

# 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: Communities, Housing and Environment</b>	<b>Service area: Climate, Energy and Green Spaces</b>
<b>Lead person: Emma Trickett</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 3788158</b>

<b>1. Title:</b> Investment in parks tennis facilities across Leeds			
Is this a:			
<b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<b>Service / Function</b>	x	<b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify</b>			

<b>2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening</b>
Investment in 42 tennis courts at 8 different parks across Leeds.  The parks are: Burley park, Chapel Allerton park, Grove Road park, Harehills park, Roundhay park, Springhead park, Beckett park and The Hollies.  The investment will see improvements to the courts including cleaning, repairing, treating and re-colouring of playing surfaces and the addition of new nets and fences where required, along with gates.  In addition to court improvements, an <a href="#">online booking system</a> will be established at the sites that don't have one (Chapel Allerton, The Hollies, Roundhay and Springhead park already have one). Once booked, players will be sent a code which will allow them to

access the tennis court via the new gate.

### 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)

National Sporting Body, [The Lawn Tennis Association](#) (LTA) has a mission to make tennis welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone and, as part of their work to achieve this aim, they are undertaking a programme of investment in tennis courts across the country.

The LTA consulted widely across the UK in 2016 and developed the national tennis court improvement programme based on the outcomes of that consultation with over 18,000 people, that showed that the poor condition of tennis courts is a barrier to participation.

In addition, just 16% of park players in Britain were satisfied with their ability and opportunity to book local park tennis courts or had confidence that the court would be available for them when they turned up. Gated access, therefore, was identified as a key technological intervention that would address these barriers to play. 80% of park players they surveyed said online booking and gated technology would make getting on court easier and nearly half of park players said online booking and linked gated technology would help them play tennis more often.

The LTA has assessed the tennis courts in Leeds and identified the 42 courts at the parks listed above as those most in need of improvement. They have offered to contribute £513,326.65 of funding to get them up to a good standard.

More locally, ward members and park 'Friends' groups have been consulted about the proposals and have expressed overall support. Previous consultations at Burley and Harehills parks demonstrated support for investment in the courts at those locations.

In addition, over 11,000 current tennis players from the online bookings mailing list (currently used at Roundhay park, Springhead park, Chapel Allerton park and The Hollies of those parks involved in this scheme) were informed of the proposals by email. We had responses from 16 people with 10 expressing support for the proposals, 3 objecting to the requirement for users to book online or the fencing and the others making other comments not specifically relating to this proposal e.g. asking for the addition of floodlighting or requesting improvements to other courts in the city.

- **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)

Following consideration of the proposed scheme, the following conclusions were reached:

- Access to the courts will remain free so cost will not be a concern for potential players.
- The tennis courts proposed for improvement are geographically spread across the city so are easily accessible to a large number of residents from a range of different locations.
- Some of the courts are in poor condition with pot holes in the surface and/or slippery surfaces which could present a hazard if left unmanaged. Some of the courts also have nets and/or sections of fence missing or damaged and most of the line markings are faded, if visible at all. So, it can be assumed that, once refurbished,

the courts will be much more attractive to potential players and that engagement with tennis will increase at those sites.

- According to the LTA, tennis courts in public parks are particularly important in terms of engagement in the sport because they are where most people first play the game and they have higher participation rates amongst women and girls, and disadvantaged communities than other tennis facilities.
- Currently only half the sites involved in the scheme are available to book which means players can't guarantee there will be a court available when they want to play, so the addition of a new booking system for those sites is likely to be welcomed by many who will be able to book (for free) and be confident a court will be available when they want to use it.
- One concern that has been identified with regards potential impacts of this scheme on EDCI, is in relation to the impact of implementing an online booking system, as it may negatively affect people who don't/can't use the internet. Though this is reportedly only a small proportion of the population (with 96% of the population now having a smartphone) it is still a concern so, to ensure the system doesn't exclude anyone on that basis, we are working on setting up a system whereby players will be able to book either in person or on the phone, possibly via Council leisure centres.
- We are also aware that recent research into the use of parks by girls and women suggests they feel safer in spaces with plenty of escape routes (the LTA plans for the tennis courts only allow for one gate at each site except Roundhay because it's so large) so we are exploring options for ensuring each court will have at least 2 exits.

Use of the improved tennis courts and feedback on them will be monitored once the work is complete to assess the success of the scheme - the new booking system will assist with this because it will record court bookings which will make it easy to work out how many games are being played by how many different people at each site throughout the year.

- **Actions**

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

The tennis courts will be widely promoted on completion of the improvement works by the Council and the LTA, and clear information on how to book the courts will also be provided to ensure maximum awareness and usage of the refurbished courts.

The Council will work with the LTA to establish a system which will enable people who don't use the internet to book on the phone or in person.

We will also endeavour to ensure there is a second exit in each tennis court.

Comments on the courts received by the Council with regards the upgraded courts in the first 2 years after the work is completed will be kept on record along with details of court bookings which will be monitored and reported on an ongoing basis. Any changes to the scheme identified that will improve EDCI in relation to the courts will be implemented as appropriate.

**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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Emma Trickett	Parks Technical Manager	23/5/2024
<b>Date screening completed</b>		23/5/24

**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: 23/5/24
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent: 23/5/24