

**Working together to create a borough of opportunity
Predictive Equality Impact Assessment (PEIA)
FOR ALL COUNCIL DECISIONS ONLY**



Title of report or proposal:

Proposal to apply to the HCA for funding to improve Stable Way (formerly Westway) traveller's site.

Describe in full the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes:

The aim of this bid being prepared by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is to seek funding to improve the Stable Way traveller's site, located in the RBK&C and bordering on College Park and Old Oak ward.

The improvements will also include an additional two pitches which will be used to relieve overcrowding on the site.

The addition of pitches to the site will mean that 75% of the total costs of improvement will be met by the CLG.

If successful, the bid will provide approximately £1M worth of benefit for a cost to this council of £125K

Failure to support the site may leave Hammersmith & Fulham Council open to challenge in terms of failure to adequately make provision for traveller pitches.

Department:

Community Services Department

Officer Responsible: *(to be completed by the report author)*

Shaun Dunleavy Performance Manager, 0208 753 4244, shaun.dunleavy@lbhf.gov.uk

(Signature, Print Name, Contact Number and Email Address)

Principal Policy Officer: *(to be completed by the Corporate Principal Officer)*

Signed off by Khadijah Rafiq on 09/09/09 Email PEIA@lbhf.gov.uk Tel 020 8753 3430

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the main people that this decision will affect?

Residents of Stableway Travellers Site.

Travellers who are resident in bricks and mortar accommodation in the borough who may access the site in the future.

2. Identify the risks that could prevent the planned outcomes

The joint bid for funding for improvements to the site developed by RBK&C and LBH&F could be unsuccessful, in whole or in part.

3. Could the proposal have a positive impact on **a) race b) disability c) gender d) sexual orientation e) age f) belief system groups?** (Please provide evidence e.g. user feedback, complaints, monitoring?)

a) b) c) d) e) f) The Westway Travellers Site contains 19 pitches occupied by Travellers. The travellers locate their own caravans on the pitches, and each pitch has an amenity block containing a kitchen and bathroom and toilet facilities. Some of the existing amenity blocks in poor condition and the surrounding communal areas suffered. The proposed improvement will, social and environmental wellbeing of the travellers. The scheme will also provide two additional pitches on the site, which will

assist in alleviating overcrowding.

Some of the works are deemed as essential on health and safety grounds such as improved fire safety and traffic management improvements.

4. Could the proposal have a differential negative impact on **a) race b) disability c) gender d) sexual orientation e) age f) belief system groups?** (Please provide evidence e.g. user feedback, complaints, monitoring,?)

- **a) b) c) d) e) f)** In the main the works are welcomed by most residents. However the provision of additional pitches will inevitably cause some inconvenience to certain residents; in particular those at the southern end of the site and the person who is occupying land on an unauthorised basis. The building contract will be managed in such a way as to minimise this inconvenience by paying attention to the sequencing of the works and ensuring the contract preliminaries address tenant in place working.

5. Could the proposal have any differential impact (either positive, negative or neutral) on the health outcomes of the local population? Please provide details.

Yes positive Impact: Travellers suffer poorer health and lower life expectancy than is the norm in the settled community. This is due in part to generally poorer living conditions than would be experienced in the settled community. The improvements to amenity blocks and site infrastructure will help to redress this inequality.

The redevelopment will improve the quality of housing (the previous accommodation was considered to be of poor quality) and safety which should also provide positive impacts due to the link between housing and health.

The key aims of the work are twofold: to help relieve the existing overcrowding on the site and to improve the quality of life for residents through a programme of improvements to the site.

- It is not anticipated that the full benefit of these works will be felt until after the works are completed. However, the increased level of consultation associated with the preparation of this bid has helped to raise the profile of the Travellers' site. The nature of the consultation exercise has enabled closer ties to be forged between the Council and the community. The bid has also acted as a catalyst to review the management arrangements for the site and has led to a renewed sense of ownership and responsibility among the two Councils towards the community.
- is there anyone who will be worse off as a result of the scheme - how you will ensure the scheme meets its aims - The success of the scheme depends on the approval of the majority of residents for the proposed plans, and the long term management of the site in consolidating the physical improvements with enhanced management. Both the genuine engagement of residents with the proposals, along with the revision of management arrangements in place are anticipated to support the overall aims of the scheme.

6. Can any differential negative impact of the decision be justified?

N/A

7. If you have undertaken any internal/ external research or consultation(s) please list these below:

The London Boroughs' Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment prepared by Fordham Associates (April 2008) together with the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Statement prepared by LBHF are examples of research that has been taken out to assess the need for this bid.

The proposals presented in this bid are the result of a thorough consultation process in which residents and other stakeholder were closely involved. We are confident that our proposals have a high level of support and shown options, comments received and the proposals refined.

From the outset it was recognised that it would be important to properly consult with all those affected by these proposals. It was therefore decided to have a clear strategy for consultation and communication which would run as a continuous thread through the development of the bid and on to the implementation stage. The first stage of this strategy was identifying who should be consulted with and the appropriate method of consultation.

Our strategy acknowledged that the nature and method of consultation should be tailored to reflect the scale of the works and the target audience. It needed to be sufficient to explain the objectives and scope of the proposed work and flexible enough to take account of differing levels of interest in the scheme. As a first step we identified the following key stakeholder groups:

- The Stable Way Traveller community;
- Local residents and businesses including the Westway Development Trust;
- Education, planning, social services and highways authorities;
- Relevant local agencies such as police and fire services;
- Hammersmith and Fulham Council;
- Hammersmith and Fulham Homes;
- The HCA, Communities and Local Government and the Regional Housing Board.

For obvious reasons, priority was given to consultation and communication with the residents of the site. In order to construct an effective consultation strategy we first needed to know more about the community in terms of demographics, length of residency and family membership ties. This baseline information was compiled by the Gypsy and Traveller Development Manager from the Supporting People team.

Previous experience has shown that site residents are more responsive to consultation and communication via meetings and face-to-face interviews rather than by using written materials such as newsletters. We were also mindful of the fact that there are rivalries on the site that needed to be taken account of when chairing public meetings and conducting interviews.

The Council did consider whether we should appoint an organisation such as the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain to help facilitate the consultation process. However, it was decided that the Council should undertake the consultation itself as a means towards building stronger and more positive links with the local community. This proved a very successful approach and we believe that we have the trust and confidence of the community that will help deliver this bid and also our wider aims around longer

8. Do you need to undertake any further consultation? If so, what and with whom?

Further consultations with the residents of the site will take place when the level of bid funding is known.

9. If any differential negative impact is predicted, what actions are you planning to implement which would help lessen any adverse impact? Please give details.

N/A

PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO PEIA@lbhf.gov.uk

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