

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).

1. Title	
Title: Our Places Fund – Pedestrian Movement (Underpasses)	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: RiDO
Lead person: Lorna Vertigan	Contact number: Thomas Butler / Tanya Shvab
Is this a: Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If other, please specify:	
Proposal for improvements to pedestrian movement infrastructure, including refurbishment and safety enhancements to the College Road roundabout underpasses and the enhancement of the area within the perimeter of the roundabout.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The objectives of the Our Places Fund scheme focus on improving the public realm in key areas across the Borough and bringing life back into areas that currently detract from the local environment. The investment will improve the sense of pride of place and will support the Council's priority for 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving'. This initiative was approved at cabinet in December 2024.</p> <p>The approved cabinet report highlighted three key themes for the Our Places Fund to focus on. The key themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian Movement • Civic Centre Improvements • War Memorials, Cenotaphs and Monuments. <p>An outline business case has been compiled which seeks approval for the proposed improvements to the Pedestrian Underpasses at College Road Roundabout in Rotherham. The location for the improvements was identified during the public consultation undertaken in 2024. The public consultation feedback highlighted safety concerns, poor lighting, drainage issues, and general disrepair. This project aims to improve accessibility, visibility, user safety, promote active travel opportunities and enhance the overall user experience.</p>

This location for the improvements was chosen due to a lack of visual quality, neglected appearance and certain lack of general upkeep, as well as reports of anti-social behaviour. This site stood out during the public consultation as requiring investment and improvement as part of an intervention.

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
<p>Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?</p> <p><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></p>	X	
<p>Could the proposal affect service users?</p>	X	
<p>Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?</p> <p><i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i></p>		X
<p>Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?</p> <p><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></p>		X
<p>Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?</p> <p><i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i></p>		X
<p>Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?</p> <p><i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i></p>		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

n/a

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?

A month-long borough-wide Consultation and engagement event occurred between October and November 2024. A comprehensive stakeholder database was established to facilitate inclusive consultation with a wide and diverse audience, including representatives of Protected Characteristic Groups, enabling the engagement approach to be tailored appropriately.

To maximise reach, consultation opportunities were promoted through a variety of platforms including email, websites, social media, local newspapers, leaflets, and posters in public spaces and businesses. This ensured that residents who may not be digitally connected still had access to information and opportunities to participate.

Consultation activities were made accessible to all, taking account of language needs, physical mobility, and access to digital platforms through translated materials, accessible venues, and non-digital participation options.

In total, 187 responses were received with participants offering their views on the best ways to mitigate any negative impacts as a result of our proposals.

Accessibility arrangements will be reviewed and will be incorporated in the designs as required.

- **Key findings**

Consultation feedback highlighted that service users found pedestrian movement routes, including the College Road underpasses, as requiring improvement. The interventions will focus on improving visual appeal of the space, improvement of paving as required, improved lighting for service users to better enjoy the space when transiting through it. The site will be assessed thoroughly to identify enhancements to the existing space, and the intervention aims to fundamentally improve access and pedestrian / cycling / wheeling circulation throughout the spaces.

Any potential negative impacts likely to arise during the construction works will be temporary for the duration of the works only. The activities on site may result in the temporary closure of the parts of the area to the general public in order to maintain Health and Safety protocols, and also may result in short-term impacts including noise, dust, vibration and disruption of the existing pathways / wayfinding. Based on

findings during the earlier delivery of the Towns and Villages scheme, this impact is expected to be limited to the duration of the works only.

- **Actions**

Our key action is to undertake a Part B Equality Analysis Form which will consider the following:

- Disabled access in design process – i.e. level access to underpasses and pedestrian routes
- Disabled access during construction process – maintaining clear pathways and keeping noise and disturbance to a minimum
- On completion and during operation, the facilities are inclusive and comply with Council policy and procedure.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	25/03/2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	28/04/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Tanya Shvab – Project Manager Thomas Butler – Project Support Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Natalie Cockrell	Regeneration Service Manager	21/04/2026
Lorna Vertigan	Head of Regeneration	28/04/2026

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 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	25/03/2026
Report title and date	Outline Business Case – Our Places Fund - Pedestrian movement (underpasses)
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	The Our Places Fund Themes were approved in a Cabinet Report 16 th December 2024.

Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement

equality@rotherham.gov.uk

01/04/26