

Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA) Form 2010/2011



Part A: Overview			
1 Name of service, policy, strategy, procedure, or function etc		To save space services, policies, strategies, procedures and functions will be referred to as "functions" for the rest of this form!	
Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan (Review)			
2 Directorate	Places Directorate	3 Division/Service	Places Directorate – Policy and Spatial Planning Services
4 FTA lead	Emma Tinsley-Evans, Principal Planning Officer Sarah James, Principal Planning Officer (Review)	5 Other members of FTA team	Mark Collyer, Housing Strategy Officer Laura Slegg-Newton, Places Directorate Equalities and Diversity Officer Karen Grant, Head of Equalities and Diversity
6 Is this a new, existing or revised function?			New
Part B: Background			
7 What outcomes are wanted from this function?			
<p>Solihull's Sustainable Communities Strategy for 2008-18, 'One Borough: an Equal Chance for All' sets out the shared vision for the Borough for the organisations within the Solihull Partnership. This vision is that by 2018 'everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous'.</p> <p>The Sustainable Communities Strategy also states that giving everyone an equal chance means 'faster rates of improvement to close the gap in outcomes between the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and the majority'. It is acknowledged nationally that Gypsies and Travellers are amongst the most socially excluded groups in society.</p> <p>The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan will form part of the Council's Local Development Framework. The Plan sets out the Council's strategy and approach to meeting the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the borough to 2027 and includes the identification of sites that the Council considers are suitable. The Borough's future pitch requirements are identified through the 2012 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). The Plan will also guide decision-making on future planning applications for Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>Previous Cabinet Member reports and the FTA have referred to a Gypsy And Traveller Sites Allocations Development Plan Document. To reflect the Local Plan regulations 2012, National Planning Policy Framework and the National Planning Policy Guidance, the 'Development Plan Document' will now be referred to as a 'Plan'. The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan is part of the Development Plan.</p> <p>There are currently two definitions of Gypsies and Travellers; a planning definition and a housing definition. The planning definition covers: <i>"Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group"</i></p>			

of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such."

However, for the purposes of this Plan, and to ensure that the accommodation needs of all Gypsies and Travellers are considered (including those who do not have a nomadic habit of life but may still have a strong cultural tradition of living in a caravan or an aversion to bricks and mortar and be in need of a pitch), the wider definition as outlined in the 2004 Housing Act is being used. This defines Gypsies and Travellers as:

"Persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:

(i) such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and

(ii) members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such)."

The overarching challenge for the Plan is set out in the Solihull Local Plan as follows:

"A shortage of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in Solihull to meet identified needs and the need to maintain an appropriate level of supply."

The Vision for the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan is that by 2027 Solihull will be a Borough where:

"Gypsies and Travellers have the same opportunities and responsibilities as the settled community to secure a decent home which allows them to pursue and preserve their traditional way of life and there is sufficient land and pitches available to meet the identified local need for accommodation.

Sites are well located, sustainable and of high quality where residents enjoy living and where they and the site are well integrated with the wider local community.

The number of unauthorised developments and encampments are significantly reduced and there are harmonious relationships between the Gypsy and Traveller and the settled community.

The recognised inequalities faced by the Gypsy and Traveller community are being tackled and Gypsies and Travellers can meet their own aspirations.

Where both the Gypsy and Traveller community and the settled community have security and certainty about their future and that of their local environment."

The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. The formal hearing session took place in December 2013. At the hearing, the Inspector considered all aspects of the Plan, to test its legal compliance and soundness. The Inspector heard from the Council and witnesses both in support and opposition to the Plan.

Following the hearing in January 2014 the Council received the Inspector's note on the submitted Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan. The note raised some concerns about its soundness, primarily regarding:

- (a) Interpretation of national policy in relation to the Council's failure to identify Green Belt allocations as insets within the Green Belt;
- (b) The standard of provision at the existing Haven site, Catherine-de-Barnes Lane, and the need to reduce the number of additional pitches to around 6 and, then, only as part of a comprehensive redevelopment of the whole site;

(c) Requesting that the Council explore which of the omission sites would be most favoured to accommodate the shortfall of pitches, resulting from the reduction in pitches at The Haven site allocation.

Notwithstanding the above concerns, the Inspector appeared to be content with other aspects of the Plan, including all legal and procedural requirements. The Inspector asked the Council to consider Main Modifications to the Plan to overcome her concerns and reflect the key elements of national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. These main modifications have been produced and this FTA has been updated to reflect these.

8 Are any other departments or partners involved in the delivery of the function?

Central and Cecil Housing Trust (CCHT), a housing association with links to the travelling community, has provided a 'floating' support service to Gypsies and Travellers within the Solihull area for the last 4 years. This includes:

- Developing independent living skills
- Assistance on gaining access to other services
- Help to make sure the clients accommodation is safe and secure
- Managing finances and benefit claims

CCHT has built good relationships with Gypsies and Travellers in the borough and is developing links and understanding between the Gypsy and Traveller community and statutory and voluntary service providers.

The service is funded through the Council's Supporting People budget.


9 How are/will they be involved in this assessment?

Both CCHT and Gypsies and Travellers have been involved in this assessment through the development of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull' and this Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan.

Part C: Monitoring/data

10 What data is available for you to monitor the impact of the function?

<p>a Quantitative</p>	<p>Data is available on the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers from the GTAA (Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment) that was completed in 2012. The 2012 GTAA was endorsed by Members as the evidence base for further policy development in March 2012 and is available on the Council's website at www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf. The GTAA identifies that between 2012 and 2027 a total of 38 additional permanent residential pitches are required in Solihull. This is divided into 3 five year tranches as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 - 2017: 26 pitches • 2017 – 2022: 6 pitches • 2022 – 2027: 6 pitches <p>The Caravan Count has also been considered, although this collects information on the number of caravans in the borough bi-annually and does not give any details on the strands discussed in the assessment below, its use</p>
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	therefore has been limited within this FTA. Policy P6 of the Solihull Draft Local Plan on 'Provision of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers' includes monitoring indicators to ensure delivery of the Policy.
b Qualitative	A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull which was approved for consultation in July 2010. This is an overarching strategy for how the Solihull Partnership will respond to the needs to the Gypsy and Traveller community within the borough. National research reports including the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Input from the Central and Cecil Floating Support Service. At the examination hearing session in December 2013 the Inspector considered all aspects of the Plan, to test its legal compliance and soundness. The Inspector heard from the Council and witnesses both in support and opposition to the Plan. The key areas of debate at the hearing were: the Gypsy and Traveller strategy; locating pitches within the Green Belt; the overall pitch requirement for the plan period (2012-2027); the proposed site allocations and; alternative sites put forward by representors. This additional evidence is now available to review this FTA.
11 Do you currently monitor the function across different groups of people? If not, please explain why this is the case and consider Q.12	Inequality is disadvantage in all forms; please use "m" to record any other groups of people who may be disadvantaged by the function
a Age	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
b Carers	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
c Disability	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
d Gender reassignment	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
e Looked after children/care leavers	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
f Marriage/civil partnership	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
g Pregnancy/maternity	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
h Race/ethnicity	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
i Religion/belief/faith	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
j Sex/gender	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
k Sexual orientation	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
l Socio-economic disadvantage	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
m Other (please specify)	No – see quantitative monitoring section 10a above
12 Do you need to collect any additional data to be able to monitor the impact on groups?	Refer to the Guidance Note before completing this section
 Please record appropriate actions in Part G	
13 Are there any other local/regional/national data sources that can inform this	

assessment if you have insufficient data on any of the different groups?

There is significant data at a national level including best practice that has been used to inform this assessment.

Part D: Consultation

14 Who have you consulted with about this function, and how were they consulted?

The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan consultation is part of the Local Development Framework (the new development plan for the borough). The consultee database for the Local Development Framework has over 1300 people, representing various organisations, including individuals and representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller community (the database is not just limited to stakeholders from Solihull).

As part of the preparation of the development of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan, an "Options" paper was formally consulted on during July and August 2011. The responses and further work informed the preparation of the "Preferred Options" paper which was also subject to consultation in July and August 2012.

Everyone on the database was notified about these consultations and they were informed that the documents were available to view on the Council's website, in all libraries, children's centres, area housing offices and connect centres in the Borough. The Council also specifically wrote to planning agents and other individuals who were not on our database, but who deal with Gypsy and Traveller issues.

A press release was also issued, highlighting that the consultations had begun and outlining where the documents were available to view. Reference was made to the consultations on the Solihull Council website homepage, which included a link to the planning pages where the documents and response forms were available www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf

Solihull Council worked with Solihull's Gypsy and Traveller support worker (Central and Cecil Housing Trust) to ensure that the consultation was carried out directly with the Gypsy and Traveller community in Solihull through visiting them in their homes to get their views. Many members of Solihull's Gypsy and Traveller community have taken this up and have themselves responded directly to the Preferred Options consultation.

Central and Cecil Housing Trust (who provide a floating support service for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull) separately also inputted on behalf of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

15 Do you need to undertake any further consultation? If so, what and who with?

This could include any groups listed in Q.12 who have not previously been considered for consultation purposes

No, robust process as outlined above.



Part E: Assessment

16 Are there any other sources of information that you require in order to undertake this assessment? Are they readily available?

This assessment has been completed using A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull that was approved for consultation in July 2010.

Although there is only limited intelligence at a local level, there is a wealth of information and best practice at a national level that has been used to inform this Fair Treatment Assessment.

17 What does your information tell you about the impact on different groups?

Consider barriers to equal access, equality of outcomes, human rights and the ten dimensions of equality for the different groups of people listed

b Age		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
<p>Ofsted has reported that Gypsy and Traveller children have the lowest educational achievement results of any ethnic minority group and are the group most at risk in the education system. This assessment has been reinforced since 2003, by data drawn from the School Census. The national evidence shows that Gypsies and Travellers are the lowest achieving group of pupils with high levels of exclusions and a disproportionate level of special educational needs.</p> <p>Policy P6 of the Solihull Local Plan document outlines the policy on the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It sets out the criteria against which planning applications and future site allocations will be considered. This includes a criteria concerning the assessment of local services and facilities such as schools, health facilities, fresh food and employment are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, and whether the site is sustainable in other ways.</p> <p>The 2012 GTAA also identified that a significant proportion of the sample (16%) were households over 60 years of age.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The majority of households responding to the 2012 GTAA reported that they never travel. A number of those who no longer travelled cited education, health and age related reasons for becoming more sedentary. However, reasons attributed to a precarious position with regards to planning permission and / or wanting to be more settled were also common reasons for not travelling.</p> <p>The criteria were largely welcomed by the respondents to the consultation on the "Options" in 2011 and "Preferred Options" in 2012. This included the Gypsy and Traveller Community.</p>	<p>Need to monitor to ensure pitches within the Plan are delivered.</p>

Evidence	<p>Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. Comments on the Solihull Draft Local Plan Pre-Submission and Submission documents (2012). The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.</p>	
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c Carers		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
None identified.		
Evidence	<p>Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options</p>	

paper” consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Preferred Options” paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of ‘A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull’. National research reports.

Disability		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
<p>Nationally, there is reported evidence of poor health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers compared to the ‘housed’ population. Amongst the indicators of this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower life expectancy • High prenatal and infant mortality and higher incidents of stillbirths • High rates of some chronic illnesses • High incidence of ‘lifestyle’ related conditions • Poor dental health <p>Gypsy and Traveller communities are less likely than others to access available services than other sectors of the community.</p> <p>The focus for this should be those on unauthorised sites and at the roadside who may be unaware of local provision and where to go to get assistance other than to Accident and Emergency, having an adequate provision of sites will help address this. Policy P6 of the Solihull Local Plan outlines the policy on the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It sets out the criteria against which planning applications and future site allocations will be considered. This includes a criteria concerning the assessment of local services and facilities such as schools, health facilities, fresh food and employment are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, and whether the site is sustainable in other ways.</p> <p>Government Guidance from 2008, Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Best Practice Guide advises that sites should meet the needs of those with disabilities and allow accessibility. Any planning applications for a Gypsy and Traveller site will be assessed against</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>CCHT have advised that in Solihull, most if not all Gypsies and Travellers have a GP and ‘all those who want a dentist have one’.</p> <p>The majority of households responding to the 2012 GTAA reported that they never travel. A number of those who no longer travelled cited education, health and age related reasons for becoming more sedentary. However, reasons attributed to a precarious position with regards to planning permission and / or wanting to be more settled were also common reasons for not travelling.</p> <p>The criteria were largely welcomed by the respondents to the consultation on the “Options” in 2011 and “Preferred Options” in 2012. This included the Gypsy and Traveller Community.</p>	<p>Need to monitor to ensure pitches within the Plan are delivered.</p>

this Guidance.		
Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. Comments on the Solihull Draft Local Plan Pre-Submission and Submission documents (2012). The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.	
e Gender reassignment		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
None identified.		
Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.	
f Looked after children/care leavers		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
None identified.		
Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.	
g Marriage/civil partnership		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
None identified.		
Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.	
h Pregnancy/maternity		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
It has been identified that some ethnic minority groups are much more likely to present late as being pregnant which is important when accessing antenatal services, this is especially the case for those in the Gypsy and Traveller community, especially those who are nomadic. CCHT have advised that in Solihull, most if not all Gypsies and Travellers have a GP and have not raised this as a concern.	No. The majority of households responding to the 2012 GTAA reported that they never travel. A number of those who no longer travelled cited education, health and age related reasons for becoming more sedentary. However, reasons attributed to a	Need to monitor to ensure pitches within the Plan are delivered.

<p>Policy P6 of the Solihull Local Plan outlines the policy on the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It sets out the criteria against which planning applications and future site allocations will be considered. This includes a criteria concerning the assessment of local services and facilities such as schools, health facilities, fresh food and employment are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, and whether the site is sustainable in other ways.</p>	<p>precarious position with regards to planning permission and / or wanting to be more settled were also common reasons for not travelling.</p> <p>The criteria were largely welcomed by the respondents to the consultation on the “Options” in 2011 and “Preferred Options” in 2012. This included the Gypsy and Traveller Community.</p>	
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<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Options paper” consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Preferred Options” paper in July and August 2012. Comments on the Solihull Draft Local Plan Pre-Submission and Submission documents (2012). The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of ‘A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull’. National research reports.</p>
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<p>i Race/ethnicity</p>		
<p>Different impacts</p>	<p>Are any of these negative?</p>	<p>Activities to address</p>
<p>The GTAA in 2012 identified that 72% of respondents were Romany Gypsy (English) background, 9% were Welsh or Scottish Gypsy/Traveller and 19% were Irish Travellers. There are currently no known populations of East European Roma, New Travellers or Bargees in Solihull.</p> <p>Travelling Showpeople are perhaps the most mobile amongst the Gypsy and Traveller population and will typically use land obtained privately for storing equipment and for living on during the winter and will pass through districts during the show season. There are needs, therefore, for land and for services whilst static and whilst travelling. The 2012 GTAA identified no sites or travelling show people in Solihull.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>In the main Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull are long – term residents who do not chose to move their location. It is not known whether the lack of transit pitches limits their movement.</p> <p>Although the GTAA did not suggest that transit pitches were necessary, it was considered prudent to manage the issue of Gypsies and Travellers passing through the Borough in a proactive way if an appropriate site becomes available. This is to ensure that the Council meets its obligations to facilitate the traditional and nomadic way of life for Gypsies and Travellers, while respecting the interests of the settled community, by providing</p>	<p>Need to monitor to ensure pitches within the Plan are delivered.</p>

	Gypsies and Travellers with an alternative to stopping illegally or on inappropriate land.	
Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.	
j Religion/belief/faith		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
The GTAA in 2012 identified that 72% of respondents were Romany Gypsy (English) background, 9% were Welsh or Scottish Gypsy/Traveller and 19% were Irish Travellers. Central and Cecil Housing Trust advise that the majority of Gypsies and Travellers they see in Solihull have advised they are Irish Travellers and that they have Catholic beliefs. It is understood that there are no barriers to them practising these beliefs.		
Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.	
k Sex/gender		
Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
In the 2009 Equalities and Human Rights Commission publication "Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities: A Review" the study advised "English Romanies, Welsh Gypsies, Scottish and Irish Travellers tend to follow strongly differentiated gender roles and expect both men and women to adhere to a set of core behaviours which place the family and home at the centre of their value system. A couple do not regard themselves as being in competition, but part of a complementary relationship, with men primarily responsible for supporting their family financially and practically (for example, through making connections with other relatives about employment opportunities) and women taking overall	No. Central and Cecil Housing Trust have advised that they are not aware of any issues in Solihull or in obtaining the views of women or men. Both genders were involved in responding to the GTAA.	

responsibility for the home and children.”

At the Examination evidence was received from a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community for an additional two pitches at a family owned site where the head of the household is female. Following the Examination and Inspector’s note, two additional pitches are proposed at this family owned site through the Main Modifications. Therefore this is a positive impact given the 2009 Equalities and Human Rights Commission publication “Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities: A Review” and the inequalities that it highlights are experienced by women.

Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Options paper” consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Preferred Options” paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of ‘A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull’. National research reports.
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Sexual orientation

Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
In the 2009 Equalities and Human Rights Commission publication ‘Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities: A Review’ it advises “No research on the subject of sexual orientation within Gypsy and Traveller communities appears to have been carried out in the UK or Ireland, thus our information on this topic is based largely on responses to the consultation.” The report also points to research that for “Gypsies and Travellers who are lesbian or gay, the situation may not be so simple as their communities are more likely to express the hostile attitudes towards LGBT people that are also found in some other ethnic minority communities.”	Central and Cecil Housing Trust have advised that they are not aware of any issues in Solihull.	

Evidence	Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Options paper” consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD “Preferred Options” paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of ‘A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull’. National research reports.
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Socio-economic disadvantage

Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address
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<p>The 1985 Housing Act required all Local Authorities to assess the Housing Needs of their borough. The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers by completing a GTAA (Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment).</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to plan for a mix of housing including the need to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>The Government's new Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, published in March 2012, has an overarching aim to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers, in a way that facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life, while respecting the interests of the settled community. Other aims of the Policy include local authorities being required to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning; meeting this need through the identification of land for sites and enabling the provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.</p> <p>Government guidance also sets out advice on managing unauthorised occupation. The objectives and operation of managing any unauthorised occupation should be to balance the rights and needs of resident communities with those of Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>Although obtaining empirical evidence on the economic circumstances of Gypsies and Travellers is very difficult, it is well established that Gypsies and Travellers are amongst the most culturally, socially, physically and financially excluded in society. The 2012 GTAA advises a number of families will always be able to afford to purchase or rent pitches at market rates. However, in line with the rest of society, other sections of the communities will be excluded from</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The 2012 GTAA was endorsed by Members as the evidence base for further policy development in March 2012 and is available on the Council's website at www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf. The GTAA identifies that between 2012 and 2027 a total of 38 additional permanent residential pitches are required in Solihull. This is divided into 3 five year tranches as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 - 2017: 26 pitches • 2017 – 2022: 6 pitches • 2022 – 2027: 6 pitches <p>The identification and allocation of land to meet the requirement for additional pitches will be made at the local level through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan document and this sets out how this need will be met in full.</p> <p>As well as private pitches, the provision of a social rented site at Old Damson Lane was proposed to help provide a housing option for any Gypsy or Traveller in the Borough in 'accommodation need'.</p> <p>Although the GTAA did not suggest that transit pitches were necessary, it was considered prudent to manage the issue of Gypsies and Travellers passing through the Borough, in a proactive way if an appropriate site becomes available. This is to ensure that the Council meets its obligations to facilitate the traditional and</p>	<p>Need to monitor to ensure pitches within the Plan are delivered</p>
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<p>accommodation provided at market rates and will require additional support to access safe and secure accommodation in line with their cultural needs. The absence of a range of tenure to address this diversity of socio economic circumstances may lead to a perpetuation and possible increase in hidden homelessness.</p> <p>The Examination and Inspector's note has resulted in the reduction of 6 pitches at one site. This has led to the need to find and provide the pitches elsewhere in the Borough. Four of these pitches are on family sites and an additional 2 social rented pitches on Old Damson Lane. This has created a more diverse tenure balance provision of pitches responding to applications and representations received from the Gypsy and Traveller Community.</p> <p>With regard to the Inspector's comment on flexibility, the Council has committed to completing another GTAA in five years and reviewing the Plan if necessary. Meeting the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community will reduce the potential for tensions between the Gypsy and Traveller community and other communities and is, therefore, a positive benefit of the Plan.</p>	<p>nomadic way of life for Travellers, while respecting the interests of the settled community, by providing Gypsies and Travellers with an alternative to stopping illegally or on inappropriate land.</p>	
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Evidence	<p>Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Options paper" consulted on during July and August 2011. Consultation responses on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD "Preferred Options" paper in July and August 2012. The 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The July 2010 draft of 'A Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull'. National research reports.</p>
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n Other – Please Specify

Different impacts	Are any of these negative?	Activities to address

Evidence	
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18 If any negative impacts have been identified what is needed to remove or reduce those differences?

Refer to the Guidance Note before completing this section



Please record appropriate actions in Part G

19 If any good practice has been identified in Q.17 how will this be maintained and the


learning shared? How could you better promote equality?

The knowledge of Central and Cecil and other groups that represent Gypsy and Travellers has been invaluable, especially help and support in developing the strategy and this Fair Treatment Assessment.



20 How does this function contribute towards or have a negative impact on people's human rights? How could you better promote human rights?

Refer to the Guidance Note before completing this section

 Romany Gypsies and Travellers of Irish Heritage are ethnic groups within UK equality and Human Rights legislation on the basis that each group has shared culture, language and beliefs. This extends to English, Welsh and Scottish Travellers as distinct ethnic groups.

Organisations within the Solihull Partnership have statutory obligations toward Gypsies and Travellers under the race equality legislation and the Human Rights Act. They also have other responsibilities under legislation and policy relating to housing, planning, health, education and legal enforcement.

The Human Rights Act applies to all Gypsies and Travellers, as well as other members of the community. The most relevant articles for Gypsies and Travellers are;

- Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life
- Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination
- Protocol 1 Part 1 – Protection of property
- Protocol 1 Part 2 – Right to education


21 How does this function contribute towards community cohesion? How could you better promote community cohesion?

Solihull's Sustainable Community Strategy – One Borough: an Equal Chance for All was launched in 2008. As part of the priority of building a more prosperous community, the Council seeks to "ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent home and that new housing meets the needs of the whole community." This includes the provision of pitches/sites to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull.



The Plan aims to create more certainty for both Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community. The provision of authorised sites will help to reduce the incidence of unauthorised developments and encampments which are often a source of tension between the Gypsy and Traveller community and the settled community. Policy P6 of the Solihull Local Plan sets out the criteria against which Gypsy and Traveller sites are to be assessed, this includes allocated sites within the Plan and other planning applications.

22 How does this function contribute towards sustainable communities? How could you better promote sustainable communities?

 Again Solihull's Sustainable Community Strategy – One Borough: an Equal Chance for All – included the priority of housing to "ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent home and that new housing meets the needs of the whole community."

The Sustainable Communities Strategy also highlights that for vulnerable and excluded groups the rate of service improvement should be quicker, to ensure equal access. Gypsy and Travellers are a group that fall into this category and the provision of pitches/sites to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull supports this.

23 How does this function contribute towards safeguarding children and vulnerable

adults? How could you better promote the welfare and safety of children and vulnerable adults?

The Council and partner agencies in the Solihull Partnership are committed to preventing the abuse of adults and responding promptly when abuse is suspected.



Part F: Summary

Your summary should include the key findings and impacts identified in this assessment

24 a Executive Summary

Solihull's Sustainable Communities Strategy for 2008-18, *'One Borough: an Equal Chance for All'* sets out the shared vision for the Borough of the organisations within the Solihull Partnership. This vision is that by 2018 *'everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous'*.

The overarching challenge was set out in the Solihull Local Plan as *"A shortage of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in Solihull to meet identified needs and the need to maintain an appropriate level of supply."*

The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan will help ensure the assessed needs as identified by the 2012 Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment are met by 2027. This will be a positive outcome for the Gypsy and Traveller community in Solihull. It will ensure they have the same opportunities and responsibilities as the settled community to secure a decent home which allows them to pursue and preserve their traditional way of life.

With regard to the Inspector's comment on flexibility, the Council has committed to completing another GTAA in five years and reviewing the Plan if necessary. Meeting the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community will reduce the potential for tensions. This will also ensure that both the Gypsy and Traveller community and the settled community have security and certainty about their future and that of their local environment increasing social cohesion.

Following the Examination in Public of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan in December 2013 and the Inspector's comments, the Council proposed Main Modifications deliver additional positive impacts in providing additional pitches at family owned sites (and on one where the head of household is female) and social rented pitches. This has created a more diverse tenure balance provision of pitches responding to applications and representations received from the Gypsy and Traveller Community.

b Please indicate which of the following best describes the outcome of your FTA

<input type="checkbox"/>	Only negative impacts have been identified for this function
<input type="checkbox"/>	No different impacts have been identified for this function
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A mixture of positive and negative different impacts have been identified for this function
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only positive different impacts have been identified for this function
<input type="checkbox"/>	There wasn't enough information to be able to reach a conclusion at this point in time

Part G: Actions

You should ensure that progress against all actions is monitored

25 List any actions required to ensure there is adequate data to be able to monitor the impact on different groups in the future

Action	Outcome	Lead	Timescale	How will progress be monitored?
Monitor the number of	Ensure that the need	Principal	Yearly	Published

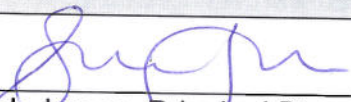
pitches delivered through the Plan	for pitches as outlined within the Plan are met	Planning Officer, Policy and Spatial Planning		through the Annual Monitoring Report
In accordance with national policy, commitment to review the GTAA within 5 years	To ensure that the evidence of the Borough's future accommodation need remains robust and up-to-date	Principal Planning Officer, Policy and Spatial Planning	By end of 2019	Reported to Cabinet Member

26 List any actions required to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues


Action	Outcome	Lead	Timescale	How will progress be monitored?

Part H: Sign off

27 This FTA has been completed by

Signed (Lead for FTA)	
Name and job title (please print)	Sarah James, Principal Planning Officer (Review) Emma Tinsley-Evans, Principal Planning Officer
Date	4 June 2014

28 This FTA has been reviewed by the directorate equality & diversity group and its completion will be reported to the corporate equality & diversity group

Signed (on behalf of group)	
Name and job title (please print)	Karen Grant, Head of Equalities and Diversity
Date reviewed	4 June 2014

29 This FTA has been approved by Director/Head of Division (or equivalent)

Signed	
Name and job title (please print)	Ken Harrison, Head of Policy and Spatial Planning Services
Date	4 June 2014