

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: Resources and Housing and City Development.	Service area: Policy and Plans
Lead person: Nasreen Yunis	Contact number: 0113 3787640

1. Title: The Leeds Community Infrastructure Levy – Investment of the Strategic Fund
Is this a:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (called ‘the levy’ or ‘CIL’) allows local planning authorities to raise funds from developers who are creating new buildings in their area. The funds raised will go towards infrastructure that is needed to support the growth of the city, such as schools and transport improvements. The CIL is applied as a charge on each square metre of certain types of new buildings.</p> <p>Executive Board (February 2015), made key decisions around spending of the future CIL income, directing it into two main funding streams, a Strategic Fund, and a neighbourhood fund, plus up to 5% for administrative costs. This report sets out what the investment priorities for the Strategic Fund for the forthcoming year, and also sets out changes to the CIL process as a result of national legislation.</p>

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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?	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)

- **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)

In developing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charge setting process, equality has been an integral part of the process to ensure that there is equal and fair consultation throughout the charge setting process, and equality for those who will have to pay the charge. Public Consultation was held at required times of the CIL adoption process. Executive Board in February 2015 also determined the broad principles for spending of the CIL which was also the subject of equality screening. This report looks ahead to spending priorities for the financial year 21/22, there are various options and pressures relating to the investment of the Strategic Fund, such as competing demands from varying different types of infrastructure to include schools, public transport, transport projects, flood alleviation, climate change related projects, regeneration, health and response to Covid-19 projects to include responding to Local Centres and City Centre recovery.

There are also pressures in terms of where the monies are spent geographically. The strategic fund can be invested on strategic infrastructure throughout Leeds and is not restricted geographically, however this can also mean that there is not necessarily a connection between development activity and where the strategic fund is spent.

The recommendation that the investment of the strategic fund for the forthcoming year be allocated to the Learning Places Programme (LPP) to contribute to learning places for schools assists with the provision of vital infrastructure. In particular the key groups to benefit from this are young children and families who will directly benefit from the provision of schools. This also has a positive impact on other groups as the provision of education benefits all in the local community. In addition other protected characteristics such as the ethnic minorities, gender, religion, sexual orientation, may all benefit from the proposal as the provision of education has a positive impact on these groups.

The report also sets out national legislative changes to the CIL process, to include the

introduction of the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS), which replaces the previous process of the Regulation 123 list which previously set out the types of infrastructure which the Strategic Fund could be spent on. The IFS now sets instead what spending priorities are for strategic infrastructure to be provided by the strategic fund. In addition there have been changes to the CIL process such as the application of annual indexation in a consistent way for all Local Authorities, these changes impact on Local Planning Authorities in the same way, and simply set out legislative changes which must be applied.

- **Actions**

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

The CIL in Leeds aims to enable the Council to direct spending on necessary infrastructure items, give more choice in priority setting for spending to local communities, and balance out the costs and benefits of growth across the District (these matters have already been subject to an equality screening). It is therefore considered that it is a beneficial mechanism to help promote equality overall. The CIL has never been expected to fund all the necessary infrastructure for Leeds and other sources of funding will continue to be sought.

By investing the strategic fund at this point in time for education provision, the equality considerations are positive especially for the young, and their communities, to include all protected characteristics. There is a continued need investment into education across the District, the predominant need being for secondary sector provision, this is directly related to previous primary sector growth (from previous years), which is now feeding through to the secondary sector. This is in addition to additional new housing generated growth throughout the sector. Secondly there is a continued need for Special Education Need (SEN). This is driven by an increase in all 3 sectors which has had a consequential impact on need for SEN places. In terms of the primary sector there is a small amount of growth in the sector in the City, this is because primary need has predominantly been met in previous years and the majority of remaining primary growth is directly linked with new housing. It is also important that ongoing investment programmes by Education are complementary to this proposed use of the Strategic Fund. Young children in primary schools, older children in Secondary Schools, and those with special needs, as well as young families will directly benefit from the investment into the LPP, however this will have a direct wider benefit also for ethnic minorities and for gender equality as all protected characteristics will benefit.

The future spend of the strategic fund will also need to be considered at a later date, and the priorities at that stage may be different, and will again have to meet the national requirements stipulated in the CIL Regulations (2010 as amended).

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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:	
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Date to complete your impact assessment	
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Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	
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6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
David Feeney	Chief Planning Officer	22/1/21

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	
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If relates to a Key Decision - date sent to Corporate Governance	
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Any other decision – date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)	
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