

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

Directorate: City Development	Service area: Asset Management and Regeneration
Lead person: Miriam Browne	Contact number: 0113 3785961

1. Title: Corn Exchange Public Realm Proposals and Design Cost Report

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

Physical works to create public realm improvement proposals.

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

The proposals include the utilisation of residual land from Highways improvements via the Connecting Leeds programme to create a new vibrant and inclusive public space that improves bus waiting environs and offers opportunities for seating, tree planting, rain gardens, cycling, activities and events as well as providing the opportunity to maximise green infrastructure.

Separate to this project, there are also speculative proposals by CX (Leeds) Limited for a pavilion, subject to planning approvals, to complement the meanwhile uses of the public realm and animate the space.

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 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)

Extensive consultation has been undertaken on the Our Spaces strategy in relation to the design principles for public realm, with these principles used to inform the design of the

Corn Exchange Public Realm. This included online consultation, presentations to stakeholders and targeted focus groups and engagement activities to seek representative feedback. The principles focus on inclusive design that puts people first.

Extensive consultation has also been undertaken on the Corn Exchange Gateway, including the proposals for the public realm. This included The Connecting Leeds Corn Exchange Gateway consultation on Transforming Your City Centre via the online portal, Commonplace. The consultation was open to the public. Outreach drop-in events were held throughout October 2019 at the Corn Exchange, Kirkgate Market and Leeds Bus Station. On-street outreach with the public in the area with the distribution of 9000 leaflets, cards and posters. E newsletters were also distribute and all materials were available online.

The design brief requires a public realm design that puts 'people first', where everyone is welcome. Proposals for the scheme design include:

- Taking account of feedback through the Connecting Leeds and Our Spaces engagement process and feedback.
- a design which creates a range of space types to cater for all
- Accessible seating designed to British Standard (BS) 8300. Seating with provision of back and arm rests.
- Adequate space guided by good practice between planting beds so circulation space for those with buggies/mobility issues is not restricted.
- a choice between shaded and open areas
- Well-lit area so it can be used 24hrs.
- Close to toilet and baby change provision in the Corn Exchange
- Increase in trees and planting which benefit the environment and people's health and wellbeing
- Improved bus waiting environs and a space that promotes active travel

Access groups have been engaged on the preliminary design and their feedback used to make the design more inclusive and accessible, for example, by introducing a controlled crossing over a segregated cycleway. The Council's Access Officer has also been engaged in design development and will continue to be engaged through detailed design.

- **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)

Based on the Our Spaces principles, the design of the space will be welcoming and accessible to all taking into account requirements for seating, shade and accessibility.

The proposals will create a large new area of seating to create areas where groups / families / individuals can meet and interact and create space for events.

The proposal will provide a safe space for people to rest, gather and play in the city centre. This gives an opportunity for any person to meet and socialise thus increasing contact and relationship forming.

The space will be used for events and activities which reflect the diverse communities of Leeds.

- **Actions**

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

Collaboration and sharing good news stories are key to spreading the message about improvements to the public realm and the benefits to the city.

Work with Connecting Leeds and relevant partners to promote changes.

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
Miriam Browne	Senior Project Manager	21/01/2021
Date screening completed		21/01/2021

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: