

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration 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/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: Environment and Housing	Service area: Sustainable Energy and Climate Change / Housing Leeds
Lead person: George Munson	Contact number: 51767

1. Title: Citywide District Heating Network

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

Installation of a district heating network to provide lower cost, lower carbon heat from the Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility to city centre buildings, including council multi-storey housing.

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

In order to provide a baseload to make district heating viable, an area of Leeds needed to be chosen that had a large cluster of suitable electrically heated properties.

This screening is for the potential installation of district heating in around 2,500 multi-storey flats including Saxton Gardens, Ebor Gardens and the flats around Lincoln Green. This will replace existing electric storage heaters and immersion heaters (or replace ageing communal heating plant in Saxton and Ebor gardens) with modern and controllable wet central heating systems. The aim will be to reduce heating bills by at least 10%.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/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 and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	Y	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		N
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		N
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		N
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		N

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)

Electricity is one of the most expensive heating fuels and multi storey flats are typically home to some of the more deprived people in Leeds. The flats likely to benefit from the district heating are all in CSCO areas, defined as being within the 15% most deprived LSOAs in the country.

This scheme will reduce the cost of heating for several blocks of flats in a deprived part of the city. It will not affect fuel prices elsewhere in the city. The installation of district heating will help to lift people out of fuel poverty and reduce the amount of chronic cold related illnesses which particularly affect the elderly. Everyone in the flats involved, including leaseholder flats, will be access to the system.

As such it should have a beneficial effect on equality.

Plans for district heating in this area are still in the early stages so learning from the Clydes project (and other multi-storey district heating projects in Leeds) will be applied here and full tenant consultation undertaken to understand and address concerns.

• **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)

Reduction in number of people living in fuel poverty (+ve).
Reduction in cold related illnesses (+ve)

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

Consultation with residents will be carried out to make sure that any residents concerns are addressed during scheme design.

This will particularly address the information required to help people who currently have electric heating to adapt to wet central heating and getting the billing system right for tenants.

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
Tom Knowland	Head of Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	11 th August

7. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

If this screening relates to a **Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, full Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** a copy should be emailed to Corporate Governance and will be published along with the relevant report.

A copy of **all other** screening's should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk. For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).

Date screening completed	7 th August 2014
---------------------------------	-----------------------------

If relates to a Key Decision - date sent to Corporate Governance	11 th August
---	-------------------------

Any other decision – date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)	
--	--