

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: South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (SYLNRS)	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Culture, Sport & Tourism
Lead person: Zoe Oxley	Contact number: 01709 334283
Is this a:	
☒ Strategy / Policy	☐ Service / Function ☐ Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This Equality Screening relates to a Cabinet report seeking to update Members on the development of the draft South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and to seek support for the Council's participation in the formal consultation process The SYLNRS is a strategic, evidence-led framework prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), working collaboratively with the four South Yorkshire local authorities. The strategy identifies priority habitats, species, and opportunities for nature recovery across South Yorkshire and will inform future funding bids, partnership activity, and environmental investment. The report itself does not seek approval of delivery actions and does not place statutory obligations on landowners or communities.

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

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The SYLNRS is a strategic and non-statutory document which does not directly change service provision or restrict access to Council services. However, it has the potential to influence longer-term environmental priorities, investment, and partnerships, which may indirectly affect different communities over time.

Equality considerations have been addressed through:

- A borough-wide and sub-regional evidence base, ensuring environmental assets and challenges across diverse communities are represented.
- Recognition that access to high-quality green and natural spaces can deliver disproportionate health and wellbeing benefits for children, older people, disabled people, and residents in areas of higher deprivation.
- A planned public consultation programme led by SYMCA, designed to be accessible and inclusive, allowing residents and stakeholders from a range of backgrounds to comment on the draft strategy.
- Ongoing engagement between SYMCA and local authorities to ensure local priorities, including those affecting vulnerable groups, are reflected appropriately.

As the strategy does not mandate delivery, any future projects developed using the SYLNRS evidence base will be subject to separate, project-specific equality assessments.

The proposed delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, relates solely to agreeing and submitting a consultation response and does not alter services, decision-making processes or access to provision for any individual or group.

- **Key findings**

Negative impact

No direct negative equality impacts have been identified at this strategic stage, as the report does not implement specific actions or allocate resources.

Positive impact

The SYLNRS has the potential to support improved access to nature and green infrastructure, delivering benefits for physical and mental health, wellbeing and social cohesion. By helping to attract funding and investment, the strategy may deliver wider social benefits over time, particularly in areas experiencing environmental and socio-economic deprivation. Its landscape-scale approach supports inclusive, long-term planning that helps address inequalities in access to high-quality green space, environmental quality and associated health outcomes.

- **Actions**

- Ensure that public consultation materials and engagement methods are accessible and promoted across diverse communities.
- Maintain ongoing liaison between SYMCA and RMBC officers to ensure local equality considerations are reflected in the evolving strategy.
- Apply project-level Equality Analyses for any future schemes or initiatives informed by the SYLNRS evidence base before delivery decisions are taken.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	17 th April 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	30 th April 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jon Hinchliffe Green Spaces Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Zoe Oxley	Head of Operations & Business Transformation	20/04/2026
Polly Hamilton	Service Director – Culture, Sport and Tourism	20/04/2026

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	17 th April 2026
Report title and date	South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (SYLNRS)
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Cabinet, 8 June 2026 Date sent for publication: 1 June 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	20 April 2026