

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: Community, Housing and Environment	Service area: Climate, Energy and Green Spaces
Lead person: Andrew Hickford	Contact number: 378 5846

<p>1. Title: Leeds Air Quality Strategy Report 2024</p> <p>Is this a:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other </p> <p>If other, please specify</p>
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<p>2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening</p>

This Leeds Air Quality Strategy Report 2024 updates Executive Board on the actions taken, and their impacts, since the 2021-30 Air Quality Strategy was approved in 2021. The original strategy aim was to ensure that Leeds would embed continuous improvement of Air Quality beyond legal compliance. The Strategy brought into scope harmful pollutants from sources in addition to transport related emissions for targeted action and determined the Council's approach to emissions including those in the home, as well as from Industry, Domestic and Agricultural activities. It includes projects to both mitigate the sources of pollution as well as raise awareness of sources and exposure to air pollution. This update gives further information on what has been achieved in the interim.

Whilst transport is a significant contributor to poor air quality, it is not the only contributing factor, internal or indoor air quality is increasingly being identified as having a significant impact on health outcomes. Internal air pollution can come from sources of external pollution entering a property, but also come from sources within the home, workplace, or public structure. Significantly we spend around 80% of our time indoors and as such exposure to pollutants in that setting is therefore critical. However, we have limited influence over building interiors and the activities carried out within them, as such outside of our own estate, we must focus on raising awareness of the issue.

Reducing emissions and improving air quality directly contributes to two strands of the Best Council Ambition: Health and Well-Being and Zero Carbon and can also be linked to Inclusive Growth. Measures that improve air quality usually have a positive carbon reduction impact, whilst improved air quality means 'healthier' air which provides better health outcomes for the population of Leeds and in particular for those with protected characteristics. Accordingly, actions delivered under this strategy continue to support the full breadth of the council's Best City Ambition.

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	x	

whom?		
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)

The evidence is strong that poorer people, ethnic minorities, children and disabled people are more exposed to air pollution. There is also strong evidence that greater exposure to air pollution is correlated with a greater risk of long-term conditions. Poor health is linked to time off work and reduced productivity—and can contribute to lower income. Improving air quality will therefore help to level up inequalities in the city.

- Air pollution causes 3m lost working days per year in the UK: according to the CBI
- From the Environment Agency's State of the Environment, Sep 2020 report: Long-term exposure to air pollution has been associated with dementia, heart disease, stroke and some cancers. Particulate matter and NO2 alone have been estimated to have health costs of around £22.6 billion every year. Poor health associated with, or exacerbated by, air pollution leads to time off work and reduced productivity. Illness associated with air pollution affects children's education and can lead to fewer employment options in adult life. Inequalities in environmental quality and accessibility all contribute to health inequalities in England. The poorest people often live and work in the most polluted environments. They also have higher rates of underlying health conditions that may make them more vulnerable to the effects of pollution.

The communication of the messages within the strategy to communities is key in how they can avoid poor air quality both within their homes and in their day-to-day life, It will

also lead to reduced emissions from wealthier areas of the city, industry and business

Consideration of the protected characteristics is summarised below and brought forward from the 2021-30 Air Quality Strategy:

Religion or Belief communities – The teachings of many of the world’s religions include caring for humanity and the environment/planet and the strategy ties well into this ethos. Some religious groups are concentrated in inner city areas where the benefits of improved air quality will be important. Faith groups will continue to be engaged through existing contacts, ward councillors and via the Localities team.

Ethnically diverse people/communities – many of these communities in Leeds live in inner city areas such as Harehills, Chapeltown, Beeston and City and Riverside which suffer from poor air quality. These communities benefit on how to avoid existing air pollution and in doing so may improve their mental and physical wellbeing. The strategy is available in a text only format which can be easily translated through existing online translation resources. Engagement will continue with this group.

Disability and Carers – disabled people may have less opportunity to avoid air pollution and thus will need increased support. Many health conditions can be adversely affected by poor air quality.

Sex – no major identified impact. The avoidance of areas of air pollution may impact on women’s safety if they use quieter roads away from main routes.

Age –Young children are at risk of life-long health effects like asthma as a result of exposure to air pollution and thus it is important that emissions are reduced to improve their future health. Due to their height children are more prone to low level emissions from vehicles which will need to be addressed. As well as direct engagement with families, schools will continue to be engaged to ensure measures are in place in their school grounds to avoid or deflect air pollution. Using different routes to school to avoid air pollution from cars will be encouraged. Elderly people are particularly at risk from poor air quality due to less resilience and possible existing health conditions. Some studies have suggested that air pollution can increase the likelihood of developing dementia.

Sexual Orientation and gender identity – This equality issue is spread across socio economic groups so there is no direct correlation with the effects of air quality.

Communication & Engagement –

Accessible versions including Braille and BSL would be made available if required. The Council only produce translations on request. The plain English versions of the summary will lend themselves more effectively to online translations.

Promotion of the updated strategy will continue through the following equality hubs (including mailing lists, social media, Hub Representatives).

Ethnically diverse people/communities
Voluntary Action
Leeds Disability and carers - TBC

Women and Girls - Womens Live Leeds
Age - Leeds Older People
LGBT+, Disability, Religion or Belief,
Carers – Communities Team

We will continue to work with key stakeholders, from Public Health, organisations such as Asthma+Lung UK, academics, and local and community groups across the city and in so doing we will build better messaging and advice on both reducing emissions and reducing exposure to air pollution. This will be communicated to communities across Leeds including those with protected characteristics. Work will continue targeting health care professionals, schools and other groups which will raise awareness of how air quality can be improved with all sections of the community. We are collaborating with partners in health care provision and prevention to raise awareness of the critical links between air pollution, exposure, and ill-health. We have worked to deliver training to health professionals, developed the Air Quality Alert system, improved public health messaging and supported the delivery of the health needs Assessment that targets the approach to addressing the health inequalities exacerbated by air pollution in Leeds.

- **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 improvement of air quality will continue to have a beneficial impact on all sections of the community and in particular those with protected characteristics as it is more likely that they will live in areas which are more prone to poor air quality..

- **Actions**

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

To ensure equality of response to reducing exposure to air pollution there will be a focus of communications activity in those areas of the city which suffer the most from air pollution which align with Areas of Multiple Deprivation in line with the council's values. We will:

- Continue to engage fully with all groups through community committees, ward councillors and third sector organisations, faith groups and Equality Hubs.
- We will continue to analyse their concerns and barriers to responding to and improving air quality.
- Explain constraints of finding appropriate solutions. Ensuring that they understand the strategy through conducting presentations and presenting the strategy in an easy-to-read format.
- To enhance our understanding of and develop further actions to tackle the impact of indoor Air pollution.

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:	April 2024
Date to complete your impact assessment.	May 2024
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	Andrew White

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
Name	Job title	Date
Polly Cook	Chief Officer	27.2.2024
Date screening completed		

7. Publishing	
<p>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.</p> <p>A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:</p>	
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: