

Appendix 2

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: Towns and Villages Fund	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: N/A
Lead person: Ben Mitchell	Contact: Ben.mitchell@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	
Capital programme	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Towns and Villages Fund is a new £4 million capital programme in Rotherham, aiming to improve the borough's local town and village centres. The borough consists of a wide range of individual communities and places, and it is important that the physical environment of these centres receives continuous investment.

In January 2022, based on projects put forward by Ward Councillors, a work programme and associated processes for delivering projects was produced and agreed by Cabinet.

Since January 2022, the first six projects have been worked upon, and are at varying stages of delivery, with the next phase of the programme now being designed. This equality screening focuses on the progress of the overall programme and the broad parameters that will govern the projects, rather than individual schemes that will be delivered.

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?**

The associated report details a programme of work, and the overall aims and objectives of this capital fund. Where schemes may have an impact on equality and diversity, it is proposed that a further Equality Screening will take place, focused on that individual project to identify and mitigate any potential impacts. Where necessary, a full Equality Impact Assessment will take place.

Where consultation and engagement occurs with communities through the scheme development and design process, equality and diversity will be included as a key theme of consultation, to ensure that a wide range and representative range of opinions and voices are heard and listened to.

Schemes will be designed to meet the requirements of different people and communities, which will consider barriers in relation to protected characteristics. For example, public realm improvements will always assess the requirement for tactile crossings, dropped kerbs and widening of footpaths.

- **Key findings**

This programme of work will focus on improving the centres of towns and villages by delivering projects that are championed by Ward Members, and priorities of communities. Projects within commercial centres will enhance public open space and provide further opportunities for social interaction.

When these projects are being designed, accessibility will be a key part of the process, ensuring that improvements are made to areas to ensure that everybody can access and use new and existing facilities. This is likely to have a positive impact across the borough, as areas that have been highlighted as having access issues have been put forward to be invested within to solve and improve these centres.

Community safety will also be taken into account when designing individual projects, with street lighting and sight lines being considered for all schemes. This will make public centres feel more welcoming and discourage anti-social behaviour, making public spaces more inclusive for all.

- **Actions**

The main action considered for the programme of work will be the continuous cycle of consultation, engagement and improvement that will be undertaken for each individual project. All feedback provided, as well as local knowledge from Ward Members, will be taken into account to ensure that the programme of work has a positive impact on equality and diversity.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Spring 2023
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	Summer 2023
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Ben Mitchell

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	

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	05/01/23
Report title and date	Update on the Towns and Villages Fund, February 2023
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, 13 th February 2023
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	