

## 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: Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy**

**Directorate:**  
Regeneration and Environment

**Service area:**  
Planning, Regeneration and Transport

**Lead person:**  
Winsze Lam

**Contact number:**  
01709 822874

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that councils can apply to new development to raise funds for local infrastructure. Rotherham's CIL Charging Schedule was adopted by the Council on 7 December 2016 and came into force on 3 July 2017. The majority of the CIL income held by the Council is for strategic infrastructure across the borough to support growth promoted by the Local Plan.

The purpose of this report is to set out the progress of inviting and considering applications for Strategic CIL funding for infrastructure projects and request the Cabinet to make decision on whether to support the use of Strategic CIL funding for the eligible projects in Rotherham.

A list of priority projects is presented in the report, seeking approval for the Strategic CIL funds to be allocated as recommended. The projects relate to a range of infrastructure to support housing growth, which includes enhancing sustainable transport networks, improving community trail corridor, and health centre alterations to increase capacity. It is also recommended that Cabinet approves delegation to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to establish the process to release funding to the approved project(s).

### 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?**

Infrastructure funding is required to support the growth promoted by the Local Plan. The plan was subject to extensive public consultation over a number of years, culminating in a public examination by a government-appointed planning inspector. The plan was supported by an Integrated Impact Assessment, which included an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). In doing this, the effects of the planned growth on all sections of the community were comprehensively assessed; the plan was then passed by the inspector and subsequently adopted by the Council.

The EqIA for the Local Plan is in two parts, available on the website:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/310/adopted-core-strategy-integrated-impact-assessment> (pages 309-374)

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/sites-and-policies-document-integrated-impact-assessment-report-volume-3-assessment-of-policies> (pages 236-290)

The outputs and recommendations arising from the EqIA were taken into account in drafting the policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, any subsequent measures to implement the Local Plan as adopted reflect the equalities assessment and the outputs and recommendations, previously undertaken and included within the accompanying IIA. Funding infrastructure to support growth is key to successfully implementing the plan.

An update to the evidence base, used to assess the equalities impacts, has been prepared to support the most recent Regulation 18 Consultation on the Core Strategy Partial Update (CSPU) (July 2024) here: <https://rotherham-consult.objective.co.uk/kpse/event/01D87F0C-49EE-4D63-8CBF-BBB3E45CCED5> Appendix B of CD02 provides the Equalities Impact Assessment for those policies (including CS1) to be updated and chapter 3 'Sustainability Context' provides the relevant updates to the baseline information.

To contribute to the infrastructure funding required, the Council has implemented a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charge for Rotherham. This was also subject to public consultation and public examination, prior to being adopted by the Council.

Infrastructure needs have been assessed in an Infrastructure Delivery Study, which has had input from service providers internal and external to the Council. In doing this, the infrastructure needs identified have taken account of providers' views, which are informed by their assessment of the effects on service users, equality and diversity. The Cabinet report concerns prioritising, allocating and spending Strategic CIL fund on infrastructure. At this stage, it identifies a list of projects that are eligible to receive funding.

- **Key findings**

The provision of infrastructure aims to ensure the Local Plan is delivered to its fullest extent and ensure there are benefits to local people arising from new development opportunities; and that any impacts on the community and wider environment are mitigated in accordance with the vision of the Local Plan: "to minimise inequalities through the creation of strong, cohesive and sustainable communities".

Strategic CIL funds will be used for infrastructure, such as road improvements, extra school places, improved greenspaces and public transport improvements benefitting all sections of the community. Supporting the infrastructure development will have an overarching benefit to the communities of all groups.

The findings of the eligible projects are set out below:

1. A633 Rotherham to Dearne Valley Bus Priority / Rotherham East Sustainable Transport Corridor Extension

Both projects are to improve the sustainable transport network, improving bus services and connectivity to Rotherham Town Centre. Improving connectivity will encourage the use of public transport and potentially reduce the reliance on private car uses, contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions within the borough.

2. Trans Pennine Trail Community Access

The project will improve and provide links to the main 5km long Trans Pennine Trail corridor at Wath-upon-Deerne enabling better, healthier and more sustainable non-vehicle access to facilities, employment, the countryside and recreational opportunities for local communities. The trail is designed to be suitable for all, including wheelchair, pushchair, bike users.

3. Health Centres Alteration

The project through internal alteration will increase the capacity of GP practice to take in more patients registers. The design of the projects would be in line with the NHS accessibility guidance and will improve the accessibility of health services to residents.

- **Actions**

The use of Strategic CIL funds for infrastructure schemes is a positive and proactive approach to ensuring that the Local Plan and its policies can be implemented to its fullest extent. The process will assist the Council in achieving the best possible outcomes from new development opportunities for its own communities and all people.

It is acknowledged that Part B Equality Analysis will be required and it will be prepared at a later stage as the projects progress.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	10/01/2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	Spring 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Winsze Lam

## 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	10/01/2025

## 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](mailto: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	27/11/2024
Report title and date	Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy
If relates to a <b>Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision</b> – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet 10 February 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	10 January 2025