

PART A - 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 (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Forge Island Flood Defence Works, Rotherham Town Centre	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead person: Andy Newton	Contact number: 01709 823849
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Cabinet and Commissioners Decision Making Meeting, 11th June 2018, Recommendation 1.5 approves the construction of a 400 metre long flood defence wall along the northern and western boundaries of Forge Island as part of the flood protection measures identified within the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme and in accordance with the Rotherham Town Centre Flood Risk Toolkit. (Please refer to the accompanying plan).The flood defence wall is also a precursor to

the proposed development of the wider Forge Island site by Muse Developments, comprising of more than 100,000 Square Feet of hotel, cinema and food/beverage outlets.

The Flood Defence works are due to take place between September 2019 & March 2020.

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, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

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>		No
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>		No
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>	Yes	
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>		NO
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		NO
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>		NO

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

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 before decisions are made.

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 using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **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)

A public realm area will be created between the flood defence wall and the adjacent Canal. This could have been an intimidating area for public use, but the design has been developed in order to make this a more pleasant environment by means of high quality tree & shrub planting, seating areas, raised planters & surfacing material.

Particular emphasis will also be applied to lighting and the developer/consultants have recognised the need for ongoing workshops to ensure proper ambience, as well as practicality in the lighting design.

Emphasis is also being placed on the "interface" between the public realm area and the adjoining Muse Developments proposals, ensuring that unrestricted access between the two is possible.

As part of the design process the accessibility to all groups was at the forefront of the designs. Pathways were designed so as to be sufficiently wide for people in wheelchairs and prams/ buggies to pass in each direction.

These considerations helped influence the final design which was considered at the Planning Application stage and approved on 18th December 2018 (Reference RB2018/1750).

The means of procurement were also carried out in accordance with the approved Rotherham MBC procurement process. As a result the successful contractor has demonstrated a very high regard to equality and diversity, both in terms of its own

workers, but also in respect of its relationship with the local community. They are happy to employ local people in a temporary capacity, provide apprenticeships and reach out to local schools, colleges and interest groups.

- **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)

The needs of the elderly, disabled and members of the public with anxiety disorders have been especially considered in the design. The contractors willingness to reach out to the local community should also help in this respect.

Access/egress and circulation has been designed so as to be accessible to all groups.

Ongoing Project Workshops involving the Contractor, Project Manager, Consultant & other relevant parties will be carried out.

Ongoing external consultation involving the Contractor & Project Officer will also be carried out.

- **Actions**

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

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	August 2019 to March 2020
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	March 2020
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Andy Newton, Project Officer, RiDO

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Andy Newton	Project Officer	12 th August 2019

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	12 August 2019
Report title and date	Forge Island Flood Defence Works, Rotherham Town Centre, 21 st August 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 and Commissioners Decision Making Meeting, 11th June 2018, Recommendation 1.5
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21 st August 2019