

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: Parks and Countryside
Lead person: Mike Kinnaird	Contact number: 3786002

1. Title: Leeds Parks Trust

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify: approval to enter into an agreement with the Leeds Community Foundation.

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

A report to Executive Board recommending approval to establish a Leeds Parks Trust to maximise opportunities for charitable giving, legacies, along with support from local businesses and other organisations, by entering into an agreement with the Leeds Community Foundation.

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. 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)

The proposal is to establish a named fund managed and administered by the Leeds Community Foundation (LCF). This would enable giving for parks and green space improvements managed independently of the council without the need to set up a new charitable trust. There are around 69 million annual visits each year to parks and green spaces. Good quality parks and green space benefit the local economy by encouraging businesses to invest and people to live in the surrounding area.

The latest resident survey to 30,000 households resulted in a total of 3,738 surveys returned with 3,574 using a park, and therefore 96% of all respondents were parks users. The equality and diversity questions were in compliance with the corporate guidance at the time of the survey. Analysis of the survey results generally show Parks and Countryside performing well in the view of its customers in all equality and diversity areas. In summary;

- There appears to be few barriers in access to parks for any groups of people
- Satisfaction levels on a range of questions score broadly in line with city wide results for minority groups
- The parks visited by minority groups are in line with those visited by all groups across the city (there is no exclusivity amongst users)
- Figures for those respondents who said they never visit a park are generally equal in percentage terms across ethnicity groups and other groups
- Reasons for visiting parks do have some variations across different groups but not in categories that would be unexpected.

The survey data can be further broken down into individual parks and is used as such to help current and future development of parks across the city.

The Leeds Parks and Green Space Forum support and have been an advocate in establishing the Leeds Parks Trust. The Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum is a voluntary organisation made up of individuals, groups and organisations interested in enhancing the green spaces of Leeds. Members include 'friends of' groups, 'in bloom' groups, environmental charities and resident associations.

- **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)

Local communities already make a significant contribution to improving parks and green spaces across the city, particularly in those areas where direct resources have been withdrawn. Volunteers provide an estimated 29,000 volunteer days each year, equivalent to around 109 full-time equivalent staff. This includes over 50 'friends of' groups, over 50 'in bloom' groups, in addition to work placements, community payback, youth rehabilitation and corporate volunteers all of whom conduct practical work on a range of different sites. A number of sites now have community partnership agreements in place which enables groups to look after sites independently whilst ensuring that safety and public liability obligations are met.

There are already good examples where donations from businesses and philanthropic giving have made an important contribution to transforming facilities available to people who visit. Creating a partnership with the Leeds Community Foundation in this way would also increase the potential to reach new donors and take advantage of available expertise in fundraising and marketing.

The purpose of this fund would be improvements to parks and green space, and in particular fulfil the aspiration for all 62 community parks in Leeds to meet Green Flag criteria by 2020. It is anticipated that the Leeds Parks Trust would support projects both capital and revenue to deliver improvements to a wide range of facilities, features, signage as well as support 'friends' groups, education and learning. A mechanism will be developed whereby donations can be restricted to a particular park or project and/or whether a proportion of every gift may be top-sliced to give a contribution to all parks/green spaces.

- **Actions**

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

It will be important to establish a website and undertake marketing and communications activity to promote awareness of the fund.

It would be necessary to set up a panel in order to make decisions on allocation of grants from the fund. The Leeds Community Foundation, who is experienced in these matters, will advise on the relevant arrangements including representation.

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
Sean Flesher	Chief Officer Parks and Countryside	tbc
Date screening completed		12/08/2016

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: