

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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: City Development	Service area: Policy & Plans
Lead person: Tim Hill	Contact number: 0113 3787635

1. Title: Approach to renewing temporary city centre commuter car park planning applications

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

Other = Guidance

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

Main aim:

The report to Executive Board seeks approval for an agreed approach to determining renewal planning applications for 12 city centre commuter car parks that were permitted for a temporary 5 year period in 2012.

Purpose:

In total 3443 commuter car parking spaces were permitted in 2012. Against a policy context of the City Council resisting new commuter car parking in the Core area of the City Centre, the City Council is committed to a “managed reduction” of these commuter parking spaces, having regard to public transport improvements

Recommendation to Executive Board

Executive Board is being asked to agree an approach which would be a

consideration in determining planning applications to renew the temporary commuter car parking permitted in 2012. The approach expects a phased reduction in commuter parking spaces on each of the sites that seek a renewal. Conditions will be negotiated and agreed to achieve a reduction in the order of 40-60% over the life of the permission (up to 5 years).

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?		✓
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	✓	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		✓
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 	✓	

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?

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The decision by Executive Board concerns the rate at which the 3443 commuter car parking spaces approved temporarily in 2012 should be reduced. The decision proposes that the renewal planning permissions be expected to agree a phased reduction by 40-60% over 5 years.

These temporary car parking spaces have a number of characteristics that might be important to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

- i) They tend to be in peripheral areas of the city centre, mostly south of the river.
- ii) They tend to be cheaper
- iii) Quality of surfaces, facilities and visual amenities tends to be minimal (although improvements were required as part of the original temporary permissions)
- iv) They are temporary, awaiting permanent site development

There are also wider strategic issues to be considered.

Peripheral locations

There will be issues of safety that may impact more on protected groups such as women, LBGT or disabled people. If people commute by train or park and ride bus they may be safer.

On the other hand, commuter car parking brings commuters to peripheral locations of the city centre that are otherwise unpopulated. This brings a level of natural surveillance which will enhance the cohesion and integration of these areas.

Cheap car parking

Having affordable commuter car parking will contribute to diversity, cohesion and integration. It will help enable *all* employees to get to work in Leeds city centre rather than employees on higher salaries. However, there are non-car alternatives such as catching the bus or cycling, or parking on-street for free beyond the city centre and walking in. In fact, there are city centre employees who cannot afford a car.

It is a complex picture. There may be low-paid commuters based in locations where public transport availability is poor or who are unable to cycle or walk far because of health reasons. Nevertheless, park and ride may offer a comparably cheap alternative to the temporary commuter car parks.

Quality

Poor surfaces and facilities may be off-putting to certain protected groups such as women or disabled people, particularly if people rely upon walking aids, or wear high heels.

As permitted in 2012 the temporary car parks have no dedicated spaces for disabled people.

Temporary

The profitability of car parking may delay permanent redevelopment and the opportunity to bring new housing, offices and other facilities such as restaurants, green spaces and

visual improvement. Such development has potential to bring benefits for cohesion and integration. More housing, including affordable housing helps to house a growing population; green spaces should allow for community use and integration.

On the other hand, development interest is somewhat depressed because of Brexit. Fast closure of commuter car parking brings no guarantee that the development industry is ready to bring forward sites for permanent development.

Wider issues

The Council's strategy is to reduce reliance upon the car and promote sustainable travel. Car journeys contribute to air pollution, noise pollution and generate congestion. These negative effects tend to be felt more acutely in the inner areas of Leeds which also tend to be the areas with higher rates of deprivation, poor health and educational underperformance.

If the temporary commuter car parking is reduced, assuming the commuters switch to sustainable alternatives, this should reduce pollution and traffic congestion in the inner areas of Leeds.

Key findings

The key findings are that there are no clear impacts on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. Positive impacts are cancelled out by negative impacts. In practice the impacts are likely to be slight because the question for decision is the rate at which the temporary commuter car parking in the city centre is reduced.

Actions

Equality colleagues advise that negotiations on the planning applications should seek provision of a proportion of spaces for disabled spaces to serve commuters. However, current consents do not contain any conditions which would control this.

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
Robin Coghlan	Planning Strategy Team Leader	14 th November 2016

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.

Date screening completed	14 November 2016
Date sent to Equality Team	22 September 2016
Date published	