

Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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 and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide 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 and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate	Service area: Performance, Intelligence and Improvement
Lead person: Simon Dennis (Corporate Risk Manager) and Tanya Palmowski (Performance Officer)	Contact number: (ext 22764)

1. Title:

Is this a:



Strategy / Policy



Service / Function



Other

If other, please specify

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

The 2017-2020 Council Plan is the core document that underpins the Council's overall vision, setting out headline priorities and measures that will demonstrate its delivery.

Although the 2017-2020 Council Plan is intended to cover three financial years, it is good practice to carry out an annual review of the performance measures included in it.

To enable an appropriate and effective "refresh" to be carried out, all Strategic

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Directors were asked to review and refresh their actions, measures and targets for 2019/2020 and the proposed changes have been challenged by the Leader, Cabinet Members and the Corporate Performance Team. Headlines in relation to the proposed changes include:

- The overall number of measures has reduced from 72 to 69
- All measures now have targets applied (ie there are no “baseline years”)
- There are no changes to the individual outcomes attached to each priority
- Two actions have been updated
- Four measures have been removed and two measures have been added
- Sixteen refreshed measures have replaced fifteen measures.

Ensuring that the Council meets its equalities and human rights duties and obligations is central to how it manages its performance, sets its priorities and delivers services across the board. The refreshed plan includes two new equality measures focused around: the proportion of Cabinet reports where an Initial Equality Analysis Screening Assessment has been completed; the proportion of staff who have completed the mandatory equality training.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council’s strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

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
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council’s services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised,		X

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provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
<p>The Council Plan is a strategic plan for the whole organisation which sets out what the Council will do in order to deliver against its priorities for serving local residents and communities. The actions and targets within the plan will be delivered by council services through various strategies, policies and programmes of work. It is therefore the responsibility of the relevant directorate/service to complete an equality analysis where this is applicable.</p>		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

(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)

- **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)

- **Actions**

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

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Jackie Mould	Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	18.04.19

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	18 th April 2019
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	30 th April 2019