

Appendix D - Updated EDCI

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.

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| Directorate: City Development | Service area: Highways and Transportation |
| Lead person: Mark Philpott/Dan Weir | Contact number: 0113 378 7528 / 0113 378 4420 |

1. Title: M621 RIS Preliminary Design

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

Preliminary Design of a capacity improvement scheme at a grade-separated motorway junction, provision of a sign gantry on LCC highway land, and adoption of design standards for a junction upgrade.

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

M621 Junction 2 is a grade separated junction on Highway England's Strategic Motorway Network, and Elland Road/Cemetery Road junction is a priority controlled junction on Leeds local road network. Elland Road runs between these two points on both sides of the motorway, and it is proposed to place a new motorway sign gantry spanning the M621 requiring foundations in LCC highway land.

Improvements at M621 Junction 2 (as do much of the rest of the RIS scheme) form part of Leeds City Centre Package and will seek to reduce congestion by adding additional lanes for vehicles to use at the J2 roundabout, carriageway widening on the exit slip roads and Ingram distributor (north) arm.

Consideration is also being given to signalling the Elland Road/Cemetery Road junction to mitigate the effects of closing the Junction 2A westbound off-slip and Highways England have enquired about adoption of appropriate design standards.

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)

Highways proposals like this are most likely to affect the mobility or visually impaired if they lead to either changes to road layout, or changes to traffic patterns/volumes.

There are no formal crossing facilities at Junction 2 and as none can be provided without reversing the benefits of the scheme. An alternative route already exists via Lowfields Road or the bridge to the east on Elland Road. The proposals at the M621 Junction 2 propose no changes to existing non-motorised user provision, maintaining a status quo.

The potential signal controlled facilities at the Elland Road/Cemetery Road junction propose to add controlled pedestrian crossing facilities on Elland Road where no formal facilities are provided at present.

Public engagement has been undertaken by Highways England with a further localised consultation expected for the Elland Road/Cemetery Road junction. No objections/comments were received that related to the proposed improvement at Elland Road/Cemetery Road or non-motorized / mobility or sensory impaired users.

- **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 proposals form part of the wider emerging transport strategy incorporating feedback from the Transport Conversation (seeking views of Leeds' residents and interest groups on the future of transport in Leeds). Taken together with the broader programme of transformational change in the city centre, the proposal is intended to facilitate access to employment especially by bus, walking and cycling, which are measures which can help to advance equality of opportunity. In addition, the removal of traffic from the city centre enabled by this scheme could reduce the dominance of vehicle traffic and contribute towards making the city centre easier and safer to navigate for those with mobility (or possible sensory) impairments.

The scheme if progressed improves the pedestrian crossing facilities at the Elland Road/Cemetery Road junction and this will improve accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians. The new pedestrian crossing facility will reduce community severance and provide enhanced mobility for users including disabled, elderly and young people.

- **Actions**

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

The Highways and Transportation service will assist Highways England in following well practiced procedures and adopting design standards to achieve the expected outcomes.

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| 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 |

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|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 6. Governance, ownership and approval | | |
| Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening | | |
| Name | Job title | Date |
| Mark Philpott | Transportation Engineering Manager | 07/05/20 |
| Date screening completed | | 07/05/20 |

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| 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: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: 11/05/20 |
| All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk | Date sent: |