

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: Riverside Gardens Public Space

Directorate: R&E

Service area: RiDO

Lead person: Rory Battye

Contact number: 01709 254472

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify: Authorisation to undertake a further competition in relation to the 2 stage design and build procurement for Riverside Gardens.

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

This is a key project in the adopted Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan (TCM). The Masterplan highlighted the critical importance of public realm enhancements to help encourage and improve movement and connectivity, particularly between Forge Island and the wider town centre, and to improve the physical environment and experience within the town centre.

Riverside Gardens consists of three key elements - Riverside Park Public Open Space, Market Street and Domine Lane public realm. It will turn a large area of concrete into a place for nature, relaxation, and play. It also includes the introduction of playful sculptural elements and references to cultural and historical associations with Rotherham.

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?**

In regard the proposed interventions within the town centre, the creation of a new public open space, equality and diversity has been considered. During the consultation process, which has been taking place since April 2022, stakeholder groups both external and internal have been contacted to ensure the needs of users are captured, considered, and incorporated (where practicable) into the designs.

Public consultation events have been accessible and open to everyone and were advertised and promoted via a number of platforms designed to reach a wide audience. The events have been held in public spaces with no access restrictions. Further consultation events may be required, depending on feedback received and level of interest.

- **Key findings**

Widespread consultation and engagement with communities, including protected characteristic groups, found that accessibility and the feeling of safety in the space was high on the agenda, and this was considered during the design stage and throughout the planning process.

One of the main aims of the scheme is to provide access to all from Market Street down through the park and into the new Forge Island Development. Therefore, an accessible pathway has been designed to take people of all abilities through the site, with places to sit, rest and enjoy nature throughout. Equipment and furniture will be selected to ensure it is accessible and suitable for all users. Safety improvements will be made to ensure the site is a welcoming environment, including improved lighting.

- **Actions**

Consultation has been undertaken in an open and transparent way, encouraging all to express their views and opinions on the redevelopment plans. Consultation has taken place in person as well as online, with the use of survey monkey to enable users to provide feedback on the plans, the opportunity was also available for residents to comment on the planning application for the scheme.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

Mar 2022

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

Apr 2023

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

Rory Battye

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
James Green	Regeneration & Development Manager	

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	17th March 2023
Report title and date	Riverside Gardens Public Space
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	29th March 2023