

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 and Transportation
Lead person: Kasia Speakman	Contact number:

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

This screening accompanies an annual report asking the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) to approve an annual budget allocation as part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP). The funding enables the service to respond positively and timely to request for small improvements to the public highway that improve accessibility and mobility of local residents. Typically, these improvements include:

- Demand-responsive provision of accessible dropped kerbs and tactile paving
- Provision of on street disabled parking bays outside residential addresses

- Improvements to steps and ramps
- Provision of short sections of new footway where this bridges a gap in accessibility
- Replacement of inaccessible barriers
- Improvements to highway infrastructure around bus stops

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)

This funding allows Leeds City Council to target resources directly at areas of need, where lack of dropped kerbs is currently a barrier to equality of opportunity and mobility or where Blue Badge holders struggle to use their car as mobility aid due to difficulties with parking in the vicinity of their home. These stakeholders engage with the Council, either directly or through elected members, to indicate location where improvements are required. This is a city-wide participatory process.

Certain measures, such as provision of disabled parking bays, requires consultations and engagement (this is covered in a separate EDCI). In this process the designer is able to consider localised impacts of proposals especially where they affect children, older and disabled people and carers.

- **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)

Having a funding envelope for delivering small scale access improvement measures has had a transformational effect on our ability to respond to localised need, which in turn has benefited the lives and enhanced the ability to travel and participate in public and community life for many disabled people and older people. The improvements normally funded through this programme are in themselves small scale, but have the ability to radically improve daily journeys that disabled and older people make. This in turn means that older and disabled people can travel more often and more independently, have a greater choice of destinations and also a greater degree of modal choice.

Disabled people still indicate that lack of dropped kerbs and uneven pavements are barriers to what otherwise would have been an easy journey. Provision of dropped kerbs, handrails, ramps and improvements to existing steps benefit older people, disabled people, children, women and carers. The same groups benefit from additional provision of footways.

Women are cast in the carer role more often than men, be it in looking after children or older or disabled relatives. Women also make more 'chained' journeys combining, for example, shopping with a school pick up. The ability to wheel, thanks to the presence of dropped kerbs, makes these journeys easier and safer. Older women are also more likely to have mobility problems, and are much less likely to hold a driving licence - the drop in car licence ownership between 60-69 and 70+ is much higher for women (30%) than it is for men (10%).

80% of older people walk 10 mins or more at least once a week. Research shows that older people tend to undertake fewer trips, and their journeys are also shorter, which brings in to focus the importance of their local neighbourhood. As we get older, ease of access to essential services, like health services and groceries, becomes increasingly important. Older people's ability to get around independently means that they are less at risk of isolation and loneliness as trips out and visits to local facilities present opportunities for socialising. This in turn reduces the reliance on care and therefore benefits carers.

From the age of 50, people start taking more trips by bus and the car use starts to decline – improvements to bus stops and access to bus stops is therefore likely to benefit older people.

Proposals contained in this report will benefit children. Children from the age of 2 can be Blue Badge holders and the provision of disabled parking as well as dropped kerbs, benefits their parents and carers. Dropped kerbs enable better access for pushchairs and prams and help children travel actively, for example through the 'scoot to school' initiative or using balance bikes, or when accompanied by a parent with much younger siblings.

One element of the report is aimed specifically at making Leeds more child friendly and concerns the provision of a footway along a short section of Hesketh Lane. This would help link a local primary school and residential streets with an enhanced greenspace and playground.

There is a risk that provision of a disabled parking space in a heavily parked up residential street can displace vehicles to other locations where they may impact on older and disabled people. These impacts are normally identified through localised consultations and taken into account as part of the decision making process (this is covered in a separate EqIA).

- **Actions**

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

Continue to involve disabled people in actively identifying locations for access improvements. Continue to consult on the provision of disabled parking spaces locally. Carry out localised consultations where the provision of a dropped kerb may impact

on kerbside parking.

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

Gary Bartlett

Chief Officer (Highways
and Transportation)

Date screening completed

28th September 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

Date sent:

equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	
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