

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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: Finance and Customer Services	Service area: Finance
Lead person: Rob Mahon	Contact number: 01709 254518

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 Council is required to set a balanced budget for 2022/23 and intends to present that balanced budget at Cabinet in February and Council in March 2022. The budget report will outline the Council's available resources from core government funding, grants and those resources generated through local taxation, and how those resources will be utilised across the Councils services.

The Budget and Council Tax Report 2021/22 noted that £18.1m of agreed budget savings and cost reductions were required to be delivered across the medium term. As per our Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) update to Cabinet on 20th December 2021 we remain confident that the remaining savings will be achieved, but over a longer timeframe, most of them by the end of 2024/25. We are therefore maintaining the current budget strategy but delivering it over a longer period. As such there are no additional savings built into the budget for 2022/23 that require

their own EIA.

The budget report provides an indication of the key challenges that the Council faces, and the specific challenges faced by each directorate along with an indication of the aims and objectives of those directorates.

In addition to the revenue budget the Council's revised capital programme will be approved as part of the budget report. The Council's capital programme will be approved as part of the Capital Strategy section of the budget report. This section of the report will seek approval for a series of new investment proposals that officers, Cabinet Budget Working Group and Labour Group have prioritised following a process of review and scrutiny of options. The linked financial revenue implications of the capital programme have been factored into the Council's revenue budget.

A public consultation ran from December 20th until January 23rd and responses have been considered in finalising the budget proposals. A report reflecting the consultation is appended to this report.

Finally, the budget report will approve the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, and prudential indicators. This report covers how the Council intends to manage its debt, borrowing for new investments, cashflow and banking procedures and risk. The prudential indicators provide the key framework for how that strategy will be managed.

The equality implications that arise from the Councils Budget will be addressed through Directorate and service budgets aligned to service plans that now include an equalities section.

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?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the 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 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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have you considered equality and diversity? n/a 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key findings n/a 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions n/a 	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Judith Badger	Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services	14 January 2022

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	14 January 2022
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	