

Appendix 3 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: Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment Services	Service area: Planning Policy Team Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead person: Winsze Lam Assistant Planning Policy Manager	Contact number: 01709 82 2874
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	
A statement of common ground between several local planning authorities on strategic land use planning issues.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report is seeking Cabinet approval that the Council be a signatory to the Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground.
The Statement covers the former Sheffield City Region area. In 2021 the Combined Authority changed its name from “Sheffield City Region” to the “South Yorkshire

Mayoral Combined Authority” to better reflect the organisation and the communities it serves.

The Statement covers strategic planning issues such as energy and climate change, housing, employment, transport, natural environment, waste, digital connectivity and other matters of strategic interest.

The Statement, while not a strategy in itself, will be valuable to individual local planning authorities in taking their local plans through the government examination process. It will help demonstrate that a local planning authority has met the statutory “duty to cooperate” with neighbouring authorities and bodies in preparing its local plan.

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?		✓
Could the proposal affect service users?		✓
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		✓
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council’s services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council’s workforce or employment practices?		✓

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground is a high level strategic document that indicates in very broad terms how the targets for new homes and jobs across the region will be met. It concludes that each local planning authority will meet its own

needs within individual local authority boundaries, without any need for the redistribution of growth between authorities. The Statement does not set targets for local planning authorities, it reflects the existing targets that each authority is already planning for through adopted and emerging local plans. It demonstrates that, in aggregate, these local plan targets will meet the wider needs of the region as a whole.

As such, the Statement does not directly affect the considerations and characteristics set out for screening. Individual local plans may affect these characteristics, in how they translate targets into development sites and policies, and are subject to their own screening and assessment process. For example, the adopted Rotherham Local Plan was subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment as part of its drafting, which considered the plan's effect on equalities and diversity. This is a separate process to the Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground.

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:	n/a
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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
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Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a
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5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Andy Duncan	Planning Policy Manager	19/06/2023

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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	19/06/2023
Report title and date	Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground
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 – 18 September 2023
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	20/06/2023