



Environment and Community Panel
Tuesday, 9th April, 2024 at 4.30 pm
**in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market
Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary
Documents**

1. **UPDATED - Cabinet Report - Gypsy and Traveller Preferred Sites - 30
minutes (Pages 2 - 23)**

Contact

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REPORT TO CABINET

Open/Exempt		Would any decisions proposed:		
Any especially affected Wards Emneth with Outwell Methwold Wiggshall South Creake Upwell, Outwell and Delph Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole	Mandatory/	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	NO	
	Discretionary/	Need to be recommendations to Council	YES	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision	YES	
Lead Member: <i>cllr.James.Moriarty@West-Norfolk.gov.uk</i>		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr Terry Parish and other cabinet members		
		Other Members consulted: Council briefing on 21/3/24		
Lead Officer: Stuart Ashworth <i>Stuart.ashworth@west-norfolk.gov.uk</i>		Other Officers consulted: Planning policy team, Development Management Team, Strategic Housing Team, Planning Enforcement		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s) .				

Date of meeting: 11th April 2024

LOCAL PLAN – GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE PROPOSED SITES AND POLICY CONSULTATION

Summary

As part of the Local Plan process, the Council has previously produced a draft consultation document on proposed locations to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople in the Borough. This was subject to a public consultation period between the 26th January and the 8th March 2024. It incorporated the list of existing sites across the Borough, and was predominantly made up of extensions to many of those sites. The consultation also included the methodology used for individual site assessments, those sites that are potential areas to accommodate the identified needs, and planning policies to manage such developments over the plan period to 2039. This formed the first part of the consultation process for the Gypsy and Traveller part of the Local Plan process.

The consultation period was successful in that over 150 responses were received. This information has helped the Planning Policy Team in refining the

policy and proposals, and in making further recommendations to Council regarding proposed allocations for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople provision, required for the Local Plan to progress.

This report to Cabinet seeks authority to proceed with a further and final period of consultation on those proposed (allocated) sites for Gypsy and Traveller use. The consultation documents will identify the changes made since the previous consultation earlier this year. This additional period of consultation will run for a 6-week period, with any comments received submitted to the Inspectors in July 2024 for their consideration at the Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople specific Local Plan Examination hearings in early September 2024.

Recommended that:

1. Cabinet endorses the revised Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Proposed Sites and Policy document, the Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Document, the associated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment, for consultation, for a period of 6 weeks from the 10th May until the 21st June 2024.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration, and the Assistant Director – Environment & Planning, to include minor amendments as required to the consultation document prior to consultation starting from the 10th May.

Reason for Decision

The Borough Council should allocate enough land to meet the accommodation needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the first five years of the Plan period to 2027, in accordance with National Planning Policy.

Cabinet approval is being sought to publish those proposed site allocations for consultation. It is also seeking authority to make minor amendments to the consultation document as necessary for clarity ahead of the final formal consultation period. Full Council will also need to endorse the final proposed site-specific allocations and policies for submission to the Planning Inspectors as part of the ongoing Local Plan Examination.

1. Background

1.1 In January 2023, the Council commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to support the examination of the emerging Local Plan. This study provides the evidence on the accommodation need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople that we will plan for until 2039.

1.2 The GTAA is an essential requirement of the Local Plan, and need must be met as part of the Local Plan process. National guidance on this is

provided in the Government's planning policy for traveller sites (PPTS) revised December 2023.

1.3 The information provided in the GTAA is based on interviews with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople that were undertaken on sites and yards across the Borough. It identifies accommodation needs for households that meet the planning definition of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople as required by National Planning Policy; it also covers households who do not and households that are undetermined. Those household needs that do not meet the definition or are undetermined will be managed in accordance with proposed policies in the consultation document and other Local Plan policies under examination.

1.4 The GTAA identified a need for 102 pitches over the plan period, but importantly 76 of these were identified to be provided within the first 5 years of the plan. It should be noted that the PPTS states that there is a requirement to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites, so it is particularly important that this need is met early within the plan period.

1.5 Since the publication of the GTAA last June, three appeal decisions and a number of planning approvals for Gypsy and Traveller provision has resulted in the number of pitches required over the plan period and within the first 5-years being reduced from 102 to 95 and 76 to 69 respectively. This figure could also change further with pending applications and appeals in the system. Provision for Travelling Showpeople remains the same.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Requirements to 2039

Year Period	Dates	Need
0-5	2023-2027	69
6-10	2028-2032	10
11-15	2033-2037	11
16-17	2038-2039	5
0-17		95

Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Requirements to 2039

Year Period	Dates	Need
0-5	2023-2027	3
6-10	2028-2032	1
11-15	2033-2037	1
16-17	2038-2039	0
0-17		5

1.6 In response to the GTAA requirements, when assessing potential sites, site-specific constraints such as access issues, access to local services

and flood risk have been assessed. The assessment of sites has then identified whether sites are available, suitable and deliverable for further development, through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Document.

- 1.7 The Council believes that where existing sites have a direct opportunity to meet these localised accommodation needs, then priority should be made to accommodate this on existing sites, subject to any constraints being satisfactorily overcome.
- 1.8 In cases where there is little likelihood that constraints can be suitably mitigated, then a planning judgement has been made on whether the need for Gypsy and Traveller provision outweighs those constraints, or those sites have been removed from any further consideration.
- 1.9 The policies in the consultation document identify the final list of sites and yards that have the potential to accommodate the required need. In most cases, the need will be accommodated on existing and established sites with only a small number being delivered on new sites.
- 1.10 Proposed revised Policy A provides a framework to assess any future planning proposals for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who meet the planning definition in National Planning Policy. Policy B provides a framework for those Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who do not meet the planning definition in National Planning Policy. In addition, there is further set of site-specific policies that are included for those new sites or where existing sites are proposed to have an extension. No site-specific policy is needed for those sites where only intensification is planned as these will be assessed against the criteria-based Policy which is also subject to this consultation.
- 1.11 The full document is available (together with the supporting material) at the Council's Local Plan Examination page of the website. The documents include:
 - The Proposed Site Allocations for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people Accommodation 2024; (and supplementary Technical Note);
 - Consultation Response Table;
 - The Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessments 2024;
 - Gypsy and Traveller Consultation Statement;
 - The Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment 2024; and
 - The Sequential Test and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2024.

2.0 Results of the previous consultation

2.1 There were over 130 individual representations from both the public and statutory consultees to the previous consultation between January and March. The main issues identified included:

- Impact on highway capacity and safety.
- Impact on the local landscape and the character of the area concerned.
- Impact on local heritage assets.
- Increase in flooding and drainage issues.
- Impact to the local environment and wildlife.
- The remote location of the proposed sites.
- Lack of social and physical infrastructure to support the increase in people.
- Previous planning decisions.

2.2 It should be noted that the vast majority of the responses related to potential new sites at West Dereham and Blackborough End, Middleton. Both of these sites have not been put forward as potential allocations within the list of proposed final sites.

2.3 The responses to the consultation have assisted the Planning Policy Team in making the following changes to the documents:

- Update the Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Report where appropriate.
- Remove sites GT67, GTRA(B), GT42, GT43, GTRA(C), GT35, GT37, GT38, F3.1 from further consideration either due to planning decisions since the previous consultation or through information received from the consultation.
- Include sites GT29 and GT65 into the next round of consultation due to accommodation needs arising from these sites and these now being made available for consideration.
- Distinguish between the sites being safeguarded from those sites being allocated within the consultation document.
- Revise existing proposed planning policies and include new planning policies for sites where appropriate.
- Update the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in response to the consultation feedback, where appropriate.
- Update the Sustainability Appraisal in response to the consultation feedback, where appropriate.
- Produce a Habitat Regulations Assessment in accordance with National Planning Policy.

2.4 All responses have been used to help inform the Consultation documents for the forthcoming proposed consultation in May.

3.0. Consultation process

3.1 The main elements of this proposed consultation process are intended to be:

Web version of the Local Plan Review document with ability to enter comments against particular paragraphs or policies	Using our 'Objective' consultation system to enable easy entry of comments and subsequent analysis
E-mail notification of consultees; parish and town councils; other interested parties – parties who were consulted for the recent Consultation on additional evidence base documents (September/ October 2023) and any other parties that have subsequently expressed an interest in the ongoing Local Plan process	Wide notification of the fact that the LPR is at consultation and response / clarification opportunities.
Libraries	Hard copies of the reports will be made available at the following locations: Gaywood Library Kings Lynn Library Dersingham Library Downham Market Library Wisbech Library Hunstanton Library
Council Offices	Hard copies of the reports will be made available at the Council Offices at Kings Court, Kings Lynn

2.2 In terms of timescale we would aim to start the consultation from the 10th May and finish on the 21st June 2024 (6 weeks). Responses would then be forwarded to the Inspectors ahead of the reconvened Examination Hearing on the 3-4 September 2024.

4. Options Considered

4.1 **Option 1** - Do not undertake the consultation on Gypsy and Traveller sites This is essential work that must be carried out to help deliver the Local Plan, to finish the Local Plan Examination Hearings, to enable the plan to progress ultimately to adoption in early 2025.

Therefore, not undertaking the work is not considered to be a realistic option.

4.2 **Option 2** – Carry out the consultation on Gypsy and Traveller sites to ensure this element and ultimately the Local Plan can be completed. This is clearly the preferred and only realistic option. The Sustainability Appraisal

supporting the proposals considers several “reasonable alternative” options considered as part of the strategy to accommodate the need for Gypsy and Travellers. These include:

- Provide the need on existing authorised sites; and/ or
- Provide the need on existing authorised sites and authorise those suitable pitches that are currently unauthorised or tolerated; and/ or
- Provide new sites to accommodate the need and/ or
- Provide the need through a combination of the above mechanisms.

All of these potential options have been subject to the previous potential sites and policy consultation between January and March 2024.

It is considered to continue with this strategy, although with some notable alterations (described in section 2 above), following the first round of consultation.

5. Policy Implications

5.1 If the Council does not adequately address the accommodation needs for our communities, then it is likely to lead to issues with the Local Plan during the examination on Gypsy and Traveller provision scheduled for September 2024. This could then lead to a delay in adopting the Local Plan and would leave the Borough vulnerable to unwanted or speculative development proposals, potentially granted through the planning appeals process.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None specifically.

7. Personnel Implications

7.1 None specifically.

8. Statutory Considerations

8.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Regulation 18 outlines the requirements for the consultation etc.

8.2 The wider plan preparation process is covered in the Regulations, and practice guidance from Government, including that of Duty to Cooperate. Plan-making is covered by the following primary legislation:

- 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended);
- 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended);
- 2011 Localism Act (as amended);
- 2023 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (to be implemented during 2024).

9. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 A full EIA is attached.

10. Risk Management Implications

10.1 The Council has a duty under the Housing Act 2004 and the Equality Act 2010 to provide a sufficient supply of homes to accommodate all housing needs in the borough through the Local Plan. This includes the provision for Gypsies and Travellers. If the Council fails to meet these needs, then it could have negative implications for the progression of the Local Plan through its Examination and likely lead to speculative developments and unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments around the Borough.

11. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1. None

12. Background Papers

(Definition: Unpublished work relied on to a material extent in preparing the report that disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based. A copy of all background papers must be supplied to Democratic Services with the report for publishing with the agenda)

	Planning Policy examination web page: Local Plan Review (2016-2036) examination Local Plan Review (2016-2036) examination Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (west-norfolk.gov.uk)
Gypsy and Traveller Potential Sites and Policy Consultation Document	Report to be made available before Cabinet.
Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessments	Report to be made available before cabinet.
Gypsy and Traveller Consultation Statement	Report to be made available before cabinet.
Gypsy and Traveller Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment (External Report)	Report to be made available for the consultation on the 10 th May 2024.
Gypsy and Traveller Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 2) (External Report)	Report to be made available for the consultation on the 10 th May 2024.



**Pre-Screening Equality Impact
Assessment**

Name of policy/service/function	Local Plan Review – Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. Planning Policy, Planning Service				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?	New Existing, but it is now being reviewed as part of the ongoing examination in public of the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan.				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	The Council is required to undertake work to demonstrate that it can accommodate the current and future accommodation needs for the Gypsy and Traveller Community. The Council has produced a Potential sites/ locations and Policies to deal with meeting the identified accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travelers and Travelling Showpeople in the Borough to 2039.				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			x	
	Disability			x	
	Gender			x	
	Gender Re-assignment			x	
	Marriage/civil partnership			x	
	Pregnancy & maternity			x	
	Race	x			
	Religion or belief	x			
	Sexual orientation			x	
	Other (eg low income)			x	
Question	Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	Yes/ No	The proposed planning policies have been produced to specifically manage future development needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Gypsies and Travellers are classed as a “protected group” under the 2010 Equality Act, so their accommodation needs must be addressed accordingly.			
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	Yes/ No	Due to the unique accommodations needs for the Gypsy and Traveller community, the proposed sites and policy provide some departure to existing planning policies for other forms of housing accommodation.			
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	Yes / No	No, the Policy is designed to enable a positive planning policy mechanism for the Gypsy and Traveller community to apply for Planning Permission.			
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	Yes / No	<p>Actions: None</p> <p>Actions agreed by EWG member: N/a</p>			
Assessment completed by: Luke Brown	10				
Job title Senior Planning Policy Officer					

Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.



Stage 2 - Full Equality Impact Assessment Form

1. What is the service area(s) and who is the lead officer?

- List the Executive Director and Service Manager, plus the person completing this assessment if different. Geoff Hall, Alex Fradley and Luke Brown

The proposed sites and policy framework form part of the wider policy requirements (under the National Planning Policy Framework) for the ongoing examination of the emerging Local Plan for Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. Once adopted, the Local Plan (including the policy for the provision for Gypsies and Travellers) will replace existing policy for the provision for Gypsies and Travellers currently identified in the Core Strategy.

The proposed policy seeks to support the Local Plan's progression through its examination and enable the Council to successful meet its wider policy and legal obligations.



2. What change are you proposing?

The Council has a legal duty under the Housing Act 2004 and through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to accommodate the housing needs of the borough, including those for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

The NPPF states that '*Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, **travellers**, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes*'.

Having a lack of supply of permanent accommodation can adversely affect the travelling community. Providing enough suitable accommodation improves the ability to meet other primary needs, especially education and health. Accommodation also enables Gypsy and Travellers to continue to live a nomadic life, in line with their culture and traditions. It also enables greater access to employment opportunities for families to remaining together.

The provision of suitable permanent accommodation also reduces the risk of unauthorised encampments across the Borough.

The Council is seeking to provide enough land to meet the accommodaton needs for the Gypsy and Traveller community over the Plan period, but more speciffcaly within the first five years of Plan. This will be through a combination of sites and locations to site future provision and planning policies to manage new development proposals as they come forward.

This will be a key decision by elected members moving forward in April 2024.



3. How will this change help the council achieve its Corporate Strategy priorities (and therefore your Directorate/service objectives)?

The further consultation document on the proposed sites and policy framework aims to enhance the 'Support our communities' objective within the Corporate Strategy 2023. This will support the health and wellbeing of our communities, help prevent homelessness, assist people with access to benefits advice and ensure there is equal access to opportunities.

We will:

- Increase the number of good quality new homes and associated infrastructure built through direct provision by working with registered social landlords and private sector developers. The Policy will provide space for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches and plots and accommodation. This will increase the supply of accommodation for the community where it is required.
- encourage private sector housing development that supports local need, delivers on local infrastructure and meets environmental and biodiversity requirements, The policy will support and encourage the development of both private family pitches/sites and social sites to best meet the identified need of the Gypsy and Traveller community in West Norfolk.



4. What is your evidence of need for change?

To understand the level of need required for the Gypsy and Traveller community, the Council produced a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment in May 2023. This document identified that there is a need for:

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Requirements to 2039

Year Period	Dates	Need (number of pitches)
0-5	2023-2027	69
6-10	2028-2032	10
11-15	2033-2037	11
16-17	2038-2039	5
0-17		95

**the accommodation need has been reduced from the original GTAA to reflect recent planning decisions and appeals.*

Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Requirements to 2039

Year Period	Dates	Need (number of plots)
0-5	2023-2027	3
6-10	2028-2032	1
11-15	2033-2037	1
16-17	2038-2039	0
0-17		5

Currently, the Council cannot meet these needs under its existing policy framework and is therefore not compliant with the provisions of National Planning Policy and other legislation such as the Housing Act 2004.

It is critical that the Council addresses this issue through the ongoing Local Plan examination so that the Local Plan can be found 'sound' and the Council meets its legal obligations under national planning policy and other legislation.

The proposed consultation document seeks to demonstrate how the Council seeks to meet these accommodation needs for the Gypsy and Traveller community over the plan period.



5. How will this change deliver improved value for money and/or release efficiency savings?

Providing a policy framework for accommodating the needs for Gypsies and Travellers will enable pitches to come forward in a planned and sustainable way to meet the identified accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community. Planned development reduces the likelihood of unauthorised encampments, which in turn reduces planning enforcement cases and planning appeals on such sites. This will save the Council time in determining planning applications, reduce time spent on planning enforcement and lead to less planning appeals in the future.

6. What geographical area does this proposal cover?

The proposed sites and policy affect all of the Borough, although the individual sites identified will affect some communities more than others. The proposed sites for accommodating Gypsies and Travellers are located in:

- Emneth with Outwell
- Methwold
- Wiggshall
- South Creake
- Downham Market
- Upwell, Outwell and Delph
- Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole



7. What is the impact of your proposal?

The document proposes to allocate a number of sites across the borough to accommodate the needs for the Gypsy and Traveller community. The majority of this need will be accommodated on existing sites, where appropriate, to address direct needs arising from specific sites.

Those existing sites have access to basic services such as water, electricity and sewage. There are also dayrooms and toilet blocks available on these sites. Any new sites would need to accommodate such infrastructure provision within their development. Their more remote locations mean access to wider education and health services are more limited. The Council will seek to improve access to such services through this Policy. On site facilities and accommodation will also be conditioned through the planning process to make sure they're suitable in terms of accessibility and up to building standards.

The general accommodation needs for the Borough are in response to overcrowding on existing sites and teenagers living with family will need their own pitches in the future. New accommodation provision will enable those younger people or those who are living in overcrowded conditions to have their own pitch/plot. It also enables family member to remain with their wider family on existing sites.

The intensification of existing sites and/ or new sites will provide a positive impact in terms of meeting accommodation needs for Gypsy and Travellers, but could lead to some negative impact on existing communities in terms of an impact on existing infrastructure and the environment. Where such constraints are identified, the Council will seek to minimise any negative impacts through the selection of the most suitable locations which will have the least impact on existing communities.

The proposed policy also reduces conflict in terms of enabling the expansion of existing sites thereby reducing the likelihood of planning enforcement or legal cases in the future. The risk is greater if the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community are not met. Therefore, steps to mitigate potential negative impacts are critical.

It promotes equality in terms of enabling the community to have access to accommodation in line with other forms of accommodations needs as identified in the Local Plan.



8. What data have you used to support your assessment of the impact of your proposal?

The primary objective of this GTAA is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council (the Council) area.

As well as updating previous GTAAs, the assessment provides a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of Local Plan Policies and, where appropriate, identify the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the plan period 2023 to 2039. This will enable the Council to meet the 15-year requirements set out in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). The outcomes of this study supersede the outcomes of any previous GTAAs for King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council.

The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in the Council area through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews, and engagement with members of the Travelling Community living on all known sites, yards, and encampments.

A total of 141 interviews or proxy interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers living on sites and on the roadside in King's Lynn & West Norfolk, and a total of 15 interviews were completed with Travelling Showpeople. No interviews were completed with households living in bricks and mortar.

A total of 5 stakeholder interviews were also completed. These included Norfolk County Council, Breckland DC, Fenland DC, South Holland BC and North Norfolk DC.

The fieldwork for the study, including the interviews, was completed between January 2023 and May 2023, and the baseline date for the study is May 2023.

This data and information is publically accessible in the GTAA which is published on the Council's website.

This data was then used to help inform the assessment of sites, The finalised list of proposed sites are those where a direct accommodation need is present and/ or where there is room for expansion.



9. What consultation has been undertaken/will need to be undertaken with stakeholders/ groups directly or indirectly impacted by the proposals and how do you intend to use this information to inform the decision?

Stage 1 of the process was to prepare the Consultation Document which included discussions and consultation with relevant internal and external statutory consultees, neighbouring authorities on existing issues.

Stage 2 of the process is to seek the views and opinions of the wider public. All responses from this public consultation have been reviewed and these have helped inform the final consultation document which will be subject to a decision at Full Council in March 2024. A separate Consultation Statement will detail all responses received and how the Council has sought to address any concerns or issues raised. This will be published for Cabinet.

Stage 3: A further consultation will take place on the Council's proposed sites for allocation in the Local Plan. This is likely to take place in May and June 2024 for a 6-week period after Council approval on the 23rd April 2024.

10. Are there any implications for other service areas?

The proposed sites and policy consultation will have implications for Housing Standards Service in terms of providing comments to consultations and planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller provision.

Communications Service in terms of supporting the planning service through communicating and promoting public consultations.

Planning service in relation to their time and resource in determining future planning applications.



11. What impact (either positive or negative) will this change have on different groups of the population?

The Council are required to meet all accommodation needs for the borough through the Local Plan. This does include other groups and communities such as accommodation for older people, affordable housing and specialist housing for people with disabilities. The Local Plan is already proposing policies for these areas and are currently subject to Government examination.

The proposed sites and policy for Gypsy and Travellers will have a positive affect on the Gypsy and Traveller community. It seeks to address their current unmet accommodation needs and enable planning proposals for such accommodation to be determind through more up-to-date policy. It enables the Local Plan to adequately address the accommodation needs for this area along with other accommodations policies as mentioned previously.

The document also seeks to address their individual accommodation needs – specifically where a localised need has been identified on existing sites. This need is largely a result of existing family members or teenagers seeking their own pitches/plots, but currently have no where to go.

The location of sites is broadly in those locations where the Gypsy and Traveller community wish to stay.

The policy will likely have some negative impact on those existing communities where there are proposals to intensify or identify new sites and locations for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. These impacts are likely to include impacts to existing infrastructure – especially where existing communities are small in size, impacts to the character of these area in terms of their built form and impacts to the environment, where new sites or extensions to existing sites are proposed on greenfield land.

The Council is confiendent however that any negative impacts can be mitigated through the citing and design of these sites/developments and also through the proposed criteria based policy for assessing planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.



12. Other Staff Involved in Assessment (including Corporate Equality Group Representatives), and comments from Equality Work Group Reps

- Stuart Ashworth – Assistant Director for Planning
- Michael Burton – Principal Planning Policy Officer
- Alex Fradley – Planning Policy Manager
- Members of the Corporate Equality Working Group, who have been consulted with and contributed to the full impact assessment as presented.



Full EIA Action Plan

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Risk/adverse impact identified (Q11)	Action to be taken to mitigate	By who <i>Include a lead officer for implementing the actions</i>	By when <i>Deadlines/timescales for implementing the actions</i>	Monitoring mechanism <i>What indicators will you use to track the impact of the change when implemented? How will you review its implementation? How do you intend to monitor service take-up?</i>
Impact to existing communities for the proposed sites and locations	A public consultation period is planned so that the wider public and other can review the policy and provide feedback to the Council.	Planning Policy	26 th January until 8 th March 2024	The policy will form part of the monitoring framework for the Local Plan.
Impact to existing communities for the proposed sites and locations	A further public consultation period is planned so that the wider public and other can review the policy and provide feedback to the Council.	Planning Policy	10 th May – 21 st of June 2024.	The policy will form part of the monitoring framework for the Local Plan.



Assessment Completed By: Luke Brown
Job Title: Senior Planning Policy Officer
Date: 27/03/2024