

## 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:** Regeneration Programme: Strategic Land Assembly

**Directorate:** R&E

**Service area:** RiDO

**Lead person:** Lorna Vertigan

**Contact number:** 07748 142833

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☒

**Other**

**If other, please specify:** Authorisation to negotiate and acquire land and property necessary for the pursuance of the regeneration programme, specifically those sites in relation to the delivery of the Town Deal and Levelling Up funded projects.

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

This Cabinet report is a further facilitator of the delivery of regeneration projects in particular those related to the Town Deal and Levelling Up funds. As such the Equalities Assessment reflects the process previously outlined which will see assessment being carried out as part of the development of Full Business Cases on a project by project basis.

One of the conditions in the Town Deal Heads of Terms is *“Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED) and other assessments: Rotherham Borough Council will undertake programme-wide level impact assessment, relevant project-level impact assessment to meet their Public Sector Equalities Duty as well as carry out relevant Environmental Impact Assessments.”*

Consultation and screening was previously carried out during the production of the Town Investment Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in January 2021. Further consultation will be carried out as projects develop in the run up to the Business Case development.

### 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		
This paper specifically addresses the acquisition of land and property for the pursuance of various regeneration projects. The answers given above specifically relate to the acquisition of property.		

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?**

Early consultation was carried out in the preparation of the Town Investment Plan and the Levelling Up fund submissions to Government and equality assessments were carried out, however further detailed consultation and communication is being planned in the run up to Business Cases.

Specifically in relation to property acquisition consultation with most land owners has already begun. There are no direct equality and diversity concerns identified with this process.

- **Key findings**

Widespread consultation and engagement with communities, including protected characteristic groups, directly informed the TIP, and equality implications were considered at this stage.

In the process of developing full business cases, equality implications will be considered in more detail, and worked into the projects.

Specifically in relation to property acquisition consultation with most land owners has already begun. There are no direct equality and diversity concerns identified with this process.

- **Actions**

As outlined above, where appropriate, detailed equality analyses will be completed for individual projects to assess the equality implications and identify mitigating actions.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	October 2021 onwards as projects developed
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	June 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Lorna Vertigan – Strategic Regeneration Manager

#### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	Job title	Date
Simeon Leach	Economic Strategy & Partnerships Manager	
Tim O'Connell	Head of RiDO	

## 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](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Report title and date</b>	Regeneration Programme: Strategic Land Assembly
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	19/01/22