

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) 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: Highways & Transportation
Lead person: David Ellis	Contact number: 0113 3367859

1. **Title:** Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme: Corn Exchange Gateway Traffic Regulation Order Objection Report

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

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

Following approval of a report to the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) in January 2021, the Leeds City Council (Traffic Regulation) (Movement Restriction) (No. M14) Order 2012 Amendment Order No. 4 2021 was advertised in March 2021 as part of the Corn Exchange Gateway (CEG) scheme. The draft Traffic Regulation Order received one objection. The objection relates to bus gates on Leeds Bridge northbound Dock Street (operating 7am-7pm) and on Bridge End Southbound at Call Lane (7am-7pm).

This EDCI screening is for a report to the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

that recommends that the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) considers and overrules the reported objection associated with two of the proposed bus gates in the CEG scheme, as detailed in Leeds City Council (Traffic Regulation) (Movement Restriction) (No. M14) Order 2012 Amendment Order No. 4 2021.

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 on the proposals have been undertaken as part of the stakeholder engagement process and through meetings with groups representing disabled users, cycle users, bus operators, private hire drivers and the hackney carriage trade. The project team worked with Leeds Involving People to communicate with seldom-heard groups and a range of different disabled user groups. The consultation work also encompassed all businesses and organisations located within the scheme area. Statutory consultees such as Ward Members and emergency services have also been kept informed. Opportunities for all members of the public to comment have been facilitated via the Connecting Leeds website.

**• 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 consultation that informed the project revealed that disabled users are more likely to use public transport than able-bodied people in Leeds. Women, young people, carers, people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and BAME communities are also more likely to use public transport.
- The consultation also indicated that delays to bus services negatively impact bus users, making it harder and less convenient for them to access employment and public services. Improving the reliability of public transport allows groups with different equality characteristics to participate in the economic, social and cultural life of the city.
- Some disabled users, women, carers and BAME communities cannot use public transport or need to use private vehicles for certain trips. These users require there to be reasonable access routes for private vehicle to access services and businesses and it is important to balance the needs of bus users with people who cannot use bus services.

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

impact)

- Bus services will benefit from improved journey times and better journey time reliability because the proposal removed general traffic from a busy part of the city centre highway network during the times when high-frequency bus services operate. This is a significant positive impact for bus users and in particular groups who are more likely to use buses (BAME communities, women, disabled people, people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and young people).
- General traffic will be unable to access Leeds Bridge Northbound and Bridge End Southbound during the hours when the bus gates are in operation. This will require general traffic to take alternative routes during these times to reach certain destinations, which is a minor negative impact for users of private vehicles, which includes some disabled people, women and carers. However, there are alternative, unrestricted routes for general traffic, and taking these routes will have only a marginal impact on journey times for these users. By ensuring that there are good alternative routes available the proposal has minimised negative impacts. The bus gates do not prevent private vehicles from accessing key pick-up/drop-off areas or areas of pay-and-display parking and blue badge parking.
- The bus gates do not operate between 7pm and 7am when bus services either run less frequently or do not run at all. This means that general traffic can use the affected routes at this times when there is a less attractive public transport alternative available (or none at all). This allows private vehicles to serve the evening and night-time economy more easily which minimises the negative impacts of the proposal, without adversely affecting the positive impacts since fewer buses run between 7pm and 7am and there is generally less congestion at these times.
- Road safety for other road users such as pedestrians and cyclists will improve through the reduction of motor vehicle traffic between 7am and 7pm resulting from the bus gates.
- Air quality will improve through reduced general traffic accessing the area, which will be a significant positive benefit all users of the area and especially users with respiratory conditions and young people.
- The proposals do not adversely affect the ability of local businesses to load in the area. Loading opportunities are available on Pitfall Street and Concordia Street for premises located on Bridge End.

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:	N/A
Date to complete your impact assessment	N/A

Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	N/A

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Gwyn Owen	Principal Transport Planner	20.08.21
Date screening completed		20.08.21

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: 02.09.21
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: