

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:

Local Plan: Core Strategy Partial Update

Directorate:

Regeneration and Environment

Service area:

Planning Service

Lead person:

Helen Sleigh, Assistant Planning Policy Manager

Contact:

01709 823831

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted September 2014) has been reviewed as required by Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). An earlier Five Year Review was undertaken in July 2019. Both reviews recommend a partial update to the Core Strategy to amend several policies, and insert a new Social Value policy. The Cabinet report seeks approval for these proposed amendments to the Core Strategy policies for consultation purposes.

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?**

In preparing both the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Documents that make up the Rotherham Local Plan, the Council undertook Equalities and Health Impact Assessments. These assessments are included within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) published alongside both parts of the Local Plan on the Council's website.

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.

- **Key findings**

These findings are not yet completed; but the Integrated Impact Assessment will be published to accompany the consultation on the updated Core Strategy.

- **Actions**

Once the first round of consultation has been completed, the Council will review all consultation comments received and the key findings from the published Integrated Impact Assessment. The Council will then amend the policies of the updated Core Strategy as appropriate, prior to undertaking further consultation (Regulation 19) on the publication version (final draft) of the updated Core Strategy. All representations received at that stage (Regulation 19), the updated Core Strategy and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment will be submitted to the planning inspector, who will then examine the updated Core Strategy and the representations received, as well as any changes recommended by the IIA.

Following the examination, the inspector will issue their report to the Council with recommendations for any required changes to the updated Core Strategy to make it "sound" (legally compliant and able to be adopted by the Council). If the Council agree to

the inspector's changes, then the Council will be asked to adopt the updated Core Strategy as part of the Local Plan.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See Integrated Impact Analysis
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See Integrated Impact Analysis
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Planning Policy Team

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	19/04/2024

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	12/04/2024
Report title and date	Local Plan Core Strategy
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	12/04/2024