

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

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| Directorate: Communities, Housing and Environment | Service area: Climate, Energy, Green Spaces |
| Lead person: Joe Callin | Contact number: 0113 378 5380 |
| Date of the equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessment: 18/01/2024 | |

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| 1. Title: District Heating Update – Investment Plans |
| Is this a: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |
| If other, please specify – Project |

2. Members of the assessment team:

| Name | Organisation | Role on assessment team For example, service user, manager of service, specialist |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| Joe Callin | Leeds City Council | Project Lead |
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| 3. Summary of strategy, policy, service or function that was assessed: | |
| <p>This assessment relates to the next phase of construction of the Leeds PIPES district heating network covered in detail in the cover report presented to Executive Board in February 2024.</p> <p>Phase 4 of the project will see an extension of the network into the Wellington and Whitehall Road area of the city. A further extension is planned into the South Bank of the city to follow Phase 4. The continued extensions of the network will further spread the benefits of low cost, reliable, low carbon heat across the city.</p> | |

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

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| 4b. Service, function, event please tick the appropriate box below | |
| The whole service (including service provision and employment) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A specific part of the service (including service provision or employment or a specific section of the service) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Procuring of a service | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| (by contract or grant) | |
| Please provide detail: | |
| The specific section assessed is the next phase of construction of the network. | |

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| <p>5. Fact finding – what do we already know</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(priority should be given to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration related information)</p> <p>Previous EDCIs have been undertaken for the District Heating Network project, with the most recent of these taken in July 2023's update report.</p> <p>This screening is an extension of those previously undertaken. Previously it has been noted that connections to the network have positive impacts on equalities issues, improving financial inclusion by providing affordable heat to customers across the city, including social housing tenants in our multi-storey flats. The South Bank scheme specifically has identified additional social housing tenants that could be connected to the network and benefit from this.</p> |
| <p>Are there any gaps in equality and diversity information</p> <p>Please provide detail:</p> |
| <p>Action required:</p> |

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| <p>6. Wider involvement – have you involved groups of people who are most likely to be affected or interested</p> |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> |

Please provide detail:

We have not consulted with groups directly however we are consulting the Heat Trust on achieving accreditation with them for their customer service standard. This is the gold standard in heat networks customer services and will ensure the council is striving to deliver the best service possible for its customers.

Action required:

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 | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of premises and services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer care |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timing | <input type="checkbox"/> Stereotypes and assumptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation and involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial exclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> specific barriers to the strategy, policy, services or function | |
| Please specify | |

| 8. Positive and negative impact |
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| 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: |
| <p>A key positive impact of the works is in reducing the cost of energy bills for residents receiving heat from the network. Zoning policy will mandate connections to heat networks for large numbers of buildings across Leeds. This will mean a great number of residents benefit from these reduced costs compared to the usual market rate for gas or electric heating. This reduces financial exclusion.</p> <p>Beyond benefitting only residents themselves, businesses that choose to connect will also see these benefits, improving their opportunities to invest in other sectors of the business such as their staff.</p> <p>The South Bank scheme specifically has identified additional social housing tenants that could be connected to the network and benefit from this.</p> |
| Action required: |

Through the development of the South Bank scheme, further consider the feasibility of connecting additional social housing tenants and look to realise this if possible.

8b. Negative impact:

As has been raised in previous EDCI screening documents at Executive Board for the project, the potential negative impacts on stakeholders are associated with the works themselves, which could cause disruption to the highways and footways. We always work closely with Highways to mitigate this impact as well as with access officers in cases that blue badge parking bays are impacted by works.

Action required:

All proposals from the contractor are subject to approval of the risk assessment and method statements which take account of alternative routes for vehicles, cycles and pedestrians and this will be the case for the next phase of works too.

These are reviewed by the project team, as well as Highways services, who are best placed to understand the potential impact on residents.

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

Yes

No

Please provide detail:

Action required:

10. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other? (for example, in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)

Yes

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)

Yes

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 |
|---|--|---|--------------------|
| Update Executive Board on how Zoning policy will be implemented as government continue to develop the policy | Ongoing until end of 2025 when policy is implemented/legislated formally | Continued expansion of heat networks in the city | Joe Callin |
| All proposals from the contractor are subject to approval of the risk assessment and method statements which take account of alternative routes for vehicles, cycles and pedestrians and this will be the case for the next phase of works too. | Ongoing throughout works over next couple of years | Approval of the RAMS to allow works to take place | Joe Callin |
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| 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 |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| Joe Callin | Senior Project Officer | 18/01/2024 |
| Date impact assessment completed | | 18/01/2024 |

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 – Executive Board summer 2024
- Other (please specify)

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: 18/01/2024 |
| For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate | Date sent: |
| All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk | Date sent: |