

# Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration 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/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: Environment &amp; Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>Service area: Parks and Countryside</b>
<b>Lead person: Paul Robinson</b>	<b>Contact number: 57449</b>

## 1. Title: Fixed Play Improvements within Queens Park, Pudsey, Leeds

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

It is proposed to conduct capital improvements in relation to improving fixed play provision within Queens Park, Pudsey which will enhance the quality of facilities in the park making it a more appealing place for both active and passive recreation.

The improvements include:

- Full refurbishment of the existing playground to include associated access paths, seating and bins.
- Installation of a new Multi Use Games Area and associated access paths.

The above items were chosen based on the outcome of public consultation events, local ward member liaison and outcome from Queens Park latest Leeds Quality Park (LQP) which is a field based assessment of the green space and identifies successes and weaknesses of the site and helps identify investment priorities.

--

### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/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 and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

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 following consultation was undertaken, with some events specifically targeted at the anticipated user group to gain feedback on the choice of new play equipment in the playground.

- Meetings, email's and telephone updates were carried out with the Pudsey Ward Members as they are the elected representatives of a diverse local community.
- Discussed proposals with Head of Pudsey Waterloo Primary School with regard to the general proposals and also any items that required special consideration. This school is direct opposite to Queens Park and therefore has a vested interest in the parks improvement proposals. The head teacher as very supportive of the scheme and therefore welcomed the prospect of the school being able to utilise a dedicated hard surface sports area for educational purposes. The Chair of Governors was also specifically notified of the plans and again was supportive.
- To help actively promote and gauge local public opinion a public consultation evening was conducted. The meeting was advertised within the entrance to Pudsey Waterloo Primary School, on the school perimeter fence and on lamp posts near Queens Park. Comments generated by the consultation event were wide ranging. Issues of particular note were the position of the Multi Use Games Area should be placed nearer the school, the size of Queens Park car park is too small, the large stones around the perimeter of the park should remain and an outdoor gym should also be provided as part of the improvements. The majority of the suggestions have been accommodated within the resulting layout and designs, however improvements in car park provision fall outside the scope of this project budget as the identified capital funds must be spent on greenspace improvements and improvements to car parks are exempt.
- To ascertain what potential users of the facilities would like to be included within the fixed play proposals, 'children's questionnaires' were distributed within Pudsey Waterloo Primary School asking children what activities would like to see available in a new play area. Over 150 completed documents were received. Upon evaluation the four most popular activities were:
  - 1) Play on Slides
  - 2) Climb
  - 3) Get fit
  - 4) Play On Swings
- Colleagues in Children's Services were consulted and assisted on evaluating consultation feedback and creating a project design brief.
- Colleagues in Planning were consulted regarding the proposal's planning permission for the installation of the new Multi Use Games Area.
- To widen the scope of the consultation, and the people consulted over 200 letters were distributed through letter boxes of nearby properties asking for comments on the proposals. This exercise generated emails from the wider community and these were taken into consideration when creating the final project plan. In

addition to further engage with the community the proposals were placed in Pudsey Sports Centre and Pudsey Library for final comment. The multiple methods of consultation employed ensured wide spread awareness raising and promoted involvement from all members of the local community.

From the evidence / comments received a final plan was created to best reflect both community want and also strategic desire. The proposed improvements will improve the quality and range of facilities that users / visitors to Queens Park can experience.

- **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)

Parks and public greenspaces are important for communities and can assist with social cohesion and integration. Our aspirations are that parks and greenspaces offer a wide range of facilities for users with a diverse range of needs and expectations.

Queens Park is a valuable asset to the community it serves, improving community life and well being. These new facilities will offer a wide range of challenging diversionary activities for children / young people and will also help to further promote social cohesion and interaction to users and also adults who accompany the children / young people.

The new facilities cater for a multitude of ages and abilities. Through consultation it was the general preference to place the new Multi Use Games Area close to the school to assist with easier access and also positioned away from the majority of properties overlooking the park to reduce the potential for negative impacts such as noise nuisance.

The introduction of the proposed fixed play improvements within Queens Park will enhance the appearance of the community greenspace, improve access in and around the park, increase recreational opportunities in the area, creating additional visitor activities and promoting active lifestyles and healthy living. This will be achieved by creating level access to the new facilities both from the highway and also from the new wider pathways to both the playground and the Multi use Games Area. The paths will be wide enough to cater for two pushchairs / wheelchairs alongside each other. The surface of the paths and Multi Use Games Area will be bitmac which provides a smooth transition. In terms of healthy living, this will be promoted by the introduction of new opportunities to access a designated area for team or informal sport as well as access to outdoor sports equipment.

- **Actions**

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

The proposed improvements to Queens Park will increase visitor enjoyment and helps reduce negative impacts that may exist on other smaller play sites; These will be achieved as follows:

- The fixed play improvements are free at the point of use to all who visit Queens

Park. The facilities are available from dawn until dusk 365 days a year.

- Increased litter bins in the park to help reduce litter, making the area '*cleaner and greener*'.
- The site benefits from limited harsh gradients so is highly accessible for all.
- An improvement to the parks pathways to both the playground and Multi Use Games Area again promotes better access for all (including pushchairs and wheelchairs).
- Increased seating within the park will provide opportunities for rest and social interaction.
- Improvements will enhance active recreational provision by providing a hard surface sports area, dedicated fitness equipment and challenging fixed and natural play equipment.
- In terms of improved fixed play provision, the 'children's questionnaires' sought views on the specific fixed play equipment to be made available at the site by asking views on favourite activities. The favoured activities identified were sliding climbing, getting fit and swinging. These top four activities are accommodated within the proposed fixed play equipment. Inclusive play considerations have been taken into account in order to maximise use and enjoyment. Most of the play equipment is inclusive. However to ensure that the playground challenging it is identified that persons in wheelchairs or severe physical impairment may not be able to take advantage of some items of play equipment. Items of equipment specifically tailored for persons in wheelchairs have been included. The design of the playground allows a range of differing age groups to engage and play together through the installation of toddler equipment right through to equipment created for young adults.
- Following consultation, getting fit was a priority identified, therefore the project includes the installation of specific outdoor fitness equipment. This provision helps promote active lifestyles and healthy living to all, targeting reductions in childhood obesity.
- The new Multi Use Games area will increase diversionary activities for young people in the area, promote team sports, healthy lifestyles and provide a place for active recreation including during inclement weather. This facility can be accessed from the level. No steps are present which could impair access for some members of the community. The proposal offers opportunities for people with a wide variety of disabilities by reducing potential barriers and promotes involvement / inclusion.

**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>
<b>Phil Staniforth</b>	<b>Technical Manager</b>	17/12/2012

**7. Publishing**

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

<b>Date screening completed</b>	
<b>Date sent to Equality Team</b>	
<b>Date published</b> (To be completed by the Equality Team)	