

# Appendix E

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: City Development</b>	<b>Service area: Asset Management and Regeneration</b>
<b>Lead person: Lauren Browne</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 378 6374</b>

<b>1. Title: Transpennine Route Upgrade – Transport and Works Act Order Objection Update</b>
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify</b>

<b>2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening</b>
The Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU) is a transformative, multi-billion pound railway programme that will better connect passengers in the North between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and York being delivered by Network Rail.  TRU will transform the Transpennine route into a high-performing, reliable railway, bringing more frequent, more reliable, faster, greener trains. The size of the project does mean that there will be planned disruption to services so the work can be delivered, however, Network Rail are

still very much committed to keeping passengers moving on a train as often as possible, in comfort and on time.

The programme is funded by the Department for Transport and delivered by Network Rail, through dedicated alliances and project teams. There are a number of organisations that make up TRU, and every one of them plays a crucial role in making it a world class programme.

The Transport and Work Act Order (TWAO) was submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and Leeds City Council and other stakeholders had 42 days to make representation.

Network Rail must comply with the Equality Act in implementing the proposed works this will include reinstating footways to gradients and widths which are accessible for people with mobility issues or wheelchairs, prams etc. Where the proposals impact local communities it is important that Network Rail take account of these communities and impact on protected characteristics as part of their communications plan, working arrangements and final solution.

Communications with local residents and especially those with protected characteristics will be critical to ensure that they are sighted on proposals before they happen, understand the impact of the proposals and have mitigation plans in place to manage the impact.

On 21 June 2023 Executive Board approved the approach to the Council's response to the TWAO and submitted a holding objection under s239 of the Local Government Act 1972, which requires a Full Council resolution to ratify a full objection to the TWAO. Submission of the holding objection was considered to be the appropriate mechanism to allow the Council to continue negotiations until such ratification could be provided by Full Council.

On 18th August 2023 the Council submitted a 'holding objection' to the Secretary of State in response to the draft TWAO, pursuant to Rule 21 of the Transport and Works (Applications and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 ("Rule 21").

Notwithstanding the Council's support in principle for TRU and the associated benefits, in order to meet the statutory procedural requirements a 'holding objection' was submitted to the Secretary of State in order to address key points of detail.

On 15th November 2023 Full Council approved the submission of a formal objection to specific elements of the TWAO pursuant to s239 of the Local Government Act 1972 and delegated authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, to continue negotiations with relevant stakeholders to seek to agree the withdrawal of the objection should sufficient agreement on the issues raised be reached.

Following negotiations with Network Rail, with the exception of the objection at Peckfield Level Crossing/ a small number of matters that remain unresolved as per the Statement of Common Ground, the Council is in a position to withdraw the original objection in line with the aforementioned delegation.

### **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?** (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 Council has discussed with Network Rail the need for them to ensure that works carried out, and structures provided meet accessibility standards, in line with Network Rail's statutory duties, particularly in respect of footway and footpath widths and gradients.

The Council has also requested from Network Rail a copy of their Communications plan setting out how they will communicate with local residents and communities which will need to take account of any specific requirements for protected characteristics.

- **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 key areas likely to be impacted are in respect of accessibility particularly where level crossings are being closed and alternative diversions or crossing installed or where works to bridges are being carried out. The need to ensure alternative and suitable arrangements are put in place has been emphasised to enable communities on either side of the railway tracks to be able to continue to access the opposite side. These provide the opportunity to advance equality of opportunity through better facilities and connections.

There are some instances where the topography or land requirements means that for Network Rail it may make it more challenging to provide accessible pedestrian access, such as at Crawshaw Woods. For Peckfield level crossing replacement of the diverted route is further and on a main highway which will impact people with mobility issues. The Council has advised Network Rail of the need to meet their statutory requirements and current standards.

The railway currently suffers from poor air quality particularly around the depot and the electrification as part of TRU will help to improve on this.

- **Actions**

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

Where bridges carrying highways, bridleways, public rights of ways, footpaths and footways are being replaced the Council has asked Network Rail to include bridges to current highway design standards, or as otherwise agreed by the Council. In some instances, as for Austhorpe Lane bridge this means Network Rail will remove the segregated pedestrian bridge which is narrow with a wider footway integrated into the new road bridge and with regards to Crawshaw Woods, additional land may be required to ensure the appropriate gradient concerning the approach to the bridge.

Alternative arrangements / crossings are being proposed for the majority of the level crossings which will be closed as part of the scheme which will ensure that communities on either side of the railway remain connected. Negotiation is ongoing with Network Rail to ensure current standards are met.

Electrification of the railway will significantly improve air quality adjacent to the railway and for residents with breathing difficulties / young children / pregnant women this will be a significant benefit.

**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	26.01.2024
<b>Date screening completed</b>		26.01.2024

**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](mailto: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 <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent: