

## 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:** Feasibility Fund: Master Plan Consultation for the Chesterfield Canal

**Directorate:** R&E

**Service area:** Culture, Sport & Tourism

**Lead person:** Chris Siddall  
Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships  
[Chris.Siddall@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Siddall@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Contact:** 01709 822478

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☒

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

A masterplan to complete the restoration of the Chesterfield Canal has been proposed by the Chesterfield Canal Partnership. The Chesterfield Canal Trust are leading the scheme and are seeking a contribution of £10,000 from each of the Chesterfield Canal partners.

The vision is for the Chesterfield Canal corridor to be reclaimed as a place for the

local community to live, enjoy, and be employed; for tourists and visitors to come, play and stay; for new and existing businesses to grow and prosper; and for nature and biodiversity to thrive.

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

There are no impacts for the production of the masterplan. However, once the canal is/ has been restored the following could apply;

#### **Positive Impacts:**

##### *Improved Accessibility*

Canals can provide inclusive spaces for recreation and travel if designed with accessible towpaths, seating, and facilities.

Opportunities to reduce transport inequality by promoting active travel **routes** for all ages and abilities.

##### *Community Cohesion*

Well-designed canal spaces can foster social inclusion, bringing diverse communities together.

Engagement in planning can empower underrepresented groups and uphold participation rights.

##### *Economic & Social Opportunities*

Canal regeneration can create jobs and volunteering opportunities, supporting equal access to employment.

#### **Potential Negative Impact:**

##### *Risk of Exclusion*

Poor design may exclude disabled people, older adults, or those with mobility challenges.

Lack of multilingual signage or culturally sensitive engagement could marginalize minority groups.

##### *Safety & Security*

Vulnerable groups (e.g., women, children, LGBTQ+) may feel unsafe if lighting, surveillance, and design are inadequate.

### *Displacement & Gentrification*

Canal-side development could increase property values, risking indirect discrimination against low-income families.

| Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes | No |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?<br><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>      |     | X  |
| Could the proposal affect service users?<br><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>                                                                           |     | X  |
| Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?<br><i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>                               |     | X  |
| Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?<br><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>                               |     | X  |
| Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?<br><i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>                         |     | X  |
| Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?<br><i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>                                                                                              |     | X  |
| If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason                                                                                                                                                                                      |     |    |
| Whilst the canal, if restored would serve a diverse range of people, this specific area of work relates to desk-based research concerned with the production of an overall masterplan for the canal corridor and not to commence its implementation/ construction. |     |    |

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?**

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

Lead person for your Equality Analysis  
(Include name and job title):

## 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name           | Job title        | Date     |
|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Polly Hamilton | Service Director | 19.06.26 |
|                |                  |          |
|                |                  |          |

## 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.

**Date screening completed**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Report title and date**

Feasibility Fund: Master Plan

|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                            | Consultation for the Chesterfield Canal- 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 |
| <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> | NA                                                                      |
| <b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b><br><a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>                        | 28th November 2025                                                      |