

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: Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority

Directorate:
Regeneration and Environment

Service area:
Planning Policy

Lead person:
Winsze Lam
Assistant Planning Policy Manager

Contact:
01709 82 2874
winsze.lam@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

If other, please specify

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

This screening relates to a Cabinet report seeking approval to commence preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

The report seeks approval of the Local Plan Timetable, publication of the Notice of Intention to Commence, establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group and delegated authority arrangements to support preparation of the Local Plan.

The Local Plan will guide future development, infrastructure provision and land use decisions across the borough and will be subject to statutory consultation and engagement throughout its preparation.

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?**

The report establishes the governance arrangements for the preparation of a new Local Plan. Consideration has been given to equality and diversity through the proposed statutory consultation and engagement processes, which will seek participation from a wide range of communities and stakeholders across the borough.

The publication format of the Local Plan timetable will be in accordance with Government's specific requirement and is in compliance to accessibility standard.

The report recognises that the Local Plan process must comply with Equality Act duties and that consultation arrangements will be designed to reach a diverse range of residents and stakeholders.

The Local Plan itself will be accompanied by equality impact assessment work as it progresses through plan preparation.

- **Key findings**

The governance arrangement, publishing Local Plan timetable do not directly impact any protected characteristic group.

However, the Local Plan will ultimately influence housing delivery, infrastructure provision, accessibility to services, transport, health, education and community facilities across the borough. Consequently, there is potential for future impacts on groups with protected characteristics and vulnerable communities. Effective consultation and engagement will be important to ensure all communities have opportunities to participate in the plan-making process.

- **Actions**

Undertake a full Equality Analysis (Part B) as the Local Plan progresses.

Ensure consultation methods are accessible and available through a range of formats and channels.

Engage with protected characteristic groups and representative organisations throughout Local Plan preparation.

Continue to assess equality impacts at key plan-making stages, including Scoping Consultation, Plan Content and Evidence Consultation, and Draft Plan Consultation.

Reflect equality considerations in the Local Plan Community Engagement Strategy.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	28 August 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	28 August 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Winsze Lam Assistant Planning Policy Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director	09/09/2026
Councillor Williams	Cabinet Member	14/09/2026

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	28 August 2026
Report title and date	Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority 12 October 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet Meeting: 12 October 2026, to be sent for publication with the Cabinet report.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	28 August 2026