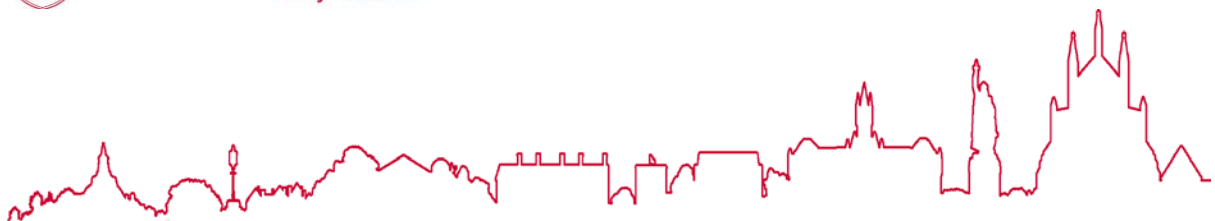


Winchester District: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document

‘Traveller DPD’

**Equalities Impact Assessment
Update**

May 2018



Introduction

- 1 The Council published its [Equalities Impact Assessment](#) of the draft Traveller DPD as part of the Regulation 19 consultation in January 2018. Whilst there are number of [proposed modifications](#), these predominantly update the DPD and clarify the expression of the policies in response to the comments received under Regulation 19.
- 2 The intent of the policies has not changed, therefore it has not been considered necessary to update the screening and scoping of policies as set out in the Regulation 19 EqIA.

Matters arising from Regulation 19 representations

- 3 The Council has been criticised for relying on the revised definition of Travellers as set out in government guidance 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' 2015, which requires local authorities to plan for the accommodation needs of travellers that comply with the revised definition i.e are still travelling.
- 4 The representation comments that this therefore unlawfully discriminates against ethnic gypsies and travellers and therefore underestimates the identified need.
- 5 The Council's response to this issue is set out in the [Submission Background Paper](#) which states (para 6.1/6.2):

'The change of definition of travellers from the 2012 version of the PPTS to that in 2015 is a matter outside the control of the Council and it would not be sound for the Council or its consultants to ignore published Government policy. The Council has simply commissioned evidence on the basis of compliance with any statutory guidance such as national planning policy.'

The Council does not therefore consider it has failed in any of its statutory duties, which through the preparation of this DPD have been reinforced.'

- 6 This paper also concludes that (para 7.2)

'It will also be noted that a review of Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 is about to commence, as recommended by the LPP2 Inspector's Report. This provides the opportunity to reassess any further sites that may be promoted and it may be necessary also to update/roll forward the GTAA to provide up to date evidence. As Government guidance deals separately with the needs of travellers who are travelling or non-travelling (according to the definition in the PPTS), the Local Plan Review is the appropriate plan in which to assess the needs of those

that are not travelling (through the strategic housing and employment market assessment) and to provide for any needs identified.'

7. The Council is also aware of the High Court challenge to the definition of travellers as set out in the PPTS. But again, is of the view that it is necessary to plan for its identified needs as established in its GTAA dated 2016 in accordance with current government guidance. When the outcome of these broader matters is known then it will be necessary for the Council to respond appropriately. As part of its local plan review, it will be necessary for the Council to commission an up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and for this to include reference to travellers that are no longer travelling, so the needs of this community are specifically addressed.

Conclusion

- 8 The Council considers the Traveller DPD as submitted is sound with no further modifications necessary from an equalities perspective.