

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: Sam Lewis	Contact number: 0113 3786965

1. Title: Leeds City Centre West Innovation Arc (North) SPD
Is this a:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>This screening relates to the adoption of the Leeds City Centre West: Innovation Arc (North) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) dated October 2023.</p> <p>The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is a non-statutory document which expands upon existing policies in the Adopted Core Strategy, and explains how policies in the Local Plan are to be implemented in the context of the SPD area. It will form a material consideration in the determination of planning applications which fall within the area of the SPD.</p> <p>This SPD sets out planning guidance for the west side of Leeds City Centre, a 132-hectare area encompassing the city’s business district, Leeds General Infirmary, the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, the Leeds Arts University and surrounding buildings, highways and public realm.</p>

The SPD sets a vision for physical changes to the area. It includes ambitions for improvements to public spaces, roads, walking and cycling links, public transport routes, green spaces and buildings. The Document also supports the development of new innovation space in the area, including the refurbishment of heritage buildings for innovation uses.

The SPD was drafted in 2022 and two rounds of public consultation followed with the first round held between 24 October and 12 December 2022 and the second between 26 June and 27 July 2023 again seeking the views of residents, landowners, businesses, and other key stakeholders. This public consultation exercise has been used to inform this Equality, Diversity, Cohesion, and Integration screening, as well as to inform changes to the draft SPD.

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 proposals in the draft SPD relate to places and spaces within the west of the city centre. There may be elements of these places and spaces which, at present, provide barriers and specific challenges to certain protected characteristic groups.

The SPD is a policy guidance document, and as such neither sets new policy nor implements delivery. However, the development of this document provides an opportunity to reinforce and amplify existing Local Plan policy which has been subject to separate EDCI screening.

The SPD supports equality in two keyways:

1. One of the five overarching principles in the SPD is “Inclusive” and the document sets out an ambition for the Innovation Arc to deliver a place which is inclusive to all. This principle is carried through the document in the proposals for change, for example supporting improved access to open spaces for all and addressing physical barriers between the SPD area and neighbouring communities.
2. The SPD sign posts existing planning guidance, including the Accessible Leeds SPD. This provides a cross-reference to inclusive design principles that are detailed in the Accessible Leeds SPD and which can support the area to deliver against the “Inclusive” principle outlined above.

Consultation and engagement activities have been undertaken to inform the development and refinement of this SPD. These consultations included specific engagement with users of the area including with the Access Committee for Leeds. Changes to the document were made following this engagement. Other groups were also engaged including primary school children and the Quality Spaces and Places Group (a sub group of the Leeds Property Forum).

The document provides a layer of guidance between Policy and design development and implementation. In this sense the document provides high-level principles and proposals, building on adopted Policy, but does not specifically set out detailed design proposals. Considerations in terms of the impact of proposals will require more advanced design which will come forward in the future as proposals are implemented. At this stage it is likely that proposals will be subject to further consultation and assessments of equalities impacts as well as wider diversity and inclusion considerations.

• **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)

As a Supplementary Planning Document the Leeds City Centre West Innovation Arc (North) SPD will provide a strong vision for the future development of this part of the City Centre and will influence change in this area. There is the potential for this change to be either positive or negative for a number of 'protected characteristics', including age and disability. This is because the physical environment can and does present barriers to people of these groups.

The document promotes positive impacts and seeks to amplify existing policy guidance of relevance to ensure that existing negative impacts are addressed through positive changes to the physical environment. The document does not detail specific implementation in the area and is a guidance document which sets a vision. However, through clear signposting to relevant policy and guidance the document sets a framework for positive change.

During consultation exercise, Leeds City Council officers met with Access Groups to understand areas of concern and opportunity. Subsequent changes to the document have provided clear cross-reference to the Accessible Leeds SPD and have amended the references in the document to amplify opportunities to address physical barriers in this part of the city centre, for example ensuring an inclusive design approach is taken to meet the needs of all users in the development principles for walking and cycling and that open spaces are accessible to all users.

- **Actions**

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

The potential positive and negative impacts of this document on equality characteristics, and on diversity, inclusion and cohesion, have been considered both in the drafting of the document and during consultation.

The changes made to the document to reflect these considerations have been subject to a consultation exercise in 2023, which included targeted consultation with Access Groups.

This SPD may lead to the implementation of further projects which may be delivered either by Leeds City Council or by partners. This will create additional opportunities to consider and implement positive changes, and mitigate negative impacts, through detailed design and development of schemes and through the planning process.

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
Sam Lewis	Principal Regeneration Officer	18/10/2023
Date screening completed: 18 October 2023		

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: