

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: Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead person: Winsze Lam	Contact number: 01709 822874
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that councils can apply to new development to raise funds for local infrastructure. Rotherham’s CIL Charging Schedule was adopted by the Council on 7 December 2016 and came into force on 3 July 2017. The majority of the CIL income held by the Council is for strategic infrastructure across the borough to support growth promoted by the Local Plan.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed approach for inviting and considering applications for Strategic CIL funding for infrastructure projects and to provide an opportunity for the Cabinet to shape the approach to assessing project</p>

benefits and drawing up an overall programme of Strategic CIL-funded projects for Rotherham.

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

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?**

(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

Infrastructure funding is required to support the growth promoted by the Local Plan. The plan was subject to extensive public consultation over a number of years, culminating in a public examination by a government-appointed planning inspector. The plan was supported by an Integrated Impact Assessment, which included an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). In doing this, the effects of the planned growth on all sections of the community were comprehensively assessed; the plan was then passed by the inspector and subsequently adopted by the Council.

The EqIA for the Local Plan is in two parts, available on the website:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/310/adopted-core-strategy-integrated-impact-assessment> (pages 309-374)

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/sites-and-policies-document-integrated-impact-assessment-report-volume-3-assessment-of-policies> (pages 236-290)

The outputs and recommendations arising from the EqIA were taken into account in drafting the policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, any subsequent measures to implement the Local Plan as adopted reflect the equalities assessment and the outputs and recommendations, previously undertaken and included within the accompanying IIA. Funding infrastructure to support growth is key to successfully implementing the plan.

As part of the Core Strategy partial update 2024, an update to the Integrated Impact Assessment is currently being prepared by the Council's consultants and this assessment will be published alongside the updated Core Strategy when the first round of public consultation (Regulation 18 stage) is undertaken. There will be a further round of public consultation (Regulation 19) prior to submission of the updated Core Strategy to Government, for examination by an independently appointed planning inspector. The outputs and recommendations arising from the Health and Equalities Assessments, prepared at each stage, will be taken into account in the final draft of the updated Core Strategy prior to its submission for independent examination.

To contribute to the infrastructure funding required, the Council has implemented a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charge for Rotherham. This was also subject to public consultation and public examination, prior to being adopted by the Council.

The Cabinet report concerns an approach to prioritise, allocate and spend Strategic CIL income on infrastructure. It does not at this stage identify specific projects to receive funding as that will come out of the process. Infrastructure needs have been assessed in an Infrastructure Delivery Study, which has had input from service providers internal and external to the Council. In doing this, the infrastructure needs identified have taken account of providers' views, which in turn should be informed by their assessment of the effects on service users and equality and diversity.

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The provision of infrastructure aims to ensure the Local Plan is delivered to its fullest extent and ensure there are benefits to local people arising from new development opportunities; and that any impacts on the community and wider environment are mitigated in accordance with the vision of the Local Plan: "to minimise inequalities through the creation of strong, cohesive and sustainable communities".

Strategic CIL funds will be used for infrastructure, such as road improvements, extra school places, improved greenspaces and public transport improvements. As such they will benefit all sections of the community. Specific projects would take into account the impact on equality and diversity, eg when commissioning extra school places at a particular school, the Education Service would take into account any potential impacts when designing the scheme. Similarly, the Greenspaces service would take account of equality and diversity when designing improvements to a public park.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)

The implementation of a protocol to equitably prioritise Strategic CIL funds for infrastructure schemes is a positive and proactive approach to ensuring that the Local Plan and its policies can be implemented to its fullest extent. The process will assist the Council in achieving the best possible outcomes from new development opportunities for its own communities and all people.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

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	08/05/2024

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	30/04/2024
Report title and date	Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy
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 29 July 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	08/05/2024