

Due Regard Record

Name of policy or activity: Proposed New Arrangements for Park Home Site Licence Conditions

Date / Name	Summary of Equality Analysis
6 January 2014	<p>The report concerns charging for licensing functions on permanent residential park homes sites and site licensing conditions on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites.</p> <p><u>Permanent Residential Sites</u></p> <p>There are approximately 630 park home dwellings in the District which comprises about 2% of the total housing stock of 44,670 at the time of the Private Sector House Condition Survey 2011.</p> <p>With the exception of age, the profile of park home owners across the 9 protected characteristics is likely to be the same as that for residents in dwellings of more traditional types of construction. However, there are age restrictions in operation on some of the larger park homes, which means that residents have to be over 55. This means that the age profile will be higher than that in the settled community. This has been taken into account in the consultation which was carried out by the traditional method of a written consultation form.</p> <p>In addition, an information evening was held at the Council Offices on 2nd October 2013 to help residents understand the provisions of the new Mobile Homes Act. A presentation was given by LEASE, an organisation which has been funded by the CLG to provide advice and guidance on the legislation relating to park homes. Representatives of each site were invited and the event was web-cast for those who could not attend.</p> <p>It may be said that that the fee charging might impact on older people disproportionately because their incomes are likely to be lower than households in other age groups. However, the proposed charging policy has been designed in such a way as to have a minimal impact on the individual residents. It is considered that residents will find that the benefits of improved conditions on site will outweigh the cost.</p> <p><u>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Sites</u></p> <p>At the last caravan count in January 2014 there were approximately 156 Gypsy/Roma/Traveller households living on permanent residential sites in the District. The recommendation of the Report at this stage is to postpone consultation on the site licence conditions pending review of new guidance on optimum separation distances between pitches. Once a decision has been reached on this issue the consultation will proceed and consideration will be given to the best and most suitable means to consult with these residents.</p>