

Appendix B

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: Asset Management and Regeneration
Lead person: Angela Lawson	Contact number: 07891278061

1. Title: Rail Infrastructure – Integrated Rail Plan Update		
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 government published the Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands on 18th November 2021. It put the delivery of HS2 to Leeds while proposing a further study is undertaken to look at how to bring HS2 trains to Leeds and Leeds Station Capacity. It also committed to deliver an upgrade to the Leeds-Bradford route, the delivery of the Transpennine Upgrade and core Northern Powerhouse Rail, it also committed to fund the development of a mass transit system for West Yorkshire. Leeds Station will reach capacity at the end of this decade for pedestrian circulation and mid 2030's in respect of the capacity on platforms and tracks.</p> <p>West Yorkshire requires investment in rail and mass transit to help meet the productivity gap caused by poor connectivity especially rail connectivity between the major cities in Yorkshire and the East Midlands and North East. The IRP accelerates some investment and delays other areas of investment which has an impact on Leeds and its communities.</p>

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)

It is not clear how DfT and Network Rail will engage with local residents, businesses and key stakeholders on the schemes identified in the IRP or when this will happen. Depending on where rail infrastructure schemes are proposed will depend on the impact on communities and whether there is a negative impact on residents and businesses.

By proactively recommending a solution which is phased and prioritises capacity it has the potential to deliver improved connectivity benefits for residents and commuters by the mid 2030's when passenger growth is forecast to increase significantly.

Until the IRP study into how to bring HS2 trains to Leeds has been undertaken there will remain a disparity in rail travel between Leeds and Sheffield.

- **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)

Improving rail connections between Leeds and Sheffield is critical to reducing congestion on the M1 and for enabling people to work in one city and live in another widening economic geographic mobility.

Accessibility issues are increased where platforms become more congested due to lack of capacity and therefore increasing capacity in Leeds Rail Station is important.

The lack of transparency of the rail schemes included in the IRP which have not been consulted on publicly means that communities and residents are unable to raise concerns or help develop solutions which will impact their everyday lives.

- **Actions**

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

The Council has asked Network Rail and DfT to confirm when local communities and key stakeholders including Ward Members will be consulted on the proposed rail schemes and will continue to discuss this until an engagement plan has been provided.

The rail schemes have the potential to improve accessibility on platforms and the Council will continue to press for accessibility improvements as schemes are identified and consulted on.

The Council will formally send the SLCRail recommendation to DfT seeking its inclusion in the options appraisal for the study into how to bring HS2 trains to Leeds. This will improve public transport connectivity between communities and jobs as early as possible.

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
Angela Lawson	Head of Station Development	16/08/2023
Date screening completed		

7. Publishing	
<p>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.</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"> • 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. <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 Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: