

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Gypsy Travellers Site Allocation Policy
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocation Policy sets out Southampton City Council's (the council) approach to allocating pitches at the council's Kanes Hill site, located in Botley Road, Thornhill. It sets out how the council determines priorities and the procedure for allocating pitches.</p> <p>At present, the council provides an authorised fixed site with a total of 14 residential pitches for Travellers at Kanes Hill. As such, there is a high demand from Gypsy and Travellers for permanent sites in Southampton. The purpose of the Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Policy is to define a consistent framework, which can be used to allocate the limited number of vacancies that are available.</p> <p>Gypsy's and Travellers is used as a generic term to denote the whole population of those groups, families and individuals who subscribe to Gypsy and Traveller culture and/or lifestyle. The term encompasses ethnic Gypsies and Travellers and those who fall within the legal definition of a 'Gypsy' (s24 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 as amended by s80 of the Criminal Justice and Public order Act 1994).</p> <p>The council aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide both eligible and qualifying applicants with a pitch • Ensure pitches are allocated fairly and efficiently, taking into 	

<p>account the applicant's individual needs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make best use of all the available pitches. 	
Summary of Impact and Issues	
<p>The council acknowledges that the right to choose to lead a nomadic existence is in law and that it is not the role of a local authority to endorse, disrupt or discourage this lifestyle.</p> <p>The development of this policy will allow the council to clarify its position on how it intends to allocate pitches at Kanes Hill and will reflect the latest position in terms of regulation and processes. This policy does not represent any significant changes to service, but will outline what the council is already doing.</p>	
Potential Positive Impacts	
<p>The Gypsy Travellers Site Allocation Policy will allow the council to continue to allocate pitches at Kanes Hill and ensure it is used to its best effect so that homelessness is avoided wherever possible. Furthermore, this policy will allow the council to maximise the opportunity for Gypsies and Travellers to access pitches suitable for their needs.</p>	
Responsible Service Manager	Matt Luik, District Housing Manager
Date	29 August 2019
Approved by Senior Manager	Steve Smith, Service Lead Council Housing & Neighbourhoods Adults, Housing, & Communities
Date	29 August 2019

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	No identified impacts	
Disability	No identified impacts	The council have specialist officers that assess whether applicants require urgent re-housing on disability, medical or welfare grounds. A very small proportion of applicants are assessed as having an urgent need to move because of disability, medical or welfare grounds.
Gender Reassignment	No identified impacts	
Marriage and	No identified impacts	

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Civil Partnership		
Pregnancy and Maternity	No identified impacts	
Race	No identified impacts	
Religion or Belief	No identified impacts	
Sex	No identified impacts	
Sexual Orientation	No identified impacts	
Community Safety	No identified impacts	
Poverty	No identified impacts	
Health & Wellbeing	No identified impacts	
Other Significant Impacts	No identified impacts	

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