

## 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.

<b>Directorate:</b> City Development	<b>Service area:</b> Highways and Transport
<b>Lead person:</b> Gwyn Owen	<b>Contact number:</b> 0113 37 87526

### 1. Title: Bus Enhanced Partnership - Update

Is this a:

- Strategy / Policy**
         
  **Service / Function**
         
  **Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

- Later in April 2022, the Combined Authority received confirmation from the DfT that based on the strength of its BSIP, it had been awarded an indicative settlement of £69,974,070 revenue funding over three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25) to support delivery.
- The National Bus Strategy – Bus Back Better required all Local Transport Authorities(LTA) and Combined Authorities (CA) to submit a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to Government by 31 October 2021 and to be in a Bus

Enhanced Partnership (EP) or actively pursuing bus franchising by the end of March 2022.

- On July 29<sup>th</sup> the Department for Transport agreed the City Region Sustainable Transport Package with West Yorkshire. This contains Bus priority Schemes which are also contained with the Partnership.
- Acknowledge the specific obligations placed on Leeds City Council contained within the revised Enhanced Partnership submission to Government to enter a further partnership with WYCA and the Bus Operators and agree to undertake these duties where appropriate, particularly with regard to the capital schemes within the CRSTS.

### 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"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>		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?**

Consideration was given to the fact that all buses are fully accessible, as are the waiting facilities around bus stops. In addition the obligations on operators within the EP should further modernise the bus fleet and services they provide to the benefit of all users.

There are very few negative effects for any of the equality characteristics, but one must acknowledge that Blue Badge holders are not permitted in Bus Lanes or through Bus Gates and may need to change their routing.

##### **Key findings**

By beginning to perform the duties of an Enhanced Partnership with the bus operators the highway authority will look to improve the current bus and public transport provision outlined in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

The EP will help provide transformational change to the bus services and provide a better service for all the residents of Leeds including the issues encountered by Blue Badge holders outlined above.

##### **Actions**

If successfully implemented the EP which help facilitate a more resilient and reliable bus network with bus priority (bus lane, bus gates, some parking restrictions) that enables passengers to get to their destinations quicker.

This will ensure the highways authorities work more closely with bus operators to ensure current and future infrastructure schemes provide adequate consideration towards bus services during all stages of scheme development.

The impacts of increased bus priority infrastructure has on blue badge holders must also be considered and any potential conflict minimised where possible to the mutual benefit of all parties, notwithstanding that much of the EP makes bus travel more attractive for the Disabled.

**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)	

<b>6. Governance, ownership and approval</b>		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Gwyn Owen	Principal Transport Planner	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<b>Date screening completed</b>		30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022

<b>7. Publishing</b>	
<p>Though <b>all</b> key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council <b>only</b> publishes those related to <b>Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions</b> or a <b>Significant Operational Decision</b>.</p> <p>A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision-making report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.</li> <li>• The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.</li> <li>• A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a> for record.</li> </ul> <p>Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:</p>	
For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent: 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent: