

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	Service area: Sustainable Energy and Air Quality
Lead person: Emma Slater	Contact number: 0113 378 5837

1. Title: Air Quality Strategy
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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this strategy is to improve the air quality in Leeds and help residents to avoid the effects of emissions. • This report sets out Leeds City Council’s strategy for improving on its position of legal compliance with NO2 limit values, and complying with the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended targets for NO2 and particulate matter (PM10, and PM2.5) over the next 9 years. Consequently, the strategy brings into scope other harmful pollutants for targeted action and sets out the Council’s approach to tackling emissions from Industry and Domestic

activities.

- Reducing emissions and improving air quality directly contributes to two strands of the Best Council plan: Sustainable Infrastructure & Health and Well-Being. Measures that improve air quality usually have a positive carbon reduction impact. Accordingly, actions delivered under this strategy will also support that Council's net zero ambitions to meet the challenge of the Climate Emergency.
- From an engagement point of view the strategy will involve informing residents what they can do from a personal point of view to reduce emissions (e.g. reduce use of wood burners, less car journeys) and secondly how they can reduce exposure to emissions. It will also involve engaging Council services that haven't typically been involved with the AQ agenda to date, due to the plan bringing into scope areas for intervention outside of transport.
- Over the past 12 months engagement on air quality has entailed:
 - Report to the Executive Board in October 2020.
 - Liaison with stakeholder groups in the City.
 - Contact with members of the public, environmental groups and academia.
 - City-wide Clean Air Leeds communications campaign.
 - Ipsos Mori NO₂ plan user-research.

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
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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 evidence is strong that poorer people, ethnic minorities, children and disabled people are more exposed to air pollution. There is also strong evidence that greater exposure to air pollution is correlated with a greater risk of long-term conditions. Poor health is linked to time off work and reduced productivity—and can contribute to lower income. Improving air quality will therefore help to level up inequalities in the city.

- Air pollution causes 3m lost working days per year in the UK: [according to the CBI](#)
- From the Environment Agency's State of the Environment, Sep 2020 report: Long-term exposure to air pollution has been associated with dementia, heart disease, stroke and some cancers. Particulate matter and NO2 alone have been estimated to have health costs of around £22.6 billion every year. Poor health associated with, or exacerbated by, air pollution leads to time off work and reduced productivity. Illness associated with air pollution affects children's education and can lead to fewer

employment options in adult life. Inequalities in environmental quality and accessibility all contribute to health inequalities in England. The poorest people often live and work in the most polluted environments. They also have higher rates of underlying health conditions that may make them more vulnerable to the effects of pollution.

The communication of the messages within the strategy to these communities will be key in how they can avoid poor air quality both within their homes and in their day to day life, It will also lead to reduced emissions from wealthier areas of the city, industry and business

Consideration of the protected characteristics is summarised below:

Religion or Belief communities – The teachings of many of the world’s religions include caring for humanity and the environment/planet and the strategy will tie well into this ethos. Some religious groups are concentrated in inner city areas where the benefits of improved air quality will be important. Faith groups will be engaged through existing contacts, ward councillors and via the Localities team.

Black, Asian and other ethnic communities – many of these communities in Leeds live in inner city areas such as Harehills, Chapeltown, Beeston and City and Riverside which suffer from poor air quality. These communities will benefit on how to avoid existing air pollution and in doing so may improve their mental and physical wellbeing. The strategy will be available in a text only format which can be easily translated through existing online translation resources.

Disability and Carers – disabled people may have less opportunity to avoid air pollution and thus will need increased support. Many health conditions can be adversely affected by poor air quality.

Sex – no major identified impact. The avoidance of areas of air pollution may impact on women’s safety if they use quieter roads away from main routes.

Age –Young children are at risk of life-long health effects like asthma as a result of exposure to air pollution and thus it is important that emissions are reduced to improve their future health. Due to their height children are more prone to low level emissions from vehicles which will need to be addressed. As well as direct engagement with families schools will be engaged to ensure measures are in place in their school grounds to avoid or deflect air pollution. Elderly people are particularly at risk from poor air quality due to less resilience and possible existing health conditions. Some studies have suggested that air pollution can increase the likelihood of developing dementia.

Sexual Orientation and gender identity – This equality issue is spread across socio economic groups so there is no direct correlation with the effects of air quality.

Communications and engagement

Promotion of the strategy will include the following equality hubs (mailing lists, social media, Hub Representatives).

Black, Asian and ethnic minority groups – Voluntary Action Leeds
Disability and carers - TBC
Women and Girls - Womens Live Leeds
Age - Leeds Older People
LGBT+, Disability, Religion or Belief, Carers – Communities Team

LCC News social media.

The strategy will be placed on notice boards, through ward members.

Screening – the strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis and groups will be engaged. The EIA will be refreshed on an annual basis.

Accessible versions including Braille and BSL would be made available if required. The Council only produce translations on request. The plain English versions of the summary will lend themselves more effectively to online translations.

Ward Members and Community Committees will have detailed local knowledge of best routes for consultation and engagement and ongoing communications.

Executive Board

The improvement of air quality was central to the council's ambition to create a Clean Air Zone for the city. Several reports were submitted to Executive Board in 2019 /20 outlining the plans for this. There was an extensive consultation with businesses and residents on the need for the zone and where it should be located.

Air quality forms a part of the council's response to the Climate Emergency which was declared in March 2019 through Executive Board.

- **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)

The improvement of air quality will have a beneficial impact on different equality groups.

- **Actions**

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

To ensure equality of response to reducing exposure to air pollution there will be a focus of communications activity in those areas of the city which suffer the most from air pollution which align predominantly with Areas of Multiple Deprivation in line with the council's values. We will:

Engage fully with all groups through community committees, ward councillors and third sector organisations, faith groups and Equality Hubs.

Analyse their concerns and barriers to responding to and improving air quality.

Explain constraints of finding appropriate solutions. Ensuring that they understand the strategy through conducting presentations and presenting the strategy in an easy to read format.

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
Polly Cook	Chief Officer, Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team	

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