

# Equality Impact Assessment Form



<b>Directorate:</b> Development & Regeneration	<b>Service:</b> Planning Policy
<b>Completed by:</b> Stephen Benge	<b>Date:</b> 16/05/16
<b>Subject Title:</b> Provision for Traveller Sites Development Plan Document	
<b>1. DESCRIPTION</b>	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	Yes ('Revised' rather than 'produced')
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cut back:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	No
Is a programme or project being planned:	No
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty ( <b>Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations</b> ):	No
Details of the matter under consideration:	Seeking approval to suspend preparation of a document intended to allocate sites for Gypsy and Traveller and / or Travelling Showpeople ('Traveller') accommodation, and a proposed policy against which to assess planning applications or enforcement cases relating to Traveller accommodation in West Lancashire.
<p><i>If you answered <b>Yes</b> to any of the above <b>go straight to Section 3</b></i>  <i>If you answered <b>No</b> to all the above <b>please complete Section 2</b></i></p>	
<b>2. RELEVANCE</b>	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	-
<p>If <b>Yes</b>, provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):</p> <p><i>If you answered <b>Yes</b> go to <b>Section 3</b></i></p>	-
<p>If you answered <b>No</b> to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups:</p> <p><i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i></p>	-

<b>3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION</b>	
<p>Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is / are the stakeholder(s)?</p>	<p>The Provision for Traveller Sites Development Plan Document ('Traveller Sites DPD') would impact primarily upon Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (referred to collectively as 'Travellers'), for whom the document is seeking to allocate sites for accommodation.</p> <p>Other stakeholders include landowners of the sites in question (for any sites not already owned by Travellers), nearby residents ('the settled community'), and professional bodies and other organisations who work with, or on behalf of, Travellers, for example, education, health, police, Traveller liaison officers, and religious organisations.</p> <p>The potential impact on these stakeholders is expected to be significantly less than the impact upon the Travellers themselves.</p>
<p>If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?</p>	<p>In one sense, facilitation of the provision of sufficient land to meet accommodation needs could be regarded as a 'universal service'. If this is the case, then in relation to this particular DPD, it is Travellers who need the service most, and who are most affected by this DPD.</p>
<p>Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age</li> <li>Gender</li> <li>Disability</li> <li>Race and Culture</li> <li>Sexual Orientation</li> <li>Religion or Belief</li> <li>Gender Reassignment</li> <li>Marriage and Civil Partnership</li> <li>Pregnancy and Maternity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> </ul>
<b>4. DATA ANALYSIS</b>	
<p>In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?</p>	<p>Previous engagement with the general public in relation to planning policy matters, and consultation exercises across the Borough (for example for the Local Plan between 2008 and 2013), show that it tends to be those of a white-British ethnic background and those of older age groups who most actively engage in the process of preparing general planning policy.</p> <p>In terms of this specific Traveller sites DPD, the users of the 'service' will be Travellers, who are classified as a distinct ethnic group.</p>

<p>What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage / the stakeholders?</p>	<p>The approval of the DPD for consultation (publication) will have greatest direct impact on the travelling community.</p> <p>However, it is expected that this document, were it to be approved for consultation, would also arouse interest amongst the settled community, some of whom may perceive a direct or indirect impact upon themselves.</p>
<p>What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?</p>	<p>The DPD is not a 'service' as such. This report is seeking approval to suspend preparation of a policy document. There was a relatively low response to the previous consultation on the initial draft 'options and preferred options' document (Dec 2015 – Jan 2016), and it has not been possible to glean meaningful information on people's views on the 'service'.</p> <p>In terms of customer satisfaction, levels were mixed, influenced by who the customer was, and whether or not a particular site was set out as a 'preferred option' for allocation as a Traveller site. It important to note that the 'satisfaction' was with the content / proposals of the consultation document, rather than with the way the Council engaged with stakeholders.</p>
<p>What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users / stakeholders with protected characteristics?</p>	<p>The consultation that has taken place to date comprises a 'scoping' exercise in which a limited number of specific stakeholders were asked what the DPD should cover, and the public consultation in December 2015 / January 2016 on options / preferred options, referred to above. These consultation exercises did not yield statistically significant data that could be used to determine the prevalence / distribution of protected characteristics amongst non-Traveller stakeholders (i.e. those from the settled community who have an interest in the DPD).</p>
<p>If any further data / consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:</p>	<p>The report is recommending that work on the DPD be suspended. However, if Cabinet were to recommend that preparation of the DPD continue, a further round of consultation would take place for 8 weeks (July – August 2016). This may yield further information about impact on stakeholders with protected characteristics.</p>
<p><b>5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS</b></p>	
<p>In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?</p>	<p>Were the DPD to progress to adoption, it should impact positively on Travellers (protected characteristic: ethnic background) for whom sites are proposed for allocation.</p>

	<p>If preparation of the DPD is suspended, this would be likely to impact negatively upon Travellers, as current uncertainty over their accommodation status continues. However, given the DPD only has one Traveller site being proposed for allocation with the support of its owners (and is thus not able to meet the accommodation needs of the majority of Travellers currently resident in the Borough), the likely difference in impact between suspending the preparation of the DPD and progressing the DPD would probably only be marginal.</p>
<p><b>6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT</b></p>	
<p>If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).</p>	<p>The most significant / direct negative impacts of suspending the preparation of the Traveller Sites DPD (i.e. the impacts on Travellers who have no authorised / allocated site to live on) will need to be mitigated / addressed by identifying sufficient deliverable sites to meet the Traveller accommodation needs of this Borough.</p> <p>This could be achieved in part by progressing with the Traveller Sites DPD, but, as set out in the Cabinet report, there is a likelihood of this DPD not being found sound at examination, hence the recommendation to suspend work on it. The identification of sufficient deliverable sites would thus most likely be undertaken as part of a forthcoming review of the current Local Plan.</p>
<p>What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?</p>	<p>Any unmet Traveller accommodation needs will be considered as part of the forthcoming Local Plan review. Ongoing dialogue will be sought with relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING</b></p>	
<p>When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?</p>	<p>This assessment will be reviewed when work next takes place on progressing the allocation of Traveller sites.</p>