

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: Children's Playground Improvement Programme (Phase 2)	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Culture, Sport & Tourism
Lead person: Zoe Oxley	Contact number: 01709 334283
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Seeking approval of location of equipped play sites to be improved through the Council's Children's Playgrounds Programme.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity
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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?**

(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)

The proposals will positively benefit the development of children within the communities where they are located. Although equipment is required to 'stretch' children to help them develop it is recognised that accessibility for all children is not the same and some equipment will be provided for those children with specific accessibility needs.

The adopted Green Space Strategy sets out that all homes should ideally be within 400m (a five minute walk) of an equipped play area. It is also incumbent that these play areas should be safe, inviting, with good play value and include equipment for children and young people of varying ages and abilities.

Consultation is planned with the local communities, Ward Members, Schools, and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) of the sites to be improved, ensuring all voices are heard in relation to what they would like the play offer to be.

- **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)

Negative impact

To minimise the disruption to the Borough wide play offer, the schedule of playground redevelopment will ensure that the play areas are conducted in sequence so that only one play area is unavailable at any given time. Furthermore, the works will be conducted outside of planned school holidays.

Positive impact

Equipped play areas are generally seen as having a positive impact on the development of individuals but also the development of social skills and can promote co-operation and inclusion of other users.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)
The design of each of the new play areas will include local consultation to promote ownership and reduce any negative impacts.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

08 May 2025

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	08 May 2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jon Hinchliffe Urban Parks & Open Spaces Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Zoe Oxley	Head of Operations & Business Transformation	12 May 2025
Polly Hamilton	Assistant Director – Culture, Sport and Tourism	16 May 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 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	01 May 2025
Report title and date	Children's Playgrounds Programme Phase Two – May 2025
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	15 May 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	08 May 2025