

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: Communities, Housing and Environment	Service area: Parks and Countryside
Lead person: Emma Trickett	Contact number: 0113 3788158

1. Title: Parks and Green Spaces Overview Executive Board report Feb 2024			
Is this a:			
Strategy / Policy	Service / Function	x	Other
If other, please specify			

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report provides a response to recommendations from Scrutiny and an update on recent developments in the Green Spaces Service. Two changes to usual operations are proposed, one is to reduce the frequency of Leeds Quality Park assessments and the other is to review the classification of green spaces in the city, particularly in relation to sites classified as Community Parks.

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)

Leeds Quality Park (LQP) assessments of community parks, cemeteries and crematoria currently take place annually to assess progress towards achieving the goal, set out in the [Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy](#), for all community parks and cemeteries and crematoria in Leeds to reach the Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard. The proposal in the report is to reduce the number of annual assessments so a third of parks are assessed each year on a rota basis with those sites scoring lowest on LQP being prioritised in 2024. This minor change in process will not to have an impact on the quality of parks on the ground so should not have an impact on EDCI. The benefit will be that it will allow the service time to focus on Level 1 tree inspections which are a health and

safety matter.

The other proposal in the report is to review the classification of green spaces as it hasn't been done for over 10 years and, it was observed at Scrutiny that, some wards don't have any community parks in them. The review, which will be undertaken in consultation with ward members, will ensure sites are classified appropriately. It is unlikely that the review will lead to significant changes in how sites are classified, but, for those affected, it may have a minor impact on how they are managed in that, as mentioned above, the service has a goal to get all 'community parks' to LQP standard. The idea of this goal is to ensure all local residents have good access to high quality green space and there should be no negative impact on equality, diversity and inclusion of this, as achieving high quality means the sites are welcoming and accessible to everyone.

- **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 proposed change to the LQP judging process should have no impact on the different equality characteristics.

The proposed review of green space classification may lead to a change in the classification in a small number of green spaces. Those classified as community parks will be included in the Council's goal to get all community parks to LQP standard which involves a requirement for them to be welcoming and accessible for all.

- **Actions**

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

The Green Spaces service will continue to prioritise providing high quality, accessible green spaces as set out in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

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
	Chief Officer, Climate,	

Polly Cook	Energy and Green Spaces.	
Date screening completed		19 Jan 24

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: 19 Jan 2024
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: