

## Appendix 2

### 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	
<b>Title: Local Growth Fund Proposals 2026/27</b>	
<b>Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement</b>	<b>Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence</b>
<b>Lead person: Paul Stafford</b>	<b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:paul.stafford@rotherham.gov.uk">paul.stafford@rotherham.gov.uk</a>
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify: Spending Proposal</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), introduced by government as the successor to the European Structural Funds, has been a major source of investment for Rotherham since 2022. UKSPF is now delivered through the government's new <b>Local Growth Fund</b>, which is allocated to areas via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).</p> <p>Rotherham's proposed LGF programme for 2026/27 is largely a continuation of the 2025/26 UKSPF programme, with activity across three themes:</p>

- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills
- Communities and Place

Projects include business support grants, social value, incentives for market traders, an integrated programme of skills and employment support, skills development for young people, an events programme, and community-based support for those struggling with high living costs.

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

Several projects aim to support those who face barriers to inclusion or socio-economic disadvantage. All projects are expected to explicitly consider equality, diversity and inclusion issues and impacts.

- **Key findings**

A number of connected projects will provide support to improve skills and employability, complementing the Council's Employment Solutions service. This will range from support with basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, to in-work help for those looking to advance their careers.

A dedicated strand will address the multiple social, emotional and health barriers to learning and employment faced by some young people in Rotherham.

- **Actions**

Analysis of equality, diversity and improvement data from individual projects will be used to inform the targeting of future programmes.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	23/01/26
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	19/01/26
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Paul Stafford, Policy Officer

#### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Michael Holmes	Policy and Strategy Officer	19/01/26

## 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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	19/01/26
<b>Report title and date</b>	Local Growth Fund 2026/27 allocation
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	Cabinet 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	05/02/26