

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: Traffic Regulation Order for Enforcement of Bus-Gate Enforcement at Wath Interchange	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Transport and Infrastructure
Lead person: Mark Anderson	Contact number: Mark.anderson@rotherham.gov.uk
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
Revoking and replacement of the existing Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at Wath Interchange to allow the installation of Bus-Gates at the junction of Biscay Way and West Street/Montgomery Road, to enforce the existing 'no-entry' restrictions using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. (Please see map in Appendix A).

This will prevent the manipulating of the local traffic signals in and around the interchange which impacts the free flow of traffic on Biscay Way and West Street, resulting in increased congestion and impacting buses wanting to access and exit the Interchange, leading to significant journey time delay.

Outcomes are expected to include:

- Bus passenger journey time savings;
- Better bus journey reliability;
- Improvements to road safety in and around Wath Interchange.

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

<p>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></p>		x
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If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

Entrance and exit to Wath Interchange is already prohibited for all vehicles except buses, but as there is currently no enforcement, the existing restrictions are frequently ignored by drivers. The provision of ANPR cameras will simply enforce the existing access arrangements on the ground.

Access arrangements and signage to the ‘pedestrian zone’ marked on the map will remain unaltered.

A public consultation was held with members of the public and local business owners from 3rd April to 1st May. This involved a notice being placed in the Rotherham local newspaper, notices on street furniture and also personally delivering letters to local businesses. This resulted in no objections and 1 response from the local nursery on Montgomery Road who raised concerns about loading and unloading for business.

In mitigation, the nursery has been contacted and advised there will be no changes to the existing regulations concerning the ‘pedestrian zone’. The ANPR cameras will enforce the existing access/exit onto Biscay only and loading/unloading arrangements for local businesses on Montgomery Road will remain unaffected.

Further consultation with statutory consultees took place from 2nd to 30th May. Three responses were received:

2nd May 2025 – Stagecoach Yorkshire PLC:

Fully supportive of the proposal.

It fully assists with maintain timetables and providing attractive and more consistent bus journey times, rewarding those people who are travelling sustainably, the proposal will address significant safety concerns that have been raised by our drivers on many occasions over the last couple of years.

7th May 2025 – South Yorkshire Police:

Support for the scheme from SYP if it can be enforced by RMBC.

28th May 2025 – South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue:

No Objections.

28th May 2025 – Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce:

Concerns about the use of the ANPR cameras and their location. Also made suggestions as to the layout/operation of the existing interchange to benefit local businesses.

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
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Mark Anderson	Senior Transport Planner	30 th May 2025.
Kate Farnell	Project Manager	30 th 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	28 th May 2025
Report title and date	Traffic Regulation Order for Enforcement of Bus-Gate Enforcement at Wath Interchange – 4th July 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	Will be a non-key delegated officer decision.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	28 th May 2025.