

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: Regeneration and Environmental Services	Service area: Highway Services
Lead person: Colin Knight	Contact number: 22828

1. Title: Revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Amongst other requirements, the plan must assess 'the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.'

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

Questions	Yes	No
Does the activity have implications regarding the accessibility	X	

of services to the whole community?		
Is there an impact for an individual or group with protected characteristics? (Discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

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 equalities 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)

The provision of wider access for all into the countryside is a key aim of the document, the proposed plan identifies a key action (Aim 3) to follow least restrictive access for all and invites the public to comment upon the proposal.

- **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)

Aim 3 and the wider aims of the document aim to promote and enhance access for all.

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

After public consultation, findings and suggestions will be discussed with the Local Access Forum whose members (all members of the public) act as a statutory impartial advisor for the authority. These will be considered for inclusion in the final version of the plan.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	In present draft plan 11/6/19
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	When consultation completed 30/11/19
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Richard Pett, Rights of Way Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If an Equality Analysis is not required 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 (to include contact) and will be published along with the relevant report.

A copy of all screenings should also be sent to Zaidah.ahmed@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).

Date screening completed	
If relates to a Key Decision - date sent to Cabinet	
Date screening sent to Equalities Officer Zaidah.ahamed@rotherham.gov.uk	