

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: Climate Emergency Annual Report 2021

Directorate: ACEX

Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Lead person: Jackie Mould

Contact number: 01709 823618

Is this a:

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

If other, please specify

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

The Climate Emergency Annual Report provides an update on actions recently taken to curb the Council's own emissions from operations, services and assets, and emissions borough-wide; progress in decarbonisation is also demonstrated through best-available data. Additionally, the report lays out a 2021/22 Carbon Action Plan to drive further decarbonisation.

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? <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? <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? <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? <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? <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? <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

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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 effects of climate change are likely to impact all people; however, the specific characteristics of individuals and groups are likely to condition the varying extents to which they are affected. These differences might be physical (e.g. physiology-based protected characteristics such as age and disability) or a difference in circumstance (e.g. socioeconomic difference). Similarly, actions taken to mitigate emissions may have their own impact by changing Council policy or services.

- **Key findings**

The physical effects of climate change are likely to disproportionately affect people according to age and their disability status (as these characteristics typically relate to vitality and physical wellbeing). For example, increasingly extreme temperature variability will disproportionately affect older people, who face significant health risks during winter. People with a disability that effects mobility may equally be disproportionately affected by challenges that temperature and rainfall variability pose to movement.

Additionally, low income groups and others with less access to financial resources are similarly likely to be disproportionately affected. This is because material wellbeing is essential to adaptation to climate change (e.g. the financial capacity to retrofit one's house to control air flow and maintain stable household temperatures in the context of increasing weather variability and fluctuating fuel prices). Those with limited finances also tend to be spatially vulnerable to climate change (e.g. living in areas vulnerable to flooding or with poor air quality).

Actions undertaken may also impact people differently dependent upon their characteristics. Considering transport as an example, which BEIS estimates suggest comprised 40% of transport emissions in 2018, actions taken here may impact accessibility to essential services differently, depending on the needs and context of specific groups and individuals.

- **Actions**

The Climate Emergency Annual Report includes a Carbon Action Plan for the mitigation of emissions. Where relevant each action has been/will be subject to its own Equalities assessment. Additionally, the Carbon Action Plan includes the development of

communications and engagement strategy, which will provide a further opportunity to engage with residents and communities, allowing equalities considerations to be further integrated into this agenda.	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	23/02/2021
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	23/02/2021
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jackie Mould Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Steve Eling	Policy and Equalities Manager	23/02/2021
Jackie Mould	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	23/02/2021

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	23/02/2021
Report title and date	Climate Emergency Annual Report 22/03/2021
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	22/03/2021
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23/02/2021