1. **Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Note for Local Plan**

1.1. The new Local Plan was assessed by the Council's corporate policy team in respect of its implications for the Council's legal duties around eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations on the basis of protected characteristics such as gender, race, disability or age.

1.2. The outcomes of the equalities impact assessment work carried out was that at each stage of consultation on the Local Plan a full equalities impact assessment was not deemed to be required as no potential negative impacts were identified.

1.3. The Adopted Core Strategy policy for Gypsy and Travellers (Policy CS12) was assessed in 2012 (no full EqIA required) and the progression to submission Local Plan has not seen any significant changes which would have a negative effect in respect of equalities. This is reflected in the preliminary assessments and the fact that at no point a full equalities impact assessment was deemed to be required.

1.4. The Cabinet report following on from Regulation 18 consultation on Traveller Sites and the emerging policy for Travellers in the Local Plan, does not contain a full Equalities Impact Assessment. However, it states in paragraph 12.1 that a full EqIA will be undertaken prior to ‘pre-submission’ consultation. Subsequently it is the case that the ‘preliminary assessment’ for the Regulation 19 consultation version of the Plan found that a full EqIA was not necessary.

1.5. The following timeline shows when the preliminary assessments were carried out prior to and in relation to the new Local Plan:

**2012 Core Strategy Preparation**

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2012 – Outcome: No full EqIA required.
- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2012 specific to the Gypsy and Traveller Policy (Policy CS11 later modified to CS12) – Outcome: No full EqIA required.

**November 2016 at Regulation 18 Consultation stage of new Local Plan**

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2016 – Outcome: No full EqIA required.

**December 2017 Regulation 18 Consultation for Gypsy and Traveller Sites**

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment 2017 – Outcome: No full EqIA required.
**September 2018 at Regulation 19** Consultation stage of new Local Plan - Key Submission Document 3 (KSD3)

- Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) 2018 – Outcome: No full EqIA required.

**Adopted Core Strategy Policy**

**Adopted Core Strategy Policy CS12 – Sites for Travellers**

The council will allocate sites for travellers in the Local Plan: Sites and Boundaries where a robust assessment identifies evidence of need. Sites to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers will be allocated or granted planning permission where:

- the site is not located in the Green Belt or Local Green Spaces;
- there is no unacceptable impact on the function and purpose of Strategic Gaps, Green Wedges or on wildlife sites or other protected green spaces;
- the site is reasonably accessible to community services and facilities;
- The site provides adequate levels of amenity for users
- the site can be adequately serviced with drinking water and sewerage disposal facilities;
- the site is of sufficient size to accommodate the proposed number of caravans, vehicles and ancillary work areas as appropriate;
- there is satisfactory boundary treatment to ensure privacy and to maintain visual amenities

The main differences between the above and the equivalent submission policy, Policy LP6 are as follows:

- Updated reasoned justification
- Reference to allocated sites
- Introduction of the word ‘adopted’ to the Local Green Spaces criterion
- Two new criterion:
  - the site is located outside of Flood Zone 3
  - it meets other relevant policies of the Local Plan

The proposed current modifications would make the resultant policy more closely resemble the adopted Core Strategy policy CS12 in terms of criterion, albeit with the removal of reference to Local Green Spaces.