

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: Sheffield Plan – Joint Statement of Common Ground	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment Services	Service area: Planning Policy Team Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead person: Katherine Boswell	Contact number: 01709 823805
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify Statement of Common Ground between several local planning authorities on strategic land use planning issues.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Sheffield City Council, with co-operation and input from Rotherham Council and other local authorities, has produced a Statement of Common Ground. The statement covers the Sheffield City Council Local Plan and the local authority obligations under the Duty to Co-operate. The statement, while not a strategy, will be valuable to individual local planning authorities in taking their local plans through the

government examination process. It will help demonstrate that a local planning authority has met the statutory “duty to co-operate” with neighbouring local authorities and bodies in preparing its local plan.

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 statement is a high level document that sets out agreements on broad strategic matters. The majority of the agreements to which Rotherham would be a signatory have no implications for Rotherham, or highlights ongoing liaison, co-operation and sharing of information. Where there may be implications for Rotherham in the future, for example relation to cross boundary infrastructure, it recognises that these would need to be the

subject of separate discussion and agreement.

As such, the statement does not directly affect the considerations and characteristics set out for screening. Individual local plans may affect these characteristics, in how they translate targets into development sites and policies, and are subject to their own screening and assessment process. For example, the adopted Rotherham Local Plan was subjected to an Integrated Impact Assessment as part of its drafting, which considered that plan's effect on equalities and diversity.

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)

- **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)

- **Actions**

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

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
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Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a
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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
Andy Duncan	Planning Policy Manager	29 February 2024

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 February 2024
Report title and date	Sheffield Plan – Joint Statement of Common Ground
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Delegated officer decision Report date: 29 January 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	?