

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: Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Renewals in 2026/27.	
Directorate: Corporate Services	Service area: Financial Services
Lead person: Rob Mahon	Contact number: 01709 822034
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify Cabinet Report to consider the renewal applications for awards of Business Rates Discretionary Relief for the 2026/27 financial year.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The report presents applications for the award of Business Rates Discretionary Relief which have been considered in line with the policy agreed by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025.</p> <p>The policy criteria includes consideration of organisations who actively encourage membership from particular groups in the community which include, young people, women, persons with a disability and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>A Part B equality analysis was completed for the Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy on 21/05/2025 covering all equalities implications.</p>

Appendix 2

The applicants have submitted equalities information in support of their applications which have not presented any additional actions.

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?		✓
Could the proposal affect service users?		✓
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		✓
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.

Appendix 2

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?**

The recommendation in the report is to renew the awards of discretionary relief to all applicants for the 2026/27 financial year which will positively impact the organisations ensuring continuity of service and will ensure service users with protected characteristics can continue access and receive services.

• **Key findings**

The individual applicants have submitted equalities information in support of their applications which have not presented any additional actions.

• **Actions**

A Part B equality analysis was completed on 21/05/2025 in relation to the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See above
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See above
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Corporate Services	

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.

Appendix 2

Date screening completed	10 December 2025
Report title and date	Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Renewals in 2026/27 – 9 February 2026.
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <u>equality@rotherham.gov.uk</u>	11 December 2025