



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Equality Impact Assessment Validation Decision Notice

EIA Reference Number	06/2010
Service, policy, or strategy	Policy for the removal of unauthorised encampments
Element(s) assessed	Procedure used within the policy
Names of Assessors	Jacqueline Davies, Carol Blackwell, Anne Gray, Barry Taylor, Martin Allen, June Balcombe, Lucy Gallyer, Jo Perrin

Consider:

Was discrimination or disadvantage identified?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Was the service promoting equality?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Could the service be improved in promoting equality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Are the customers' needs understood and met?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren't affected?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the summary report clear and easy to understand?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings?

<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The decision is to:

Validate

Not validate

The reason/s for the decision are: *please give details below*

Validation given – information correct

Not validated – decision not to proceed as EIA incorrect

Not validated - screening error

Not validated – research/consultation error

Not validated – improvement error

Signed

June Balcombe

Designation

Corporate Director

Name

June Balcombe

Date

9/6/11

Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the policy for the 'Removal of unauthorised encampments' is to set out the framework for how the council manages unauthorised encampments that occur within the borough.
- 1.2 The council does not tolerate unauthorised encampments on council owned land. Any unauthorised encampment which occurs on council land will not be tolerated under the policy and the process of eviction implemented.
- 1.3 The policy sets out the process which will be used to evict unauthorised encampments. The policy contains a number of safeguards to ensure that humanitarian needs are taken into account prior to making the decision to evict unauthorised campers.
- 1.4 The majority of individuals who are responsible for unauthorised encampments are Gypsies and Travellers and as such the policy could have a negative impact on this group.
- 1.5 Gypsies and Travellers follow a nomadic existence but this nomadic existence does not give Gypsies or Travellers the right to camp without permission on council land.
- 1.6 The impact that the policy will have on Gypsies and Travellers is not intended as the council does not tolerate any unauthorised encampments, and evicts all unauthorised encampments, not just those that are caused by Gypsies and Travellers.
- 1.7 The negative impact that the policy will have on Gypsies and Travellers is legal as those individuals who camp without permission are conducting civil trespass and there are legal procedures that can be used to manage civil trespass. The council always follows the eviction procedure set out in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
- 1.8 Communicating the processes set out in the policy will have a positive impact on those communities which are affected by unauthorised encampments by ensuring that members of the public have a clear understanding of the process the council will use to evict unauthorised encampments.
- 1.9 Communication around the culture of the travelling community may also help to improve community cohesion between the travelling and settled community and help to manage public expectations.