

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: Draft Supplementary Planning Documents	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment Services	Service area: Planning Policy Team Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead person: Helen Sleigh Senior Planning Officer	Contact number: 01709 823831
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) will provide additional good practice guidance for implementing a range of adopted Local Plan policies. The Integrated Impact Assessment (including an Equalities Impact Assessment) was completed to support the adoption of the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Document which together form the Rotherham Local Plan.

Following community and stakeholder consultation on the draft SPDs, and their anticipated subsequent adoption, taking account of any amendments arising from the consultation; the guidance provided in the SPDs will be used by applicants submitting planning applications across the borough, and by the Council in determining such planning applications. The outcome will be planning decisions which comply with relevant planning policies, and that will have a positive impact on residents, workers, visitors or other users of any future development.

The SPDs are subservient to the adopted Rotherham Local Plan and they offer further guidance and protocols for implementing the policies of the Local Plan: Core Strategy (2014) and Sites and Policies Document (2018). There is a clear hierarchy within adopted planning policy documents; the Local Plan, is prepared in conformity with National Planning Policy Framework and its guidance, at the time of its adoption. SPDs sit below the strategic policies of the Local Plan and provide further guidance to applicants in submitting their planning applications. They are a material consideration in the determination of such applications.

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>	✓	
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>	✓	
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>	✓	
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>		✓
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>		
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>		✓
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
The SPDs are intended to provide further guidance to all applicants applying for planning permission as to how Local Plan policies will be implemented and planning decisions made. They are prepared in accordance with strategic policies of the Local Plan. As such the Supplementary Planning Documents will provide assistance to all.		

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)

At the time of preparation of both the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Document the Council undertook Equalities and Health Impact Assessments of the strategic policies within the Local Plan. These equalities assessments are included within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) for both parts of the Local Plan and published alongside the Local Plan on the Planning Policy web page. The equalities impact assessments have guided and formulated the strategic policies of the local plan.

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/guide-local-plan/1>

The outputs and recommendations arising from the Health and Equalities Assessments that were prepared at each stage of plan preparation are taken into account in drafting the policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, any subordinate planning guidance that is subsequently drafted, including SPDs, are prepared in accordance with the policies of the Local Plan. They fully reflect the equalities assessment and the outputs and recommendations previously undertaken and reported within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (2013 and 2016).

- **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 provision of further planning guidance aims to ensure the Local Plan is delivered to its fullest extent and ensures there are benefits to all local people arising from new development opportunities; and that any impacts on the community and the wider environment are appropriately mitigated in accordance with the vision of the Local Plan: “to minimise inequalities through the creation of strong, cohesive and sustainable communities”.

Enhancements to biodiversity to be secured through requirements of the Environment Act 2021 to increase Biodiversity Net Gain; and the protection of trees and soils promoted in the Trees, and Soils SPDs; will lead to improvements in air quality and thus improve the health of local people. Greater protection of the natural environment will also assist in improving the mental health of all people by providing opportunities to access the benefits provided by all green infrastructure.

The protection and further enhancements to the wider natural environment can have a greater impact on those with protected characteristics and people on low incomes who may have limited access to private open space such as gardens.

The Developer Contributions SPD provides a clear methodology and guidance for seeking to mitigate the impacts of future development proposals and to ensure that any gaps in provision of social and community facilities that are likely to arise from a localised increase in population, through new housing development (for instance) are provided for by the developer; unless there are clearly substantiated and justified reasons as to why a developer could not viably fund such planning contributions. The public sector will need to fill gaps in provision of social and community facilities that arise in such circumstances. Although there may be a time lag in delivering the necessary social and community infrastructure to meet such needs, and compromise or work around solutions may be required in the short to medium term.

- **Actions**

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

The preparation of SPDs is a positive approach to ensuring the Local Plan and its policies can be implemented to their fullest extent. The guidance within these documents removes ambiguity and misunderstandings that can occur in the planning process. The guidance will assist the Council in achieving the best possible outcomes from new development opportunities both for its own communities within which development takes place, and the wider community of Rotherham Borough.

Owing to the full Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken to assess the policies of the Core Strategy and the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (which together provide a comprehensive Local Plan for Rotherham); and,

- having been prepared and further refined, following public and stakeholder consultation at each stage of Local Plan preparation; and,
- the equalities impact that arose as part of that earlier comprehensive assessment, having been taken into account, in various revisions to the draft policies, prior to their final approval in the adopted Local Plan;

there is therefore, no requirement to complete Form B the Equality Analysis.

There are no direct equalities impacts arising from the preparation and subsequent adoption of these draft Supplementary Planning Documents, that has not already been taken into account at the earlier, higher level, strategic policy stages, of Local Plan preparation and its subsequent consultation, examination and adoption.

Therefore, in these circumstances, there is no further requirement to complete Form B of the Equalities Impact Assessment, as this assessment has previously been completed; it is fully documented and publicly available in the Integrated Impact Assessments of 2013 and 2016.

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
Andy Duncan	Planning Policy Manager	12/05/2022

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	29 April 2022 and 10 May 2022
Report title and date	Local Plan: Consultation on draft

	Supplementary Planning Documents
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 – 11 July 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	29 April 2022 and 10 May 2022