

EQUALITIES



**NEWARK &
SHERWOOD**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework

**Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document
Preferred Strategy**

[EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT]

Service Area:

Planning Policy.

Section/service delivery/policy covered by the assessment

The Draft Newark & Sherwood District Council Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document Preferred Strategy.

Stage 1 - what is being assessed?

The Draft Newark & Sherwood District Council Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document Preferred Strategy (the Preferred Strategy).

The Preferred Strategy will form part of the District Council's Local Development Framework when it is adopted.

4th February 2015

Stage 2 - who is carrying out the assessment?

The lead officer carrying out this Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is Adrian Allenbury. It is intended that this EqIA will be put out for consultation alongside the Preferred Strategy from 23rd February 2015 to 3rd April 2015. The EqIA will then also be assessed by consultees including organisations concerned with promoting equality for those with protected characteristics such representatives of Gypsy and Traveller Communities, landowners, developers, Elected Members and members of settled communities.

Stage 3 - aims of the strategy or service

The Preferred Strategy describes the District Council's methodology for assessing the current need for pitches and plots for Gypsies and Travellers, and also future need in the short, medium and long term. It sets out the strategy proposed to address this need. The document goes on to set out the Council's approach to defining pitch size, the strategy for providing pitches in future, and to discuss the management of development in Tolney Lane, where the majority of the District's Gypsy and Traveller population currently reside.

The District Council is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its companion document 'Planning Policy for Traveller sites' (PPTS) to plan for the housing needs of the whole District, including Gypsies and Travellers. This states that the Government's overarching

aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers, which includes Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, in a way that facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life whilst respecting the interests of the settled community. The Government have recently carried out a consultation on a range of Traveller related planning issues. If this results in any changes to Government Policy they will be reflected in future stages of the Preferred Strategy's preparation.

Stage 4 - knowing our customers, communities and employees

Everyone with an interest in the District could potentially be affected by the issues addressed in the Preferred Strategy, as its scope is District-wide and it concerns future development. The most significant impacts are, however, likely to be felt by Gypsy and Traveller communities and by members of settled communities living near existing or future Traveller sites. This is because the document is about development of accommodation specifically for Gypsies and Travellers.

While Gypsies and Travellers live throughout the District, the majority are based in Newark with a significant population also to be found in or near Ollerton & Boughton. Many Gypsies and Travellers in the District live in caravans, and a number are currently in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation. Previous consultation has not found there to be any Travelling Showpeople requiring accommodation within the District, but the Council will respond accordingly if it emerges that such a need exists.

Stage 5 - background information

The Preferred Strategy draws upon Spatial Policy 1 – Settlement Hierarchy, and Core Policy 5 – Criteria for Considering Sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, of the Newark & Sherwood Core Strategy, which was adopted in March 2011. The Core Strategy, including these policies, was subject to an EqIA. This assessment found that Spatial Policy 1 would have a positive impact on all the equalities groups that were considered at this time – age, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion / belief and social inequality. The Commentary stated that 'concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services should reduce the need to travel and will benefit all. In particular it will benefit those with disabilities, older and younger people without access to the car. [sic] It may also benefit people on low incomes.'

The Core Strategy EqIA found that Core Policy 5 would have a positive impact on the age, race, disability and social inequality equalities groups, and a neutral impact on the other groups. The Commentary said 'Gypsies and Travellers are a recognised ethnic minority group and therefore this policy is beneficial in terms of 'race', as it will provide a permanent place to live. Having a permanent site will benefit younger residents of the travelling community as they will be able to benefit from continued access to educational facilities. Access to health-care facilities will also benefit the elderly, young people and those with disabilities who tend to use these facilities more frequently. A sizable proportion of the travelling community are also on low incomes.'

Stage 6 - this stage looks at barriers to accessing services and any possible discrimination that customers and communities may face

Age

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

The Preferred Strategy is likely to have a positive impact on both older adults and young people. The Core Strategy EqIA stated that Spatial Policy 1, which the Preferred Strategy builds upon, would help both older and younger people by concentrating development in accessible locations. It also concluded that Core Policy 5, which also provides a basis for the Preferred Strategy, would help both older and younger people because the provision of permanent sites would facilitate access to education and health care.

Race

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

The Preferred Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of race by seeking to reduce inequalities in the provision of appropriate accommodation in sustainable locations, and access to facilities, for Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Gender

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

The Preferred Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of gender in that the Core Strategy EqIA concluded that the implementation of

Spatial Policy 1 would be beneficial to all the equalities groups that were considered, including 'gender'.

Disability

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

The Preferred Strategy is likely to have a positive impact on people with disabilities. The Core Strategy EqIA stated that Spatial Policy 1, which the Preferred Strategy builds upon, would help people with disabilities by concentrating development in accessible locations. It also concluded that Core Policy 5, which also provides a basis for the Preferred Strategy, would help people with disabilities because the provision of permanent sites would also facilitate access to health care.

Sexual Orientation

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

The Preferred Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of sexual orientation in that the Core Strategy EqIA concluded that the implementation of Spatial Policy 1 would be beneficial to all the equalities groups that were considered, including 'sexual orientation'.

Gender reassignment

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

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Although people with the protected characteristic of ‘gender reassignment’ were not one of the equalities groups considered in the EqIA of the Core Strategy, it is reasonable to conclude that people with this protected characteristic would benefit from the implementation of Spatial Policy 1 in that this would facilitate access to support services and health care.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

Although people who may face discrimination on the basis of marriage and civil partnership were not one of the equalities groups considered in the EqIA of the Core Strategy, it is reasonable to conclude that people facing this kind of discrimination would benefit from the implementation of Spatial Policy 1 in that this would facilitate access to support services.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact √	Negative Impact	Nil Impact

Although people who may experience inequality on the basis of pregnancy and maternity were not one of the equalities groups considered in the EqIA of the Core Strategy, it is reasonable to conclude that pregnant women and mothers, as well as other primary care givers, would

benefit from the implementation of Spatial Policy 1 in that this would facilitate access to support services and health care.

Religion or belief					
Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Nil Impact
√			√		

The Preferred Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of religion or belief in that the Core Strategy EqIA concluded that the implementation of Spatial Policy 1 would be beneficial to all the equalities groups that were considered, including this one. Accommodation in accessible locations would facilitate access to places of worship, support services and other community facilities.

Other groups or issues (e.g. socio-economic)					
Access to service			Delivery of service		
Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Nil Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Nil Impact
√			√		

The implementation of Spatial Policy 1 would be beneficial to people at risk of experiencing inequality for socio-economic reasons as it will facilitate access to public transport, health care, education and other community facilities. As research¹ suggests that Gypsy and Traveller communities often experience disproportionate socio-economic disadvantage, the implementation of Core Policy 5 may also be considered to

¹For example, Roads to Success (Irish Traveller Movement in Britain 2010)

have a positive impact upon people at risk of experiencing inequality for socio-economic reasons.

Stage 7 - Action plan and Policy Review

From the previous section list the specific actions required to address any problems you have identified: N/a

Action	Service Plan / Delivery Plan	Officer responsible	Timescale	Resources	Milestones, monitoring and review details

Date of next review September 2016

Stage 8 – Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

No major change needed √	Adjust the policy/proposal	Adverse impact but continue	Stop and remove the policy and proposal
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Stage 9 – Confirmation and publish the results

I confirm that these actions are being adopted as everyday practice and if necessary incorporated into the Service Plan or Delivery Plan.

Signed by lead officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Date:

4th February 2015