

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: Our Places Fund

Directorate: Regeneration & Environment

Service area: Regeneration

Lead person: Rachel Salway

**Contact:
rachel.salway@rotherham.gov.uk**

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify – Internal Capital Funding

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

At the Council meeting on the 28th of February 2024, an allocation of £2million was approved to deliver tangible improvements in places where residents live and to build on the success of the Towns and Villages Fund. This allocation has been named the Our Places Fund (OPF).

In addition, this report recommends that an additional £2million of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Mayor's Sustainability Fund be allocated to this project. This fund can be used to enhance the existing OPF scheme which in turn will create more impact and contribute to the Councils strategy to make 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving'.

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?**

The proposed projects could result in road closures being a requirement to undertake some elements of the projects. This could impact on transport routes across the borough and will need to be coordinated with other highways work to ensure minimal disruption. Plans will need to include taking into consideration protected characteristics such as disability and age where possible.

Where schemes may have an impact on equality and diversity, it is proposed that a further Equality Screening will take place, focused on that individual project to identify and mitigate any potential impacts. Where necessary, a full Equality Assessment will take place.

It is proposed that the internal landscape design team will carry out the design of the projects before either utilising highways and landscape delivery or contracting with external companies. The landscape design team, who carried out similar work on the Towns and Villages Fund, have planned this work into their work programme and are prepared to manage elements of the project delivery.

Consultation has taken place across the Borough and ran from 21st October 2024 until 17th November 2024 via Council online portals and webpages, all social media channels, press adverts and articles, via Ward Members surgeries and Ward Newsletters, via community neighbourhood teams as well as being emailed to various businesses and stakeholders and subscribers of the Councils e-newsletter. Responses were collated from the questionnaires that went out via online portals as well as paper copies from all council buildings, including libraries, the survey was advertised on digital screens, posters as well as being provided on printed surveys. Collating resident's views and encouraging data capture from protected characteristic groups such as age and different ethnic backgrounds have been encapsulated within this consultation.

Where consultation and engagement occurs with communities through the scheme development and design process, equality and diversity will be included as a key theme of consultation, to ensure that a representative range of opinions and voices are heard and listened to.

- **Key findings**

The consultation has been designed to be open to all and accessible to all resident's borough wide. Please see the main Cabinet report for a summary of the borough wide consultation.

It is the intention that these projects will improve areas most in need of intervention, being larger in size of the Towns and Villages Fund and have major impact and work towards the Councils Strategy to make 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving'.

The works will be carefully planned to ensure minimum disruption to all users. Schemes will be designed to meet the requirements of different people and communities, which will consider barriers in relation to protected characteristics. For example, public realm improvements will always assess the requirement for tactile crossings, dropped kerbs and widening of footpaths.

• **Actions**

Consultation will be undertaken in an open and transparent way, encouraging all to express their views and opinions on redevelopment plans. All consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Consultation & Engagement Policy and Toolkit.

The Project Manager will work closely with transport and highways and other departments as necessary to ensure the minimum of disruption.

Any concerns raised by residents, businesses, pedestrians and other users will be taken into consideration. Stakeholders will be involved in planned works prior to projects commencing so that consideration can be taken and necessary measures put in place to mitigate disruptions where possible.

Consultation will continue throughout the delivery of the project to ensure the project is having a positive impact on equality and diversity.

Where schemes may have an impact on equality and diversity, it is proposed that a further Equality Screening will take place, focused on that individual project to identify and mitigate any potential impacts. Where necessary, a full Equality Assessment will take place.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	To be completed during development of specific projects.
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	TBC
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Rachel Salway Project Manager Regeneration

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Lorna Vertigan	Head of Regeneration	24/10/24

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	28.10.2024
Report title and date	Our Places Fund – 16.12.2024
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	For Cabinet 16 th December 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	25.10.2024