Insecurity Taskforce

Foodwise partnership

Incredible Edible

Leeds Cultural Food Hub

Leeds Food Aid Network

Action required:

Continue the engagement across third sector, community groups

7. Who may be affected by this activity?

please tick all relevant and significant equality characteristics, stakeholders and barriers that apply to your strategy, policy, service or function

Equality characteristics

Age

Carers

Disability

Gender reassignment

Race

**Religion
or Belief**

Sex (male or female)

Sexual orientation

Other

(Other can include – marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being)

Please specify:

Stakeholders

Services users

Employees

Trade Unions

Partners

Members

Suppliers

Other please specify

Potential barriers

Built environment services

Location of premises and

Information and communication

Customer care

Timing

Stereotypes and assumptions

Cost

Consultation and involvement

Financial exclusion

Employment and training

specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services or function

Please specify

8. Positive and negative impact

Think about what you are assessing (scope), the fact finding information, the potential positive and negative impact on equality characteristics, stakeholders and the effect of the barriers

8a. Positive impact:

The strategy aims to improve access to information about healthy, local, seasonal food, and should benefit all protected characteristic groups, as well as reaching across the city.

As has been outlined above, there is a large overlap between poverty and health inequality, and it will be important to track the impact of the strategy on the measures/performance indicators, and to drill down to the measures and check that progress is being made in the protected characteristics groups, as well as across the city.

Action required:

As part of developing and refining the performance indicators 1-15, determine which ones are capable of capturing and reporting equality and diversity information.

8b. Negative impact:

None identified

Action required:

None

9. Will this activity promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?

Yes

No

Please provide detail:

Action required: Maintain the regular communication and engage actively with groups and communities while delivering the strategy.

10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (for example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide detail:
Action required:

11. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another? (for example where your activity or decision is aimed at adults could it have an impact on children and young people)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide detail:
Action required:

12. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan

(insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person
Continue the engagement across third sector, community groups	Q3 2024-25	Report after next LCC Steering Group and next FoodWise Leeds Sterring Group	LFS Steering Group
Check the Performance Indicator methodologies for the LFS framework and determine which ones are capable of being drilled down for specific equality information	Q3-4 2024-25	Report after next LCC Steering Group and next FoodWise Leeds Sterring Group	LFS Steering Group

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person

13. Governance, ownership and approval

State here who has approved the actions and outcomes from the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew White	Senior Project Manager	31/07/2024
Date impact assessment completed		

14. Monitoring progress for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration actions (please tick)

- As part of Service Planning performance monitoring
- As part of Project monitoring
- Update report will be agreed and provided to the appropriate board
Please specify which board
- X Other (please specify) - report from steering group

15. 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 impact assessment 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 impact assessments 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 assessment 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: