

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: Consultation on Bassingthorpe Farm Supplementary Planning Document

Directorate:
Regeneration and Environment

Service area:
Planning Service

Lead person:
Helen Sleight, Assistant Planning Policy Manager

Contact:
01709 823831

Is this a:

☒

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

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

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide additional guidance for implementing a range of the adopted Local Plan policies: Core Strategy (2014) and Sites and Policies Document (2018) along with the Joint Barnsley Doncaster Rotherham Waste Core Strategy are the suite of documents that make up the statutory development plan for this Borough.

To support the adoption of the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Document an Integrated Impact Assessment, including Equalities Impact Assessments were

completed, and are published alongside the statutory Local Plan.

Following community and stakeholder consultation on the draft Bassingthorpe Farm SPD, amendments to the draft SPD have been made; the guidance provided in this SPD will be used by applicants submitting planning applications for development of this Strategic Allocation, and by the Local Planning Authority in determining such planning applications. The outcome will be planning decisions that comply with relevant planning policies, and have a positive impact on residents, workers, visitors, or other users of any future development.

The SPD is subsidiary guidance to accompany the adopted Rotherham Local Plan, and to support the implementation of the policies of the Local Plan. There is a clear hierarchy within adopted planning policy documents: the Local Plan, is prepared in conformity with National Planning Policy Framework and its guidance, and SPDs assist in the implementation of the policies of the local plan and provide further guidance to applicants in submitting their planning applications. They are a material consideration in the determination of such applications, but they do not create new planning policy.

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?**

At the time of preparation of both the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Document the Council undertook Equalities and Health Impact Assessments of the strategic policies within the two-part Local Plan. These equalities assessments are included within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) for both parts of the Local Plan and published alongside the Local Plan on the Planning Policy web page. The equalities impact assessments have guided and formulated the strategic policies of the local plan.

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/guide-local-plan/1>

The outputs and recommendations arising from the Health and Equalities Assessments (prepared at each regulatory stage of plan preparation) are taken into account in drafting the policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, any subordinate planning guidance that is subsequently drafted, including SPDs, are prepared in accordance with the policies of the Local Plan. They fully reflect the equalities assessment and the outputs and recommendations previously undertaken and reported within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (2013 and 2016).

SPDs are intended to provide further guidance on how Local Plan policies will be implemented and planning decisions made, they do not introduce any new planning policies. There is a clear hierarchy within the adopted development plan, and

supplementary planning documents sit below the level of the strategic policies of the Local Plan, they are not statutory documents but provide further advice and guidance.

This SPD is proposed for adoption following extensive public consultation. All comments received have been reviewed and changes made to the SPD as appropriate.

A supplementary planning document (SPD) provides further guidance when using and interpreting adopted planning policies, and in this instance, this SPD provides area specific guidance, for delivery of new development within the Bassingthorpe Farm Strategic Allocation (Policy CS1 of Core Strategy (adopted 2014) refers). Up to 2,000 homes are proposed for development along with supporting community and social facilities and infrastructure.

Local Plan policies are prepared in accordance with all regulations and at each stage of stakeholder and community consultation, it includes an Integrated Impact Assessment – published alongside the Core Strategy. As the lifetime of a local plan is for a minimum of 15 years, the IIA conducted at the time of plan preparation and remains relevant, whilst the policies of that local plan are extant. The potential Equalities Impacts of all Local Plan policies (including the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document adopted in 2018); have been assessed in the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments.

The final Core Strategy IIA is available here:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/37/local-plan-core-strategy-documentation>

Sites and Policies IIA available here:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/64/local-plan-sites-and-policies-documentation>

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. However given changes to national planning policy, the partial update to several of the Core Strategy policies is no longer being pursued.

The Bassingthorpe Farm SPD Cabinet report seeks adoption. It does not seek to amend or change any policies that are already adopted as the Borough’s Statutory Development Plan prepared following the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 [2012 No. 767](#)

Given the length of time taken to prepare the Rotherham Local Plan (commenced in 2006) and the significant consultation and Integrated Impact Assessments (including EqIA) undertaken to support and inform the plan-making process, any further work to assess equalities impacts in the preparation of supplementary planning documents, cannot expect to meet the rigorous and methodical assessments undertaken to prepare adopted local plan policies. As local plan policies are not being amended it is considered

that no further work is necessary to assess equalities impacts, as these have been previously identified and considered and the policies of the adopted Local Plan have been amended accordingly.

- **Key findings**

The provision of further planning guidance is to ensure the Local Plan is delivered to its fullest extent and to maximise the benefits to local people arising from new development opportunities. Local Plan policies seek to ensure that impacts on the community and wider environmental impacts are mitigated in accordance with the vision of the Local Plan: “to minimise inequalities through the creation of strong, cohesive and sustainable communities”.

An Annual Monitoring Report records progress on implementation of the policies where feasible. The AMR 2024 is available here:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/76/annual-monitoring-reports>

- **Actions**

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

The preparation of this SPD is a positive approach to ensuring the Local Plan and its policies can be implemented to their fullest extent. The guidance within this SPD provides clarity on the interpretation of policies and removes ambiguity and misunderstandings that can occur in the planning process. The guidance will assist the Council in achieving the best possible outcomes from the proposed development of the Bassingthorpe Farm Strategic Allocation.

Given that two comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessments have been undertaken to assess the policies of the Core Strategy and the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document; and, these have been prepared and further refined, following public and stakeholder consultation at each stage of Local Plan preparation; and, the equalities impacts that arose as part of these earlier comprehensive assessments, were reflected through revisions to earlier draft policies, prior to their final approval and subsequent adoption, it is considered there is no requirement to complete Form B the Equality Analysis.

Planning Policy Team consider that all direct equalities impacts arising from the adoption of this Supplementary Planning Document have been taken into account at the earlier, higher level, strategic policy stages, of Local Plan preparation, consultation, examination and adoption.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See Integrated Impact Assessments 2013 and 2016
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See Integrated Impact Assessments 2013 and 2016
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Sleight, Assistant Planning Policy Manager

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	23/06/2025

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	19/06/2025
Report title and date	Bassingthorpe Farm Supplementary Planning Document
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 September 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23/06/2025