

## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, services and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
<b>Equality Analysis title:</b> LUF Full Business Case: Rother Valley Country Park	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA):</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	
<b>Directorate:</b> Regeneration and Environment	<b>Service area:</b> RIDO
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Lorna Vertigan RIDO/ Neil Best	<b>Contact number:</b> 07748142833 (Lorna Vertigan)
<b>Is this a:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify:</b>  Proposal for the development and improvement of Rother Valley Country Park (Levelling Up Fun project)	

## 2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Neil Best	RMBC	Project Lead
Lorna Vertigan	RMBC	Project Sponsor
Megan Hinchliff	RMBC	Project Manager
May Lester	External Consultant (Turner and Townsend)	Project Support

## 3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

### **Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known):**

*This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.*

This Business Case proposal outlines the Rother Valley Country Park Levelling Up Funded project that will:

- Secure outline planning consent for development in the park
- Appoint a principal contractor to facilitate the main works
- Progress enabling works and relocation of key operational activities
- Construct a new lakeside state-of-the-art café
- Improve the external area immediately surrounding the café to include seating areas and a new play equipment
- Improve the public realm and create new amenity space
- Create and enhance parking facilities in the park including the provision of additional vehicle charging points

An initial screening exercise identified that there could be minor 'implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community'. This has triggered a full analysis to identify and mitigate against any potential negative implications.

The analysis identified the potential impacts on the following PCGs:

- Age (accessibility for older people, safety for young children)
- Disability (accessibility during construction, design scheme)
- Pregnancy and Maternity (accessibility during construction, design scheme, access to services)
- Carers (accessibility)

Mitigations on negative impacts are discussed below.

**What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)**

Information is available on the local area from the following sources:

- 2011 Census
- Integrated Household Survey (National Office for Statistics)
- Birth Summary Tables, England and Wales 2018, UK Statistics Authority
- Rotherham Data Hub (<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/data/socio-economic>)

**Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?**

No

**What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?**

We have held initial discussions within the project team to discuss the likely impacts on PCG's throughout the project stages, including construction and into full use.

We have liaised internally with the Equalities team to ensure all aspects have been considered and all impacts (both potential and actual) have been identified.

We have made contact with representatives of key stakeholder groups to brief them of the proposals and understand any positive or negative effects that they anticipate as a result of the project.

We have held 3x consultation events onsite at the park to give the public an opportunity to learn more about the proposals and offer their feedback. These events were successful and had circa. 200 visitors.

All of the actions above will be further reviewed once the project progresses, and further considerations will be taken account of in the scheme design, construction and management of the site:

- Accessibility (physical accessibility, access to information, accessible design)
- Safety and security (particularly during construction where there may be diversions in place)
- Environment (impact of construction and operation on noise, air quality and overall feel of the local environment)
- Severance (between communities and as a result of construction routes); and
- Employment (creation of employment opportunities – both temporary during construction and permanent during operation).

It is recommended that the Equality Analysis process is reviewed and updated at appropriate stages throughout the project to determine any further likely impacts, as a result of Phase 1A of the development.

<p><b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b></p>	<p>Customer and audience research and consultation has taken place across Rother Valley Country Park in preparation of the original funding bid and throughout the lifetime of the project. Both operations undertake a biennial survey of existing park users, building a profile of existing user habits and preferences and providing feedback and consultation on future developments. In Spring 2020, QA Research was commissioned to undertake detailed visitor surveys with a focus on both regular visitors and those who do not currently frequent either park, with more than 400 in depth consultations completed.</p> <p>In Summer/Autumn 2022, additional engagement with key stakeholders and visitors to the park was carried out.</p> <p>In November 2022 statutory consultation on the planning application was carried out, planning permission was approved in February 2023.</p>
<p><b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b></p>	<p>Engagement has taken place with the project team including the Park Managers and Rangers to determine the most appropriate design solutions based on user requirements. This has taken place throughout the design process and will continue to be monitored.</p>

#### 4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

##### **How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?**

*Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)*

This process will seek to ensure that positive outcomes on PCGs are maximised, and any negative impacts are mitigated appropriately.

The improvement of the facilities (café and surrounding area) at Rother Valley will improve access to the café so that all PCGs can enjoy the park and make the most of the mental and physical benefits associated with spending time outdoors.

The proposals for the new café are fully accessible in accordance with Part M of the current building regulations and will include fully accessible unisex WC facilities and lowered counter sections to account for wheelchair users.

Overall, the improvement of the levels / surfacing around the café, and the café floors, lighting and wayfinding will benefit all PCG's once the site is operational by being entirely

user-friendly, particularly those with accessibility requirements including pregnant women, young children / older people and those with a disability.

**Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?**

There will potentially be access issues during the construction phase of the project. This may be an impact for those with a disability, pregnant women, carers and young children / older people.

It is recommended that the successful contractor appointed to provide the main works adopts responsible and considerate contractor procedures, including noise reduction, dust / vibration mitigation (especially during demolition), clear fencing off of works, working within particular hours and appropriate signage / lighting.

**Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?**

Once the project is completed, parking facilities, accessible visitor amenities, surfacing and wayfinding and the quality and variety of the hospitality offer on site will be greatly improved, and so access and facilities for pregnant women / carers and those with mobility issues or a disability will be enhanced – e.g. by providing facilities which are on one level and so are easy to navigate using a wheelchair / pushchair. These improvements will also benefit young children / older people who may require clearer wayfinding and even surfacing to navigate around the site.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?**

May also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another.

We envisage the scheme will have a positive impact on community relations. The project will upgrade the existing facilities of a key community provision and safeguard it's use as a popular green space for years to come.

Communication and engagement with key stakeholders and local groups representing PCGs impacted will continue as required throughout the programme and good relations will be maintained with the neighbouring businesses via regular communication and mutually agreed access routes during construction.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

## **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

<b>Title of analysis:</b> Rother Valley Country Park
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> RIDO / Green Spaces
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Lorna Vertigan/ Neil Best
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
<p>A Screening and Full Equality Analysis has been completed to ensure that positive outcomes on Protected Characteristic Groups are maximised, and any negative impacts are mitigated appropriately. The main considerations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing a modern café with safe and secure facilities that is DDA compliant</li> <li>• Creating a positive impact on the park as a whole, safeguarding it's status as a key community asset</li> <li>• Ensuring the impacts on PCGs of the construction works are fully considered so that the main contractor can act responsibly</li> </ul> <p>These will be further reviewed once the project progresses, and further considerations will be taken account of in the scheme design, construction and management of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility (physical accessibility, access to information, accessible design)</li> <li>• Safety and security (particularly during construction where there may be diversions in place)</li> <li>• Environment (impact of construction and operation on noise, air quality and overall feel of the local environment)</li> <li>• Severance (between communities and as a result of construction routes);</li> </ul> <p>It is recommended that the Equality Analysis process is reviewed and updated at appropriate stages throughout the project to determine any further impacts likely as a result of Phase 1A of the development.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Accessible café designed and built: work with the architects, consultants and Park Manager to create a cafe that is well-designed, accessible and safe.	A/D/PM/C	August 2024
Accessibility around the site during construction: work with successful main works contractor to ensure paths and access routes are not blocked or alternatives found for those who are pregnant/carers or have a disability.	A/D/PM/C	August 2023 – August 2024
Minimal negative impacts on park users as a result of the construction works including demolition – incl. noise / dust / vibration suppression. Potential for mitigation measures to be stated by contractor at tender stage.	All groups	August 2023 – August 2024
Review Assessment at various stages of the project in case other potential impacts emerge once planning is approved and contractor selected.	All groups	Throughout the project

**\*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

## 6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Simon Moss	Assistant Director, Regeneration and Environment	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2023
Councillor Lelliott	Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Environment	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2023

## 7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis 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 should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk) or record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Report title and date</b>	Full Business Case: Rother Valley Country Park Project
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2023
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	13.04.2023