

## 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: Playing Pitch Strategy</b>	
<b>Directorate: Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>	<b>Service area: Culture, Sport and Tourism</b>
<b>Lead person: Rachel Stothard</b>	<b>Contact: rachel.stothard@rotherham.gov.uk</b>
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Approval for adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which assesses current and future supply and demand for football, rugby union/ league, cricket, hockey, tennis and padel facilities across Rotherham and provides a Borough-wide action plan.

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.

Appendix 3

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?**

Equality and diversity have been embedded throughout the PPS by:

- Using a Borough-wide facility audit capturing accessibility, quality, lighting, safety and suitability for women, girls, disabled users and juniors.

- Identifying sports and locations where protected groups face disproportionate shortfalls, such as:
  - Large youth football shortfalls in Central and South areas.
  - Shortfalls in 3G pitches restricting safe environments for women, girls and disability groups.
  - Lack of padel courts and the need for low-cost tennis access in deprived communities.
  - Cricket shortfalls restricting junior, women’s and girls’ development.
  - Rugby union pitches lacking inclusive changing provision.
- Assessing ancillary facilities and their suitability for privacy, gender inclusion and disability access.
- Engaging with stakeholders from diverse age groups, genders, and communities across the full set of pitch sports

**Key findings**

- There are significant participation inequalities for women and girls in football, cricket and rugby union, linked to facility quality and availability.
- Several sites lack suitable accessible or gender-appropriate changing provision, limiting participation for women, girls, transgender and non-binary people, and disabled users.
- Youth-focused shortfalls (football, cricket) limit access for children and young people, particularly in areas of deprivation.
- Transport and locality issues disproportionately affect households on low incomes, who rely on local provision.
- Disabled users may face barriers due to poor-quality pavilions, absence of accessible toilets, uneven surfaces, and limited lighting.
- The strategy includes targeted actions such as pitch-quality improvements, inclusive ancillary upgrades, and creating new facilities in areas of highest need.

**Actions**

- Reflect women & girls, disabled users, juniors and low-income communities within delivery priorities.
- Review annually through updates.
- Continue structured engagement with clubs, disability groups, women & girl’s networks and youth organisations.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Rachel Stothard, Sport and Physical Activity Manager.

## 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Chris Siddall	Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships	15.01.2026
Polly Hamilton	Service Director for Culture, Sport & Tourism	16.02.2026
Cllr. Lynda Marshall	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces	05.02.2026

## 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>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>Report title and date</b>	Playing Pitch Strategy
<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- Playing Pitch Strategy
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	15/01/2026