

Appendix B

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) 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: Asset Management and Regeneration
Lead person: Angela Lawson	Contact number: 07891278061

1. Title: Rail Infrastructure – Network North

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The government published Network North on 4th October 2023. It sets out a series of transport infrastructure interventions some of which may benefit Leeds in the future include the upgrade and electrification of lines increasing frequency and number of train services, improving accessibility, maintaining £2 bus fare until end of March 2024, filling of pot holes on roads and a West Yorkshire mass transit system.

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)

Network North sets out government proposals for improving transport infrastructure and services. At present these are very highlevel and although inevitably this will be relevant to equality diversity cohesion and integration at the moment in most cases it is not clear what the detail of the proposals are.

- **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)

Improving rail connections is critical to reducing congestion on the road network and for enabling people to work in one city and live in another widening economic geographic mobility.

Accessibility issues are increased where platforms become more congested due to lack of capacity and can be a real issue at stations which do not have lifts to platforms
Network North references improving accessibility at stations

The limited detail of the rail schemes included in Network North and the fact that it has only just been published means that any actual programmes of work have not been consulted on publicly which means that communities and residents are unable to raise concerns or help develop solutions which will impact their everyday lives. Until the consenting strategies for these schemes have been confirmed and implemented this will continue to be the case.

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

The rail schemes have the potential to improve accessibility on platforms and the Council will continue to press for accessibility improvements as schemes are identified and consulted on.

The Council will formally seek collaborative working opportunities with DfT and other Transport bodies to enable the joint development of schemes and will press for the publication of more detail as soon as the programmes of infrastructure work are defined.

The Council will press for early delivery of the improvements proposed whether mass transit, rail or road to benefit Leeds communities.

Network North is clear that the government will extend the £2 bus fare until the end of March 2024 to help people continue to access affordable travel to work.

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
Angela Lawson	Head of Station Development	06/10/2023
Date screening completed		

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: