

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: Acquisition of Property and Rights at 3-7 Corporation Street	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Rotherham Town Centre
Lead person: Lucy Mitchell	Contact number: 07748 143280
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	
Officer Delegated Decision for making of a compulsory purchase order to progress the development of 3 – 7 Corporation Street, Rotherham Town Centre.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The buildings in the Land Order (3-7 Corporation Street) have been burnt out since 2007. This has created a long-standing problem in Rotherham town centre, having a significant negative impact on the Conservation Area within which they are located. Corporation Street is in a prominent position in Rotherham town centre. It is a significant route between the bus station and the town centre, leading to the Minster, the High Street and the Forge Island Leisure Complex (currently under

development). Accordingly, it is untenable to permit dereliction on this scale in such a key location.

In order to resolve the issue outlined above, RMBC made and served a Compulsory Purchase Order to bring the Land into public ownership in April 2023. An agreement to acquire the property at 3-5 and 7 Corporation Street has now been reached which will see removal of the owner’s objection to the Compulsory Purchase Order.

Therefore, the Officer Delegated Decision report is seeking approval for the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Head of Legal Services to Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration, and Transport be authorised to negotiate the acquisition by agreement of the property and rights in consultation with the Council’s Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary transactions.

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		
<p>Purchasing the site would not materially change the site physically at this stage, therefore current arrangements will be preserved and there will no impact affecting different groups or service users. Once the plans for development are in place, we will conduct a detailed Equality Assessment which will explore access in and around the site and potential groups/individuals affected. Internal council processes will be observed and worked within and therefore there will no change to council services or employment practices. The site has been a longstanding eyesore in the town and a source of frustration amongst the general public, therefore we do not anticipate any concerns regarding the compulsory purchase order being implemented.</p>		

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?**

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

Lead person for your Equality Analysis

(Include name and job title):	
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5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Maria Smith	Regeneration and Development Project Manager	18/07/2023
Lucy Mitchell	Major Projects Officer	18/07/2023

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	18/07/2023
Report title and date	Officer Delegated Decision - Acquisition of Property at 3-7 Corporation Street
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	18/07/2023