

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: Communities, Housing and Environment	Service area: Strategy and Investment
Lead person: Michael Anderson	Contact number: 0113 285 2872

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

The authority to enter into an ERDF grant agreement to obtain funding towards the District Heating Clusters “Clustering from Warmth” project, and; approval for the injection of this value into the Housing Leeds Capital Programme, within the Housing Revenue Account.

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

- The council’s application to secure European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for the Clustering for Warmth project has been successful, with a grant of up to £7,402,351 offered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to fund 50% of eligible costs for the District Heating Clusters scheme.
- This grant covers the first four of six clusters of housing high rise blocks within the scope of the District Heating Clusters project; to replace the current heating and hot water systems with a low carbon system. Full consideration must be given as

to the intended allocation of this funding to ensure any potential impact(s) on the council's residents (including those with protected characteristics) are anticipated and managed in line with organisational policies, procedures and processes.

- To ensure rigour and financial accountability across the Housing Leeds Capital Programme, due diligence must be completed on all funding injections within the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme. This injection of c£7.4m of grant funding must be given full consideration as to determine any potential impacts on the council's residents, including those identified with protected characteristics.

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)

The District Heating Clusters project has conducted a full EDCI assessment in June 2020 on the impact of the project's products across all six clusters, including the four clusters intended to receive these proposed grant funds. As part of the EDCI assessment, data on the volume of residents with protected characteristics has been gathered and considered. Data on resident satisfaction through the STAR survey has also been considered. Any gaps identified, have been remedied through an enhanced support and outreach package offered by the Planned Works team.

All residents and leaseholders who are affected by the works have also been considered with a clear communication approach agreed. The negative and positive factors of these works have been considered with actions agreed to quantify the project's benefits, minimise disruption and gather feedback from all residents and leaseholders both those with, and without protected characteristics equally.

Full consideration has been given as to whether any groups of people are likely to be affected by the successful grant funding c£7.4m and the proposed cash injection to the Housing Leeds Capital Programme, within the Housing Revenue Account. No factors for consideration have been identified out with the original full EDCI assessment conducted on the project overall.

- **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 project team has concluded that there are no positive or negative impacts on different equality characteristics. The approval being sought is solely for the acquisition of ERDF co-funding and the injection of this grant funding to the Housing Revenue Account, and no communication with residents is expected as part of this authorisation.

There is no potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups nor the potential to bring groups / communities into increased contact through this authorisation. There are also, no perceptions that this proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another.

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

There are no actions arising from this EDCI screening, as the project team has determined there is no positive or negative impacts resulting from authorising this ERDF co-funding grant and subsequent cash injection to the Housing Revenue Account upon any equality, diversity and inclusion characteristics.

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
Paul Rounding	Capital Programme Manager	1 September 2021
Date screening completed		27/08/2021

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: