

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

<p>Under the Equality Act 2010 Protected characteristics are age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexuality, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity. Page 6 of guidance. Other areas to note see guidance appendix 1</p>	
Name of policy, service or function. If a policy, list any associated policies:	Permit cycling in the town centre vehicle restricted area (VRA).
Name of service and Directorate	Transportation and Highways Project, Streetpride, Economic and Development Services
Lead manager	Tom Finnegan-Smith
Date of Equality Analysis (EA)	29 November 2013
Names of those involved in the EA (Should include at least two other people)	Tom Finnegan-Smith Simon Gammons Matthew Lowe
Aim/Scope (who the Policy /Service affects and intended outcomes if known) See page 7 of guidance step 1	<p>The VRA within the town centre is a significant barrier to cyclists who may want to access facilities or services such as employment, retail and education within this area or to those cyclists who may wish to travel across the town centre. Whilst there are a number of roads that cyclists can use to travel around the town centre, many of these roads (particularly the dual carriageways such as the A630 Centenary Way) carry large volumes of traffic and HGV's, travelling at a high speed. These roads are also not direct for cyclists wishing to cross the town centre and many would find the road environment and large junctions uncomfortable and intimidating to use. In light of this it is proposed to permit cyclists to use the town centre VRA.</p> <p>The proposal could have an effect on all town centre users but in particular would bring benefits for cyclists.</p>
<p>What equality information is available? Include any engagement undertaken and identify any information gaps you are aware of. What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? See page 7 of guidance step 2</p> <p>None.</p>	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings) See page 7 of guidance step 3	<p>South Yorkshire Police were consulted on the proposal in September 2012. Had concerns about enforcement of anti-social cycling and potential impact on the visually impaired.</p> <p>Ward Members and Statutory Consultees were consulted in November 2012. One Ward Member</p>

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	<p>requested dedicated cycle lanes and bus companies via SYPTE had concerns about potential impact on the visually impaired.</p> <p>The Traffic Regulation Order to implement these changes was advertised on 19 July 2013 and in conjunction with this 366 consultation letters were sent to town centre businesses and residents. As a result of this consultation two objections were received regarding the safety impact of the proposal.</p> <p>AgeUK and Help for the Blind were contacted in writing on 25 September 2013 asking for their comments on the proposal.</p> <p>An RMBC Officer attended the Rotherham Visually Impaired Group (Action for Blind People) meeting on 12 November 2012. A formal objection received from them on 13 November 2013.</p> <p>Concerns about the safety of the proposal were expressed at the Rotherham Older People's Forum (Age UK).</p> <p>KEY FINDING: Blind/Partially sighted and older people are concerned about the impact of the change would have on the ability to use and safety in the VRA in Rotherham town centre.</p>
Engagement undertaken with staff about the implications on service users (date and group(s)consulted and key findings) See page 7 of guidance step 3	None, not required.
The Analysis	
<p>How do you think the Policy/Service meets the needs of different communities and groups? Protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexuality, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity. Rotherham also includes Carers as a specific group. Other areas to note are Financial Inclusion, Fuel Poverty, and other social economic factors. This list is not exhaustive - see guidance appendix 1 and page 8 of guidance step 4</p>	
<p>The proposal improves conditions for cyclists and provides them with an alternative route to using busier, heavily trafficked roads which surround the town centre. Cyclists come from all parts of society and it is likely that some of the cyclists riding through the town centre VRA will have protected characteristics.</p>	

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The proposal could also benefit some of the 26.6% of households in Rotherham who do not have access to a car (2011 Census) by improving access to and through the town centre where shopping and employment opportunities exist.

Analysis of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service:

See page 8 of guidance step 4 and 5

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Group? Identify by protected characteristics **Does the Service/Policy provide any improvements/remove barriers?** Identify by protected characteristics

The concern is that there would be a negative impact on Blind/Partially sighted and elderly people and that the proposal will make it dangerous for them to be in the town centre VRA. Research in other town/cities, where such proposals are in place, shows that accidents between pedestrians and cyclists were very rarely generated in pedestrianised areas (only one pedestrian/cyclist accident in 15 site years) in the sites studied (Source: *Traffic Advisory Leaflet TAL 9/93 Cycling in Pedestrian Areas*).

A way forward would be to implement the proposed change on an experimental basis and undertake extensive monitoring and engagement with potentially affected groups on a regular basis.

The current situation is the alternative to the proposed scheme; no other alternatives to the proposal are currently available.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? Identify by protected characteristics

The proposed scheme may antagonise blind/partially sighted or elderly pedestrians.

Please list any **actions and targets** by Protected Characteristic that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment and ensure that they are added into your service plan.

Website Key Findings Summary: To meet legislative requirements a summary of the Equality Analysis needs to be completed and published.