

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: Lee Paton	Contact number: 0113 3787701

1. Title: Leeds Bike Hire Scheme
Is this a:
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The Leeds Bike Hire Scheme (LBHS) will provide approximately 600 e-bikes across a geographical area covering inner Leeds. The scheme is aimed at expanding the low carbon public transport offer within the city and will be funded through the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Carbon Mitigation Fund. The scheme will provide power assisted bikes that will be available for short journeys and further increase the alternative travel modes available to a wide set of users who are residents, employees and visitors within the city.</p> <p>It is anticipated that recent upgrades to the segregated cycle network, delivered through the TCF will increase use of the e-bikes and benefit the viability of the LBHS. In addition, the council will work closely with partner organisations such as the NHS, Universities and businesses located in the city, to develop a comprehensive docking station network.</p>

The implementation of an electric bike scheme within the city will enable a wider range of residents, employees, and visitors to access cycling within the city. As the e-bikes are much easier to get around on than standard pedal bikes, it is anticipated that they will appeal to a wider demographic, encouraging people who wouldn't ordinarily consider cycling to try them out.

The infrastructure for the project will be provided through a capital grant, while the operation and management of the project will be secured by a Concession Contract with a commercial operator

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 project is based on e-bikes rather than self-powered pedal bikes. Experience from UK and European projects clearly shows e-bikes are more popular than pedal bikes particularly among:

- Elderly users
- Women
- People with some physical limitations
- People lacking confidence/experience of cycling

While the project is at an early-stage consultation and engagement proposals are currently being developed. Consideration of how the LBHS will impact on citizens and visitors to Leeds is also underway.

A network of hubs, where the e-bikes will be docked, will be provided in a way that makes them very visible, very accessible and safe (being adjacent to a segregated cycle routes). Locating them within all communities will ensure the e-bike project becomes is accessible to all.

Key considerations include developing a scheme that will be accessible to as wide a range of users as possible. LCC will coordinate targeted marketing to a wide range of groups ranging from older people to BME groups. Accessibility groups will be fully consulted on the LBHS proposals and have an opportunity to feedback in advance of the scheme's final design being agreed.

The charges for 'hiring' the e-bikes also have an impact on the project's inclusiveness. A combined 'Pay As You Go' and 'Membership' models will be part of the 'offer'. Fare levels will be set at such a level that they are comparable with public transport such that no user is excluded from the system because of affordability. Where appropriate, and

achievable, opportunities to provide subsidised Membership will be explored.

- **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 LBHS will require more than 130 docking hubs to be located in the city centre and surrounding areas. It is anticipated that around 70% of hubs will be located on existing carriageway, however some space will be required on public realm and on footpaths. The project team will work closely with the council's Access Officer to ensure that Accessibility and user groups are consulted on proposals in order that any potential issues can be discussed at an early stage.

The scheme will open up the opportunity to utilise e-bikes in the city without the need to purchase an e-bike, which are unaffordable to many people. It is anticipated that this will create a cleaner, cheaper and more inclusive mode of travel within the city.

- **Actions**

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

Accessibility issues will be discussed with representative groups. This will deal with issues such as:

- Tariff levels
- Membership options
- Design of the e-bikes themselves, and hubs
- Phone App design and legibility
- Incorporating access/booking of other types of accessible bikes

Measures to maximise inclusivity will be developed with the preferred operator.

- Setting a tariff level which gets the right balance between user demand and a financially sustainable will be critical
- Cycle design will facilitate their use by a wide range of users. E-bikes are inherently more useable than self-powered cyclists
- The location of hubs will be chosen in a way that ensures they are locations of high demand, they are incorporated within local communities, at transport hubs or at/close to major destinations (Universities/colleges, employment sites, hospitals

etc)

Engagement and marketing will be delivered in a concise and accessible manner. Consideration will be given to how best to engage with difficult to reach groups.

- A major objective of this project is to 'normalise' cycling and to encourage a wide range of different users (with different cycling skills, backgrounds and from different groups) who can, by being seen using the service, be used as part on an ongoing promotion of cycling use
- Aligning the geographical coverage of the e-bike project, with the expanding fully segregated cycle network will overcome many of the issues around concerns for road safety particularly among unconfident or reticent cyclists

Overall, the promotion of positive impacts will be supported by the positive marketing messages of 'normalising' cycling with a diverse group of users.

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:	Will be carried out during Spring 2022
Date to complete your impact assessment	August 2022, as part of the FBC development and informed by feedback and evaluation of the procurement submissions
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	Lee Paton

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Lynsey McGarvey	Principal Transport Planner, Influencing Travel Behaviour Team	20 December 2021
Date screening completed		

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: To be carried out in Spring/summer 2022
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent: To be carried out in Spring/summer 2022
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: To be carried out in Spring/summer 2022