

Appendix 1

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: Reopening the High Street Safely Fund (RHSSF) and the Welcome Back Fund (WBF)	
Directorate: EDS	Service area: RiDO
Lead person: Simeon Leach	Contact number: 0794 990 1043
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify: Approval of a number of activities funded by government monies for reopening the economy post lockdown. The second tranche of money (the Welcome Back Fund) also includes support for the visitor economy.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Council has been awarded a total of £471,455 under the Reopening the High Street Safely Fund (RHSSF) and Welcome Back Fund (WBF).

These two funds are now able to support 6 main strands of activity:

- Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies
- Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely:
- Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.
- Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.
- Support and promote a safe public environment for a local area's visitor economy
- Support local authorities to develop plans for responding to the medium-term impact of CV-19 including trialling new ideas particularly where these relate to the High Street.

The report is seeking approval for a set of activities under these themes, details of which are set out in the attached Rotherham Activity Form.

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>	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, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
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		

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?**

Whilst the plan aims to benefit all local people, there are several proposed activities which may have a particular benefit to people with protected characteristics, including:

- Making improvements and upgrades to paths at Thrybergh Country Park to ensure accessible conditions for visitors. This may be particularly beneficial to those with reduced mobility, either due to age or disability.
- Investing in new outdoor furniture at Clifton Park Museum, Rother Valley Country Park and Thrybergh Country Park. Based on engagement with Rotherham Older People's Forum and Rotherham Age UK, having somewhere to sit is key to ensuring that older people are comfortable with visiting outdoor spaces. Additionally, this may also benefit people with certain disabilities or long-term conditions.
- Promoting the "Great Rotherham to do list," to ask residents for their coping mechanisms through the pandemic. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery

<p>Cell has found that certain population groups have reported worse mental health and wellbeing as a result of the pandemic, including young adults, women, older adults who were recommended to shield and lone mothers. This activity may, therefore, be particularly important for meeting the needs of women in the borough and different age groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a befriending scheme to support those finding it difficult to re-access the high street. Older adults who were recommended to shield may find this particularly challenging, due to this significant disruption to their way of life during the pandemic period. <p>Further consideration of the equality and diversity implications will be picked up within the development of the individual strands of activity, all of which is temporary and must end on 31st March 2022 under the rules of the ESF funding.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings <p>We will draw on existing engagement with groups such as the Older People’s Forum in the development of the activities, to ensure they maximise the impact on the groups with protected characteristics and assist them to cope with the continuing impacts of Covid.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions <p>As outlined above, where appropriate, equality analyses will be completed for individual projects to assess the equality implications and identify mitigating actions.</p>	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	7 th July 2021
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	30 th September 2021
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Simeon Leach Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	Job title	Date
Lorna Vertigan	Senior Programme Manager	8 th July 201
Tim O’Connell	Head of RiDO	8 th July 2021

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	8 th July 2021
Report title and date	Reopening the High Street Safely Fund (RHSSF) and the Welcome Back Fund (WBF)
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	9 th July 2021