

# **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

## **DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Due Regard Statement for the Environment & Sustainability Strategy**

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

## **Due Regard Statement**

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Name of the ‘policy’ and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the ‘policy’ is to equality.</b></p>	<p><b>Environment and Sustainability Strategy</b></p> <p>There is regional, national and international agreement on the need to address climate change emergency and biodiversity crisis. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing emissions of the ‘greenhouse’ gases, such as carbon dioxide, that are causing global temperature increases;</li> <li>• preparation for the increased likelihood of more frequent and extreme weather conditions; and</li> <li>• responding to the loss of nature that is contributing to climate change and how this can be reversed so that nature helps to provide part of the solutions we need for a better future.</li> </ul> <p>The Environment and Sustainability Strategy is a ten-year strategy to chart a pathway for Doncaster, all its public institutions, businesses and communities, to keep within its carbon budget, deliver an 85% reduction in net greenhouse gas emission by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2040. The strategy has four main areas of consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Natural Environment</li> <li>(ii) Built Environment</li> <li>(iii) Economy &amp; Green Technology</li> <li>(iv) Sustainable Consumption, Education &amp; Behavioural Change</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Service area responsible for completing this statement.</b></p>	<p>Policy, Insight and Change (PIC)</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.</b></p>	<p>Due to the strategic direction being set by International and National government agencies that are, by in large, representative across the protected groups, this ethos has been adopted at a local level.</p> <p>Data and information collated as part of developing this strategy has not focused on any one specific group, area or characteristic, but instead has collected data which applies to</p>

	<p><b>Service users/residents</b></p> <p><b>Doncaster Workforce</b></p>	<p>all of Doncaster Borough and its population. The information collected has covered different aspects of the environment, both in terms of the current situation and options for interventions to respond to the issues faced.</p> <p>Evidence gathering and consultation/engagement has sought input and feedback from as diverse an audience as possible in order to understand the needs and experiences of all members of Doncaster’s population, including those in protected groups. A range of specific consultation exercises have taken place including partner workshops, elected member seminars and public engagement through various Doncaster Talks engagement events.</p> <p>The Strategy is a high-level document setting out our strategic intent. The impact of many prevailing projects that stem from this Environment and Sustainability Strategy will require more in-depth consideration to understand the needs of each protected group. As we develop and propose individual projects/activities to implement the Strategy, project/locality specific DRSs will be produced to ensure that specific cohorts with protected characteristics are adequately considered, included, engaged in the activity/opportunities and supported to contribute to the activity required.</p>
4	<p><b>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Doncaster Talks (Summer 2019)</b> - 3610 respondents from across representative samples of age and ethnic groups. The engagement process asked three questions with the latter two focusing on what residents would like to see improve and what Doncaster should focus on in the future. The responses were categorised into broad key themes with street cleansing, littering and fly-tipping the most common for both the improvement question and the future focus. The responses were also analysed by ward which showed a focus on future developments and initiatives, and improvement of green and open spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Doncaster Talks – Climate and Biodiversity Commission (November 2019 – March 2020)</b> – online survey and call for evidence and information. 120 responses, 51% of whom didn’t know about the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declaration. The three most common themes from the question about “anything happening in Doncaster which is helping to reduce the impact of Climate Change” were the use of green spaces, recycling and different groups doing things in the Borough (e.g. refill scheme). The three main themes from the question about what Doncaster could do to “help reduce the</li> </ul>

	<p>impact of Climate Change in future” related to better public transport and infrastructure for cycling and walking; recycling; and rewilding through planting trees and verges and maintaining natural habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Elected Member engagement seminars (October 2019)</b> - 14 members engaged with the material (draft strategy document) and provided comments that were categorised into several key themes. These themes followed many of the document topic headings including air quality; transportation/congestion; planning/energy efficiency; recycling, waste, street cleaning and fly-tipping; enforcement; education/encouragement; greenspace/parks/trees; biodiversity; flood management and food. Within each of the broad themes, several recurring sub-themes were also identified which members felt should be specifically focused upon in strategy information.</li><li>• <b>Climate and Biodiversity Commission meetings (Sept 2019 – Sept 2020)</b> – 11 in total covering various topics including renewable energy, waste and recycling, transport, land use and climate adaptation. These meetings were attended by various stakeholders from the Council and external organisations. Each meeting resulted in recommendations being produced for inclusion in the Commission’s final report. These recommendations will guide development of future plans including the Environment and Sustainability Strategy to ensure Climate Change is considered in decisions going forwards.</li><li>• <b>Attendance at various events in the community</b> – members of the Commission and officers involved in developing the Environment Strategy attended various events across the Borough to engage with residents on the wider Environment agenda. Events included a Woodlands Speaks event with IPPR and ‘Local Trust’, Green Business Event, the Navigating Ecological Tragedy interfaith event and the Doncaster Nature Alliance first conference.</li><li>• <b>Engagement with various internal DMBC and external stakeholders</b> - The Strategy development has been supported by a reference group of internal DMBC officers from the following teams: Public Health, transportation, planning, communities, energy, asset management, street scene, highways management, and regulation and enforcement. External stakeholders (including the Environment Agency, National Farmers Union and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) have also been consulted for feedback on the information gathered for use in the final strategy document and accompanying technical documents. Several external stakeholders have been consulted through the Climate and Biodiversity</li></ul>
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		<p>Commission whose final report will influence the Strategy content. Team Doncaster partners have also been contacted to obtain their current Environment/Sustainability strategies to show the contribution they will be making towards achieving the Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elected Member engagement seminars (July 2020)</b> - 29 members engaged with the material (draft strategy document) and provided comments that were categorised into several key themes. These themes included an understanding of the overall context, scale of the interventions and resources needed to reach the set targets; building (particularly around house building and standards required); tree management, planting and cutting; transport and electric cars; fly tipping and litter; partnership and collaboration is key; communication and education for the public. Members identified a few barriers and challenges that will need to be overcome, most commonly lack of funding to make the changes required. They also identified key policy changes that will need to be made to achieve the targets set.</li> <li>• <b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (July 2020 and Nov 2020)</b></li> <li>• <b>Doncaster Talks: Environment (Oct- Dec) 2020</b> - An Environment-specific Doncaster Talks listening exercise took place in Oct - Dec 2020 to gain public engagement to influence various strategies which are in development, including the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Borough Strategy. The consultation aimed to gain resident opinions on questions relating the Climate and Biodiversity Commission's recommendations, aspects of the Environment Service Improvement Plan and concepts being considered for inclusion in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Real Consideration:</b></p> <p><b>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</b></p>	<p>The findings from the engagement exercises listed in Section 4 have been used to inform various priorities and activity in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and the forthcoming Borough Strategy. These look to improve all aspects of the Borough and the lives of all residents that live here. If there are any characteristics that may be negatively impacted, mitigation of the effects will be built into the development of action/implementation plans. This will ensure that residents with protected characteristics are not negatively affected.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Decision Making</b></p>	<p>The Environment and Sustainability Strategy will follow the Council's standard approval process and will ultimately be approved by Full Council. The decision report will reference measures taken to ensure compliance with the Council's equality policy and show that due</p>

		<p>regard considerations have been included in the strategy development process. The Strategy will be presented at the following meetings for approval:</p> <p>Directors – 07/12/20          Executive Board – 22/12/20          Cabinet – 12/01/21          Full Council – 21/01/21</p>
7	<b>Monitoring and Review</b>	<p>Given the multi-partner nature of the Strategy, performance management will ultimately fall under the remit of Team Doncaster; with individual partners using their own performance management frameworks to monitor their own contributions.</p> <p>The Environment Renewal Board will monitor progress against the outcomes identified in the Strategy and put in place measures by which individual partners identify and share data on their own progress and issues, such that a collective, borough-wide picture of performance can be deduced.</p> <p>Doncaster Cabinet, and in particular, the Cabinet portfolio holder for the environment will provide leadership and challenge to Team Doncaster partners throughout the strategy period to ensure progress is being made at the required pace and scale.</p>
8	<b>Sign off and approval for publication</b>	<p>The Strategy will be signed off and approved by Full Council. This will be followed by a public launch of the strategy as part of an ongoing Environment communication and engagement campaign, which will use a range of tools such as social media and online content.</p>