

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: Approval of use of Compulsory Purchase Powers: Laughton Road/Constable Lane, Dinnington

Directorate:
Regeneration and Environment

Service area:
Regeneration

Lead person: Megan Hinchliffe

Contact number: 01709 289207

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

Officer Delegated Decision for making of a compulsory purchase order to progress the development of the Dinnington High Street/Markets scheme.

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

The subject area comprises land between Laughton Road and Constable Lane in the centre of Dinnington. The boundary includes 32A Laughton Road, the former indoor market (34 Laughton Road), 36 – 56 Laughton Road, the outdoor market, the colliery band building (10 Constable Lane) and associated land, and two passageways at either end. The land measures approximately 5,500m² and is shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 1. The area includes several derelict buildings and areas of underused land adjoining the Primary Retail frontage in Dinnington.

It is untenable to permit dereliction on this scale in such a key location and the Council has secured £11.05 million grant investment from central government to redevelop the area for a scheme that includes the construction of a block of 6 retail/commercial units, a stand-alone commercial/community building, a new Town Square that will accommodate an open market and associated car parking and servicing areas and public realm improvements. 6 existing retail/commercial units will be retained and substantially improved as part of the proposed scheme.

The site is in multiple ownership and is being assembled by the Council to facilitate the development of the scheme. Despite several approaches from the Council, it has not been possible to reach agreement to acquire several plots and it has become explicitly clear that the Council will need to rely on CPO powers to bring the proposed development to fruition.

To resolve the issue outlined above, it is intended to bring the Order Land into public ownership. It is intended that the Council to lead the project and procure a contractor to demolish the current, derelict buildings, and construct the new development.

Therefore, the Cabinet report is seeking authority to progress Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings to acquire the outstanding interests and provide Delegated authority to 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 make the Order, and serve the Order on the landowners, publishing legal notices in the local press and on site.

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

Appendix 7

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?**

Making a compulsory purchase would not materially change the use of the site and there will be no adverse impact affecting different groups or service users.

The requirements of potential user groups have been considered as part of the design of the scheme, particularly those individuals that may have disabilities which could impact on the way that they access and utilise the facilities in the proposed scheme.

Communication with businesses and tenants who do not have English as their first language has been carefully considered.

- **Key findings**

- Equality and Diversity considerations have been a central feature in designing the proposed scheme, which has now been submitted for planning approval.
- Those businesses and tenants who do not have English as their first language

<p>have been requested to advise Officers if they have any difficulty in understanding verbal and written communication with them.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions The design of the scheme will improve accessibility for service users to the various units as the scheme will comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and will replace areas that have an uneven, inconsistent surfaces and contain numerous potholes with legible, even and consistent surfaces using materials that assist users with visual impairment navigate around the proposed scheme. The scheme will include appropriate signage to assist users in navigating there way to the facilities provided. Contrary to the fixed structures that are currently in place, the stalls associated with the new market will be dismantled at the end of each trading day and stored in a secure location. The new scheme will provide improved pedestrian and cycle links between the high street (Laughton Road) and the bus interchange and public car parks on Constable Lane. 	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	31.8.24
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	15.9.24
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Lorna Vertigan Head of Regeneration

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Megan Hinchliff	Regeneration Programme and Strategy Manager	18/08/2024
Steve Eling	Policy & Equalities Manager	20/08/24

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.

Appendix 7

<p>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.</p>	
<p>Date screening completed</p>	<p>16.8.24</p>
<p>Report title and date</p>	<p>Officer Delegated Decision - Compulsory Purchase Powers: Laughton Road/Constable Lane, Dinnington – date to be determined.</p>
<p>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</p>	<p>Cabinet 14.10.24.</p>
<p>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk</p>	<p>16.8.24.</p>