

# 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: Resources</b>	<b>Service area: Electoral Services</b>
<b>Lead person: Susanna Benton</b>	<b>Contact number: 24 76727</b>

## 1. Title: Community Governance Review of Parish and Town Council Arrangements

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The Returning Officer must review it's Parish and Town Councils from time to time and has taken the decision to review arrangements in 2013, alongside the statutory Polling District Review (please see the equality screening document of the same name).

There are currently 32 Parish and Town Councils in the Leeds City Council area. Many of these Councils are split into electoral wards.

The Community Governance Review of arrangements will allow representations to be made by any interested party about matters which include:

- Increasing/decreasing the number of Parish Councillors
- Creating/abolishing a new Parish/Town Council
- Amending existing Parish/Town Council boundaries

### 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?		
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		
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>		

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)

Specifically, the area of the Community Governance Review which is equality related is access to the consultation process. It is important that we ensure access is available to everyone, and that assistance is provided to those who require it.

We will be publishing a notice of the Community Governance Review which will inform all interested parties of how and when to make representations, and what will happen at each step of the process.

The notice will be published in Council Buildings, on the LCC website, on Talking Point, and will also be supplied to all Councillors, Leeds MPs Parish and Town Council Clerks.

Representations will be accepted via Talking Point, by email, by post or by hand delivery to the Electoral Services Office.

§ **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)

We have considered the best possible ways to allow for consultation and representations to be made to allow all interested parties to have their say. By providing a number of ways of communication and offering assistance where required, we are eliminating the possibility that one group could be at any disadvantage.

- **Actions**

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

Any comments received regarding the consultation process will be considered as part of the review debrief.

**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>
John Mulcahy	Head of Licensing and Registration	5 February 2013

**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.

If this screening relates to a **Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, full Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** a copy should be emailed to Corporate Governance and will be published along with the relevant report.

A copy of **all other** screening's should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk). For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).

<b>Date screening completed</b>	29 January 2013
If relates to a Key Decision - <b>date sent to Corporate Governance</b>	
Any other decision – <b>date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)</b>	