

EIA000852 Gypsy, Roma, and Travellers Strategy

About your EIA

Reference Number:	EIA000852
Subject Of EIA:	Gypsy, Roma, and Travellers Strategy
EIA Approval Status:	Approved



Description:

The purpose of the strategy (attached) is to make significant impact across the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community, setting our strategic direction for the next 10 years. With an emphasis on the need for suitable accommodation for the Gypsy Traveller community. To deliver a 10-year Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Strategy ensuring the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community have a range of suitable accommodation across Birmingham by 2035.

The Strategy highlights the history of the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community in the UK. The need for Birmingham to improve the quality of the land available and identify new land for development. It addresses the lack of suitable accommodation across Birmingham, inequalities that exist in the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community including barriers. The Gypsy, and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) conducted in 2019 identified the need for greater provision of permanent and transit pitches for Travellers across the city, and an ongoing future need for suitable sites to be identified for growing families and for travelling households who expressed a desire to reside permanently in Birmingham.

The strategy furthermore sets out Birmingham City Council's strategic approach for the development of a variety suitable accommodation and will be achieved financially within available funding, use of the central fund and potentially any money from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for accommodation / permanent community assets / sites. Strategically it sets out Birmingham City Council's coordinated approach over the 10 years, to enable the effective development of traveller temporary, negotiated, and permanent sites across Birmingham.

Additionally, the council has identified key commitments to help achieve the strategy which are:

- 1) We will create suitable accommodation for the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller accommodation across Birmingham, with a rational approach.
- 2) We will work in partnership to increase suitable Gypsy Traveller accommodation across Birmingham.
- 3) We will play a key role in ensuring families their accommodation is suitable. This will ensure that an infrastructure is created around the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community long-term offering services around Roma and Romany Housing, Housing Management for Gypsy traveller accommodation sites, Health Care, language translation, education, employment, finance, and benefits. With regular feedback from the community through engagement.

The strategy does focus on locating quality permanent sites ensuring that any permanent sites in the future as recommended in the GTANA are accessible to shops, schools, health facilities and employment opportunities, as evidenced successfully in surrounding councils. So, that the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community in Birmingham are in receipt of services they are entitled to such as mains water, sewerage, power / electricity and waste disposal. Additionally, the strategy focus's on working with agencies and 3rd parties to remove administrative hurdles for example, GP practices refusing patients without a local address as well as the DVLA not accepting certain types of addresses, which exacerbate access issues.

The strategy is shared benefitting the council, many local charity organisations, and families from the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community travelling through Birmingham. The strategy has been developed with its key partners: Expert Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller external partners, experts by experience, Internal Birmingham City Council partners as well as the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Community. The Strategy will benefit individuals and families from the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller. The strategy is in line with corporate priorities for a greener, safer, and healthier city for all.

For a proposed revision, the council have already submitted to the LPP Committee a proposal to undertake a pilot for negotiated stopping initially to operate from spring 2025 for a 12–24-month period which may be extended to spring 2027 and, if it is not something that works in Birmingham, to revert to a more traditional approach of fixed transit sites. Councillors present at the LPP Committee were supportive of the proposal.

To support the 12 month pilot, from summer 2024 until recently the council considered data from the GTANA including unauthorised encampments, Data for the period of April 2023 to



	<p>August 2024 has been analysed to understand the frequency, number and size of unauthorised encampments across the city, policies from surrounding local authorities, a strategic approach, a potential location, protocol and a standard agreement.</p> <p>Currently, there are no suitable sites in Birmingham placing the council in breach of legislation. The council has a duty of care to the community to provide suitable sites across Birmingham for the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community and to comply with all relevant legislation.</p>
In Support Of:	["New strategy"]
Reviewing Frequency:	Six monthly
First Review Date:	1/31/2025

Directorate, Division & Service Area

Directorates:	["City Housing"]
Division:	Strategic Enabling
Service Area:	Housing Modernisation

Budget Savings

Related to Budget Savings?:	
Budget Proposal Ref. No:	

Officers

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Data Sources

Data sources:	["Consultation results", "Interviews", "Quantitative data (please specify in the box below)", "Relevant reports/strategies", "Relevant research", "ONS statistics 2011 to 2021"]
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Data sources
Details:

External experts by experience engaged with the council in 2024 providing valuable information from the history of the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community in the UK to date. Having worked successfully with other local authorities like Solihull Council who has a permanent transit site which is managed externally, Walsall Council who have a temporary transit site also managed externally and Dudley Council who have a temporary transit site which is being developed further. They have helped mould the strategy ensuring that correct and relevant data is included in the Birmingham strategy to show patterns, trends and barriers relating to the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community.

The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) commissioned by the council in 2019, completed from 2023 to 2024 by RRR Consultancy Ltd, identified the need for greater provision of permanent and transit pitches for Travellers across the city, and an ongoing future need for suitable sites to be identified for growing families and for travelling households who expressed a desire to reside permanently in Birmingham. Consultations with stakeholders were conducted to gather qualitative information about the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showman, and boat dwellers aiming to understand both general and local-specific issues. Stakeholders from both the study area and neighbouring authorities contributed to a comprehensive perspective on the challenges faced by these communities. The report has been published on the councils website in 2024 providing in depth information about the community qualitatively and quantitatively. The report presents professional advice for the council to better understand the communities needs and barriers. The council has considered this advice when identifying their key objectives and producing the strategy to be implemented over a 10 year period, with a realistic approach.

Our work with TPAS will enable residents to have a meaningful opportunity to co-regulate and co-design services, in turn as an example develop our understanding as a council around the communities lived experience and genuinely use this to improve service delivery. Being able to recognise the needs of hard-to-reach groups so that we are better placed to work with them to change their situation of hardship, giving them a better way of living and feeling included in society.

The councils Community Health Profile 2023 published on the councils website based on Gypsy, Roma, and Travellers covers information on the community from demographics, policy, housing and accommodation to mental health as well as poverty. Mystery shopping experiences carried out by individuals produced in a report April 2024 by Barnardo's and Walsall Council include various comments from the community, giving their own personal feeling's in response to how members of the public have treated them. Site visits to Solihull, Walsall and Dudley council sites over September 2024 were conducted by the council to view the layout and management of sites successfully, as a potential 'blue print' model for Birmingham. A cabinet report for Walsall Council was shared with the city council for them to understand the planning, time and cost implications of developing a temporary transit site with an external managing agent. The council viewed the GRT Strategy Consultation report for Cornwall Council and the Enabling Consultation survey questionnaire electronic template for Wales. The council held engagement meetings internally across directorates like Children and Families and Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships. Then externally with St Margaret's Community Trust to engage separately with the Roma community, followed by an engagement day at the community centre on Friday 18th October 2024.



Initial Assessment

Initial Assessment Impacted Characteristics	Age: Yes, Disability: Yes, Sex: Yes, Gender Reassignment: No, Marriage and Civil Partnership: Yes, Pregnancy and Maternity: Yes, Race: Yes, Religion or Beliefs: Yes, Sexual Orientation: Yes, Care Experience/Care Leaver: NoYes. There will be a positive impact across age groups.
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Initial Assessment Summary



Initial
Assessment
Summary:

The initial assessment showed a strong indication that there would be no impacts on people. We do not need to carry out a full EIA.

We have identified no significant concerns or the identified negative concerns have already been addressed, in previous research and in the GTANA carried out over 2023 to 2024 produced in 2024.

To mitigate these concerns identified as set out in the strategy, the council has considered suggestions from experts by experience, current factual data, information provided from internal and external service areas within directorates in the council as well as from external partnerships, to understand the benefit of this strategy.

The council is aware that there may be a direct impact on the wider citizen group of Birmingham considering the duration of the 10 year strategy. Although the council is not currently able to identify exactly what those impacts are at the moment, because we do not have clear plans, we have included some general expected impacts (for example regarding the impact of the health care infrastructure).

Health promotion and education sessions may be particularly successful in this community in Birmingham wide because of poor health literacy and awareness of health services according to the data available.

With current language barriers the council will need to allocate / appoint suitable translators, as with the help of in-person translator sessions within communities and for parents in schools about the National Health Service (NHS), will be very beneficial. Focussing on how communities can access healthcare, mental health, contraception services and sexual health education including workshops.

Time and people 'resources' will need to be allocated specifically to the community. This may place pressure on General Practitioners (GP's) to ensure translators are readily available for appointments and information in GP surgeries are visual to the communities - this will be the same requirement for the NHS, Options, Dentists, Hospitals, Baby Clinics and Health Centres across areas in Birmingham. Mitigating this matter may prove problematic with the councils current financial situation and capacity restraints.

The council is aware that Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities are less likely to engage with vital services and are therefore less visible to healthcare providers and statutory services. The complex and overlapping vulnerabilities, needs of young people, various physical and non physical disabilities, family dynamics and sexual orientation life changes that affect people from these communities mean that a holistic approach to health and wellbeing for Birmingham will need to be adopted when designing services. Considering that needs and stressors may affect their health. In addition, referral processes between services including immigration, legal, housing, welfare, modern slavery, and safeguarding will need be strong. Without such interconnected systems in Birmingham, tackling the social determinants of ill health and wellbeing in these communities will remain difficult, and the burden of complex and overlapping needs risks falling to a singular service to support.

However, to assist elevating the pressure through engaging with experts by experience for training in order to train staff (on some of matters relating to the community like using the correct language, racism and discrimination faced by the community daily) within the council from officers to councillors members, to educate employees so that the current negative perception of the community is removed helping to safeguard them on future community projects. Investing differently and better in the community for a long term social value perspective. Additionally, the council intends to continue to collaborate with surrounding local authorities (like Cornwall, Dudley, Solihull and Walsall councils) who have successfully set up a suitable health and welfare infrastructure around their Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities, for guidance and support. Community Centres are being approached and utilised across Birmingham as part of the support network for the council in order to to reach families in the community who may benefit from the strategy.

Specific impacts for each site developed across Birmingham will be considered at the appropriate times. before decisions are made. The council is currently working towards conducting a consultation with the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community from October



	<p>2024 to November 2024 sharing the strategy with them, requesting feedback on the strategy as well as their comments / suggestions.</p> <p>The detrimental outcome to the community identified by the council and partnerships will occur should the strategy not be implemented, which will have a negative impact on the community.</p>
<p>Is a full EIA Required?:</p>	<p>Nolin summary, the following protected characteristic groups were identified in the Gypsy/Traveller community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children Older people Women People with health problems (no specific information on disabilities) Pregnant women Race (Roma Gypsies and Irish Travellers) <p>Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are ethnic groups protected by the Equality Act 2010. The data collected locally from the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTANA), provides a total of the National Gypsy Traveller population at just over 120,000, according to the research. Other academic estimates of the combined Gypsy, Irish Traveller and other Traveller population range from 120,000 to 300,000. Ethnic monitoring data of the Gypsy Traveller population is rarely collected by key service providers in health, employment, planning and criminal justice.</p> <p>The provision of transit and permanent sites is intended to enable a more structured and robust approach of support which will positively impact the health and wellbeing of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities. Evidence has been gathered from local and national sources as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details on the Gypsy and Traveller population affected was taken from the 2021 census. 2. Local data on protected characteristics and needs in the local Gypsy and Traveller UE community was taken from an exercise carried out by Birmingham . 3. Local data on the impact on groups with protected characteristics in the resident population was taken from the evidence. This information was used to identify groups with protected characteristics to understand the community better across the west midlands and in Birmingham. <p>A number of limitations in the data have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a lack of national level research into the characteristics and needs of Gypsies/Travellers in Unauthorised Encampments (UE's). 2. Welfare needs assessments are offered to all people present on a UE, however not everyone may be present at the time of the visit, individuals may refuse to give information and Often one individual speaks on behalf of the travelling group. A group who travels within the borough may provide different information at each site/assessment. <p>Wherever possible, information for each group has only been included once in the strategy. Ongoing reviews of legislation may present opportunities to explore alternative means of service provision.</p> <p>The proposal in the strategy is intended to benefit the permanent community by empowering the Police and council staff to respond to unauthorised encampments more effectively. The temporary nature of the recommended transit sites will enable the authority to assess the extent to which the site achieves this.</p>



Full Equality Impact Assessment

Age

Impact Age:	Yes. There will be a positive impact across age groups.
Age Group Impacted:	Children, young people and older adults. Families collectively.



Age Impact Details:
Children

There are relatively higher numbers of children in Gypsy / Irish Travelling communities (62% of households compared with 32% of the general population). Nationally, Gypsy/Traveller children achieve lower educational levels (12% achieve 5 or more GCSEs compared with 58% of the general population) and have lower attendance than the general population. Having a variety of transit sites across Birmingham will have a positive impact on children in Unauthorised Encampments (UEs) by creating an opportunity for them to access education and health services in Birmingham.

Older Adults

From the census there are relatively fewer older adults in Gypsy/Irish Travelling communities (11% age 65+ compared with 22%). Numbers of older people were not captured in the welfare needs assessment although there were anecdotal reports of elderly family members with health issues. Nationally, life expectancy is significantly lower, and Gypsies/Travellers are more likely to have long term health problems than the general population (42% compared with 31% in a comparator group).

The variety of transit sites will have a positive impact on older people in UEs as it will improve their access to health services in Birmingham. In the west midlands the 2021 census confirms that there is the following data set:

Location	Gender	Age Range	Number
West Midlands	Female	0 to 04	305
West Midlands	Female	05 to 09	295
West Midlands	Female	10 to 14	290
West Midlands	Female	15 to 19	275
West Midlands	Female	20 to 24	275
West Midlands	Female	25 to 29	235
West Midlands	Female	30 to 34	275
West Midlands	Female	35 to 39	220
West Midlands	Female	40 to 44	220
West Midlands	Female	45 to 49	190
West Midlands	Female	50 to 54	200
West Midlands	Female	55 to 59	145
West Midlands	Female	60 to 64	100
West Midlands	Female	65 to 69	70
West Midlands	Female	70 to 74	75
West Midlands	Female	75 to 79	45
West Midlands	Female	80 to 84	20



	<p>West Midlands Female 85 and over 20</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>In a October 2022 report by 'Friends, Families & Traveller' https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Briefing_Health-inequalities-experienced-by-Gypsies-and-Travellers-in-England.pdf</p> <p>The report covers various aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Children from Gypsy and Traveller communities are more likely to experience early death, poor childhood development and limited uptake and access of health services. 2) There is an excess prevalence of miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Gypsy and Traveller communities and high rates of maternal death during pregnancy and shortly after childbirth. 3) The life expectancy of the Gypsy and Traveller population has been estimated to be between 10 and 12 years less than the general population, although one study has suggested, that their average life expectancy is 50 years, compared to the general population, which is 78 years of age.
<p>Age Impact Mitigation:</p>	<p>The Gypsy, and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) conducted in 2019 for Birmingham City Council by a consultancy identified the need for greater provision of permanent and transit pitches for Travellers across the city, and an ongoing future need for suitable sites to be identified for growing families and for travelling households who expressed a desire to reside permanently in Birmingham.</p> <p>The GTANA published on the council website in 2024 displays a significant increase in pitches needed 33 in 2019's report. The data gathered evidence that there is a demand for 33 – 40 suitable pitches now in Birmingham. Poorer health was reported across all age groups in the census statistics in 2021.</p> <p>Without this strategy there will be an increased risk of harm to children, Older Adults and families collectively in UEs due to risks on the sites chosen (close to main road, industrial sites). Families living on unauthorised sites often have poorer health outcomes arising from limited access to amenities (such as showers and toilets) and to health care services and continuity of care.</p> <p>As explained in the strategy, the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) July 2023 Count shows there were 285 caravans recorded in Birmingham and selected neighbouring authorities. The total number of caravans on authorised pitches in Birmingham and selected neighbouring authorities over the period January 2020 to July 2023 varied with a maximum of 320 caravans recorded in July 2023 compared to a minimum of 189 caravans recorded in January 2022 (a difference of 41 caravans).</p> <p>On average, 10 caravans were recorded on authorised pitches in Birmingham between January 2020 to July 2023.</p> <p>Overall, the strategy will have a positive impact on the health of children, older adults and families providing a variety of safe sites.</p>



Disability

Impact Disability:	Yes. There will be a positive impact across people with disabilities.
Disability Impact Details:	Nationally, Gypsies/Travellers are significantly more likely to have a long-term illness or disability than members of the general population, over twice as likely to be depressed. Overall, the strategy will have a positive impact on the disabilities of any children, older adults and families in Birmingham providing a variety of safe sites relieving stress and depression, having a sense of belonging in a home on a site or travelling to and from sites in Birmingham.
Disability Impact Mitigation:	There is little evidence with respect to the impact of a transit sites. negotiated stopping sites or permanent sites on this group in general therefore for the west midlands including Birmingham, because of a lack of data on how many Gypsies/Travellers in UEs have disabilities. However, transit sites and permanent sites will present an opportunity for sign posting families to services and support.

Sex

Impact Sex:	Yes. There will be a positive impact across sex groups Male and Females.
Sex Groups Impacted:	The 2021 census confirms the strategy will impact Female and Males within the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community in Birmingham and across West Midlands..



In the 2021 census poorer health was reported across all age groups and in both sexes among people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller, compared with the England and Wales population. The strategy's proposal for more sites across Birmingham to meet demand will positively impact the below data regarding sex displayed below from the 2021 census, in the West Midlands and in Birmingham;

Sex Impact Details:

Location	Sex	Age Range	Number
Birmingham	Female	05 to 09	40
Birmingham	Female	10 to 14	30
Birmingham	Female	15 to 19	40
Birmingham	Female	20 to 24	25
Birmingham	Female	25 to 29	40
Birmingham	Female	30 to 34	50
Birmingham	Female	35 to 39	30
Birmingham	Female	40 to 44	25
Birmingham	Female	45 to 49	20
Birmingham	Female	50 to 54	20
Birmingham	Female	55 to 59	15
Birmingham	Female	60 to 64	[0]
Birmingham	Female	65 to 69	[0]
Birmingham	Female	70 to 74	[0]
Birmingham	Female	75 to 79	[0]
Birmingham	Female	80 to 84	[0]
Birmingham	Female	85 & over	[0]
Birmingham	Male	0 to 04	35
Birmingham	Male	05 to 09	30
Birmingham	Male	10 to 14	20
Birmingham	Male	15 to 19	40
Birmingham	Male	20 to 24	35
Birmingham	Male	25 to 29	25
Birmingham	Male	30 to 34	50
Birmingham	Male	35 to 39	25



Birmingham	Male	40 to 44	35
Birmingham	Male	45 to 49	25
Birmingham	Male	50 to 54	10
Birmingham	Male	55 to 59	10
Birmingham	Male	60 to 64	15
Birmingham	Male	65 to 69	15
Birmingham	Male	70 to 74	[0]
Birmingham	Male	75 to 79	[0]
Birmingham	Male	80 to 84	[0]
Birmingham	Male	85 & over	[0]
Location	Sex	Age Range	Number
West Midlands	Female	0 to 04	305
West Midlands	Female	05 to 09	295
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West Midlands	Female	35 to 39	220
West Midlands	Female	40 to 44	220
West Midlands	Female	45 to 49	190
West Midlands	Female	50 to 54	200
West Midlands	Female	55 to 59	145
West Midlands	Female	60 to 64	100
West Midlands	Female	65 to 69	70
West Midlands	Female	70 to 74	75
West Midlands	Female	75 to 79	45
West Midlands	Female	80 to 84	20
West Midlands	Female	85 & over	20
West Midlands	Male	0 to 04	310



	West Midlands Male	05 to 09	370
	West Midlands Male	10 to 14	285
	West Midlands Male	15 to 19	275
	West Midlands Male	20 to 24	235
	West Midlands Male	25 to 29	265
	West Midlands Male	30 to 34	260
	West Midlands Male	35 to 39	235
	West Midlands Male	40 to 44	230
	West Midlands Male	45 to 49	200
	West Midlands Male	50 to 54	175
	West Midlands Male	55 to 59	120
	West Midlands Male	60 to 64	110
	West Midlands Male	65 to 69	85
	West Midlands Male	70 to 74	55
	West Midlands Male	75 to 79	35
	West Midlands Male	80 to 84	40
	West Midlands Male	85 & over	15
Sex Impact Mitigation:	<p>Any injunctions issued in the future on families in current sites may have a negative impact. Improving access to health services and developing current and new sites in Birmingham will be a positive action.</p> <p>Women's groups will potentially be encouraged to develop across the borough to share experiences and bond. With more regular permanent or transit sites across Birmingham the authority and services will be able to reach out to families to find new ways of getting men to talk about mental health through current or/and new funding. With the aim to work to reduce the shame around mental health in Gypsy Roma, and Traveller communities.</p> <p>Overall, services being delivered to both sexes as parents / adults, as with many discriminated against and marginalised populations, stereotyped assumptions and prejudice among professionals have led to Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities feeling shamed by, and having a mistrust of, healthcare professionals.</p> <p>A report produced by the National Suicide Prevention Alliance, 'Tackling Mental Health Inequalities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller People – NSPA' in May 2024 highlighted the implications across communities.</p>		



Gender Reassignment

Impact Gender Reassignment:	There was no information available of the impact on this group Nationally, for West Midlands or for Birmingham.
Gender Reassignment Impact Details:	There was no information available of the impact on this group.
Gender Reassignment Impact Mitigation:	There was no information available of the impact on this group.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact Marriage and Civil Partnership:	No. There was no information available of the impact on this group nationally, for the west midlands and for Birmingham.
Marriage and Civil Partnership Groups Impacted:	There was no information available of the impact on this group.
Marriage and Civil Partnership Impact Details:	There was no information available of the impact on this group.
Marriage and Civil Partnership Impact Mitigation:	There was no information available of the impact on this group.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact Pregnancy and Maternity:	Yes. There will bbe a positive impact on this community.
Pregnancy and Maternity Impact Details:	<p>There is little evidence with respect to the impact of transit sites, negotiated stopping and permanat sites on this group / this community because of a lack of data nationally however, having various sites could present an opportunity for sign posting families to services and support.</p> <p>However, independant research carried out on the significant health inequalities that exist between the Gypsies / Travellers and the general population in the UK have been widely identified. In a October 2022 report by 'Friends, Families & Traveller' https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Briefing_Health-inequalities-experienced-by-Gypsies-and-Travellers-in-England.pdf</p> <p>The report covers various aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children from Gypsy and Traveller communities are more likely to experience early death, poor childhood development and limited uptake and access of health services. 2. There is an excess prevalence of miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Gypsy and Traveller communities and high rates of maternal death during pregnancy and shortly after childbirth.



Pregnancy and Maternity Impact Mitigation:	There is a positive impact relieving families from any stress / pressure in situations relating to pregnancies or maternity. Reducing the number of pregnant women having miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Gypsy and Traveller communities. Including the high rates of maternal death during pregnancy and shortly after childbirth in the community.
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Race

Race:	Yes. There will be a positive impact on the community.
Race Groups Impacted:	<p>Irish Travellers who are a nomadic group of people from Ireland but have a separate identity, heritage and culture to the community in general.</p> <p>Romany Gypsies who have been in Britain since at least 1515 after migrating from continental Europe during the Roma migration from India. The term Gypsy comes from "Egyptian" which is what the settled population perceived them to be because of their dark complexion.</p> <p>Linguistic analysis of the Romani language proves that Romany Gypsies, like the European Roma, originally came from Northern India, probably around the 12th century. French Manouche Gypsies who have a similar origin and culture to Romany Gypsies. Finally, 'Roma' used for people of Roma origin who have come to the UK from Central and Eastern Europe in recent years, particularly following the end of the Cold War and successive enlargements of the EU in 2004 and 2007. Roma are regarded as being distinct from British Gypsies and Travellers, although they often face similar challenges. Roma people in the UK may have diverse cultural heritages, depending on their country of origin and it is common for Roma people to speak at least two languages, Romanes and the language of their home country. These communities prefer to reside in houses.</p>



Race Impact Details:

Many Irish Travellers are practising Catholics, while some Gypsies and Travellers are part of a growing Christian Evangelical movement. Gypsy and Traveller culture has always adapted to survive and continues to do so today. Rapid economic change, recession and the gradual dismantling of the 'grey' economy have driven many Gypsy and Traveller families into hard times.

The council is aware through research that Travellers and Roma people each have very different customs, religion, language and heritage. For instance, Gypsies are said to have originated in India and the Romani language (also spoken by Roma) is considered to consist of at least seven varieties, each a language.

Traditionally, Irish Travellers are a nomadic group of people from Ireland but have a separate identity, heritage and culture to the community in general.

There were already indigenous nomadic people in Britain when the Romany Gypsies first arrived hundreds of years ago, and the diverse cultures/ethnicities have to some extent merged. There are barriers that exist within the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities preventing crucial data from being obtained and gathered. Although most Gypsies and Travellers see travelling as part of their identity, they can choose to live in different ways including:

- 1) Moving regularly around the country from site to site and being 'on the road'
- 2) Living permanently in caravans or mobile homes, on sites provided by the council, or on private sites
- 3) Living in settled accommodation during winter or school term-time, travelling during the summer months
- 4) Living in 'bricks and mortar' housing, settled together, but still retaining a strong commitment to Gypsy/Traveller culture and traditions.



Race Impact Mitigation:

As an example to address the serious disparities highlighted by the 'Race Disparity Audit, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government' has provided £200,000 of funding between 6 projects aiming to improve outcomes for Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities in the areas of educational attainment, health and social integration. The department has also funded 22 projects which support Roma communities across England through the Controlling Migration Fund. In addition, the department has provided funding to 2 projects to improve the reporting of hate crime by Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.

The council is open to explore funding and support further research similar to the audit for Birmingham as part of the 10 year strategy.

The councils work with Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) will enable residents to have a meaningful opportunity to co-regulate and co-design services, in turn as an example develop our understanding as a council around the communities lived experience and genuinely use this to improve service delivery. Being able to recognise the needs of so called "hard-to-reach" groups so that we are better placed to work with them to change their situation of hardship, giving them a better quality of life and feeling in society.

The council will seek to train staff around the culture and races within the community in Birmingham to understand their needs around inclusion and representation from their community, as part of the 10 year strategy considering research in the 'NHS Race and Health Observatory' national guide identifying best practice seen here Inequalities in 'Mental Health Care for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Communities, Identifying Best Practice – NHS – Race and Health Observatory' (nhsrho.org).

The council understands this is essential to raise the national and west midlands profile of the issue.

There is an absence of people from Gypsy Roma and Traveller backgrounds in key positions in statutory agencies, trade unions, health boards and places of political representation.

Contemporary services speak of valuing diversity, with the limited data available across the UK it is apparent there is a failure to integrate Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities into our workforce and into our services. It is not clear why this should be any more difficult or culturally complex than for any other marginalised population.

To mitigate isolation and a lack of representation in Birmingham within the community, the strategy includes the importance of:

- 1) Ensuring voluntary organisations led by Gypsy Roma and Traveller Communities are supported in Birmingham by the city council.
- 2) Exploring the cultures within the Gypsy Roma, and Traveller Birmingham community, so they are celebrated more using arts, music, and dance working together with partnerships.

It speaks to a profundity of prejudice and an inability or unwillingness to recognise this problem. In current National Health Service (NHS) practice, this should be seen as an organisational and societal failure of engagement rather than an isolated issue for each city across the UK, west midlands and Birmingham.



Religion or Belief

Impact Religion or Belief:	No. There is no data provided to confirm there will be an impact on religion within this group.
Religion or Belief Groups Impacted:	Travellers and Roma people within the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community.
Religion or Belief Impact Details:	<p>Many Irish Travellers are practising Catholics, while some Gypsies and Travellers are part of a growing Christian Evangelical movement. Gypsy and Traveller culture has always adapted to survive and continues to do so today. Rapid economic change, recession and the gradual dismantling of the 'grey' economy have driven many Gypsy and Traveller families into hard times.</p> <p>The council is aware through research that Travellers and Roma people each have very different customs, religion, language and heritage. For instance, Gypsies are said to have originated in India and the Romani language (also spoken by Roma) is considered to consist of at least seven varieties, each a language.</p> <p>Traditionally, Irish Travellers are a nomadic group of people from Ireland but have a separate identity, heritage and culture to the community in general.</p> <p>There were already indigenous nomadic people in Britain when the Romany Gypsies first arrived hundreds of years ago, and the diverse cultures/ethnicities have to some extent merged. There are barriers that exist within the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities preventing crucial data from being obtained and gathered. Although most Gypsies and Travellers see travelling as part of their identity, they can choose to live in different ways including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Moving regularly around the country from site to site and being 'on the road' 2) Living permanently in caravans or mobile homes, on sites provided by the council, or on private sites 3) Living in settled accommodation during winter or school term-time, travelling during the summer months 4) Living in 'bricks and mortar' housing, settled together, but still retaining a strong commitment to Gypsy/Traveller culture and traditions.



<p>Religion or Belief Impact Mitigation:</p>	<p>As set out in the strategy the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities are not homogenous and have a diverse culture and a range of experiences across the UK. The community's needs are more than just suitable accommodation. An infrastructure is therefore needed to be built around the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Community giving access to all services from health care centres, opticians, education facilities to Hospitals together will language interpreters (where required) to assist communication and service delivery.</p> <p>A sustainable community is a place where people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives can feel welcome and safe, and where prosperity is shared.</p> <p>In Birmingham, we understand people and communities are different and want to make sure a range of accommodations are available. The city council is fully aware they need to invest more to support the Gypsy Roma, and Traveller communities. Identifying suitable land within Birmingham City Councils portfolio to develop it will be imperative. Employees and Staff within Birmingham City Council have had no training regarding Gypsy/Traveller culture and history. As a result, they do not know the differences between the different travelling communities. This is essential to work effectively with the communities to meet the council's vision.</p> <p>The council have identified that moving forward It is important for them to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Have a better understanding of the diversity within Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities as well as cultures, traditions and histories. 2) Have better understanding of the barriers which Gypsy Roma, Traveller and nomadic people face when accessing public services across health, accommodation, justice and education as well as an improved knowledge on how to support people through these barriers. 3) Be equipped with information to provide more inclusive services to Gypsy Roma and Traveller and nomadic people.
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Sexual Orientation

<p>Impact Sexual Orientation:</p>	<p>No. There was no information available of the impact on this group nationally.</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation Groups Impacted:</p>	<p>The 2021 census confirms the strategy will impact Female and Males within the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community in Birmingham and across West Midlands..</p>



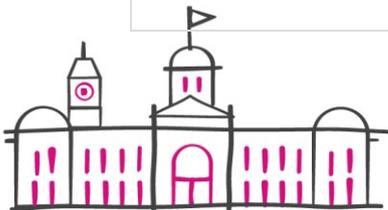
In the 2021 census poorer health was reported across all age groups and in both sexes among people who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller, compared with the England and Wales population. The strategy's proposal for more sites across Birmingham to meet demand will positively impact the below data regarding sex dispalyed below from the 2021census, in the West Midlands and in Birmingham;

Sexual Orientation Impact
 Details:

Location	Sex	Age Range	Number
Birmingham	Female	05 to 09	40
Birmingham	Female	10 to 14	30
Birmingham	Female	15 to 19	40
Birmingham	Female	20 to 24	25
Birmingham	Female	25 to 29	40
Birmingham	Female	30 to 34	50
Birmingham	Female	35 to 39	30
Birmingham	Female	40 to 44	25
Birmingham	Female	45 to 49	20
Birmingham	Female	50 to 54	20
Birmingham	Female	55 to 59	15
Birmingham	Female	60 to 64	[0]
Birmingham	Female	65 to 69	[0]
Birmingham	Female	70 to 74	[0]
Birmingham	Female	75 to 79	[0]
Birmingham	Female	80 to 84	[0]
Birmingham	Female	85 & over	[0]
Birmingham	Male	0 to 04	35
Birmingham	Male	05 to 09	30
Birmingham	Male	10 to 14	20
Birmingham	Male	15 to 19	40
Birmingham	Male	20 to 24	35
Birmingham	Male	25 to 29	25
Birmingham	Male	30 to 34	50
Birmingham	Male	35 to 39	25



Birmingham	Male	40 to 44	35
Birmingham	Male	45 to 49	25
Birmingham	Male	50 to 54	10
Birmingham	Male	55 to 59	10
Birmingham	Male	60 to 64	15
Birmingham	Male	65 to 69	15
Birmingham	Male	70 to 74	[0]
Birmingham	Male	75 to 79	[0]
Birmingham	Male	80 to 84	[0]
Birmingham	Male	85 & over	[0]
Location	Sex	Age Range	Number
West Midlands	Female	0 to 04	305
West Midlands	Female	05 to 09	295
West Midlands	Female	10 to 14	290
West Midlands	Female	15 to 19	275
West Midlands	Female	20 to 24	275
West Midlands	Female	25 to 29	235
West Midlands	Female	30 to 34	275
West Midlands	Female	35 to 39	220
West Midlands	Female	40 to 44	220
West Midlands	Female	45 to 49	190
West Midlands	Female	50 to 54	200
West Midlands	Female	55 to 59	145
West Midlands	Female	60 to 64	100
West Midlands	Female	65 to 69	70
West Midlands	Female	70 to 74	75
West Midlands	Female	75 to 79	45
West Midlands	Female	80 to 84	20
West Midlands	Female	85 & over	20
West Midlands	Male	0 to 04	310



	West Midlands Male	05 to 09	370
	West Midlands Male	10 to 14	285
	West Midlands Male	15 to 19	275
	West Midlands Male	20 to 24	235
	West Midlands Male	25 to 29	265
	West Midlands Male	30 to 34	260
	West Midlands Male	35 to 39	235
	West Midlands Male	40 to 44	230
	West Midlands Male	45 to 49	200
	West Midlands Male	50 to 54	175
	West Midlands Male	55 to 59	120
	West Midlands Male	60 to 64	110
	West Midlands Male	65 to 69	85
	West Midlands Male	70 to 74	55
	West Midlands Male	75 to 79	35
	West Midlands Male	80 to 84	40
	West Midlands Male	85 & over	15
Sexual Orientation Impact Mitigation:	<p>Any injunctions issued in the future on families in current sites may have a negative impact. Improving access to health services and developing current and new sites in Birmingham will be a positive action.</p> <p>Women's groups will potentially be encouraged to develop across the borough to share experiences and bond. With more regular permanent or transit sites across Birmingham the authority and services will be able to reach out to families to find new ways of getting men to talk about mental health through current or/and new funding. With the aim to work to reduce the shame around mental health in Gypsy Roma, and Traveller communities.</p> <p>Overall, services being delivered to both sexes as parents / adults, as with many discriminated against and marginalised populations, stereotyped assumptions and prejudice among professionals have led to Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities feeling shamed by, and having a mistrust of, healthcare professionals.</p> <p>A report produced by the National Suicide Prevention Alliance, 'Tackling Mental Health Inequalities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller People – NSPA' in May 2024 highlighted the implications across communities.</p>		



Care Experience / Care Leavers

Impact Care Experience:	Yes. The impact will be positive on families and the community as a whole.
Care Experience Impact Details:	<p>The proposal of securing varied accommodations in sites across Birmingham on roll out of the strategy will benefit families with very young children or/ and with those from ages 16-25 living on unauthorised sites, they often have poorer health outcomes arising from limited access to amenities (such as showers and toilets) and to health care services and continuity of care. They are vulnerable people.</p> <p>Many nomadic Gypsies and Travellers (including those residing or moving through Birmingham) find it difficult to register with a GP (as evidenced by the Red Cross's "Mystery Shopping" exercise in Birmingham) because most surgeries only like to take people with a permanent local address. The result is the women become the primary carer to children and those 16-25 in age out of school/ education often to their husbands too if they have mental health issues, are suicidal, are ill or unwell. This is an operational issue, due to discrimination and travellers not having accommodation either on a transit site or on settled site.</p>



Care Experience Impact
Mitigation:

The council considered the impact on this group within the community when producing the strategy, by reaching out to the Childrens and Families directorate for their input to understand the council approach / procedure. To mitigate the 'Care Leaver' having a bad experience, entering into the foster system from as a child or as a teenager, having mental health issues because they are passed through various families at times in their youth, then having spent so much time in foster care or out of education attaining low grades or none with restricted opportunities for employment. Often living a life of crime or/ and homeless.

The strategy offers the opportunity for more secure residence from the communities on sites, with regular / fixed addresses for accessing health care services, school / employment with opportunities other a life of crime, removing or reducing the number of youth in this community ending up homeless. Keeping families together with a more suitable surrounding infrastructure from health care services to do so.

Some benefits are set out in the strategy:

1. School Attendance

Having gained access to education the most important factor impacting pupils from the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community is their convenience in attending school.

In association with 'Birmingham's Children Missing Education Department', the council actively monitor all children from this community who are taken off school.

These children are individually visited or actively tracked both in the UK and abroad to ensure that they still have the ability to access education.

Birmingham centrally attempts to monitor the attendance of individual pupils who are attending school and will attempt to intervene when attendance appears to be dropping significantly.

Despite attendance now being primarily the responsibility of the individual educational establishments, we believe that these minority groups require closer monitoring.

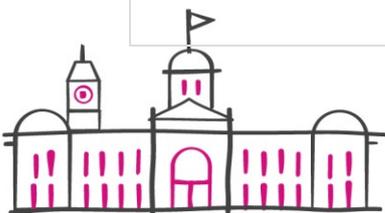
2. Attainment

The council are acutely aware of the educational attainment gap between the Travellers communities and other pupils. The vast majority of these pupils in Birmingham are from non-English speaking homes.

As a result, the 'GRT' department has in the past commissioned and sponsored an individual TEFL programme for teachers and teaching assistances across Birmingham. This aims to promote consistency and quality in the teaching of EAL across the City to both pupils and in some cases their parents.

Unfortunately, the take up was not sufficient to continue this but if an increase in demand is apparent this can be restarted. The council do use a specialist reading programme for English speaking travellers on the roadside and we have developed a dual language programme of the same reading scheme for use as an aid to family learning and encourage the parents to model reading and writing for their children.

We are attempting to ensure, as part of a roll out programme, that every child from the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community has some form of educational qualification at the end of their time in Birmingham.



	<p>3. In Birmingham we take the safeguarding of all pupils as a priority.</p> <p>The 'GRT' department works extremely closely with 'Children's Social Service (CSC)', West Midlands Police, West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network, National Health Service and NGO. The council has very close links to the communities and 'The Information Hub/Corporate Audit' provides solid and verifiable information and advice to individual practitioners.</p> <p>Our councils robust enquiries to school aged pregnant students and their families provide in-depth knowledge and expertise which can be used to ensure the safety and well-being of young girls who are brought over to this country without their family. By ensuring these girls are seen on a regular basis by their educational provision we can help them find a support service if they find themselves in situations they cannot control.</p> <p>The promotion of good practice in school registration has ensured that we now can very quickly identify individual pupils at risk of significant exploitation or harm.</p> <p>The thorough knowledge and excellent links established between Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller health services, CASS, West Midlands Police, anti-slavery network, schools and educational provisions have enabled the development of several training programmes to raise awareness of developing trends and issues amongst front line staff. Being a solid, reliable and knowledgeable enables schools to come forward to a non-judgemental service for advice on raising attainment, attendance or more complex safeguarding issues.</p> <p>Additionally, the Children and Families directorate and the Strategy Team within the City Housing Directorate have agreed to produce a poilicy to confirm the current procedure in place around the above, relating to children from the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community their barriers and their educational needs.</p>
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Other Risks or Impacts

<p>Any Other Risks Or Impacts:</p>	<p>Gender / Sex outside of Male and Female, traveller people's disabilities, the number of children in education for each traveller family and the relationship status of parents in families to identify where support is required. ONS needs to reflect this information for boroughs better .</p>
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Full Assessment Summary



Full Assessment Summary:

In summary, the following protected characteristic groups were identified in the Gypsy/Traveller community:

Children

Older people

Women

People with health problems (no specific information on disabilities)

Pregnant women

Race (Roma Gypsies and Irish Travellers)

Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are ethnic groups protected by the Equality Act 2010.

The data collected locally from the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTANA), provides a total of the National Gypsy Traveller population at just over 120,000, according to the research. Other academic estimates of the combined Gypsy, Irish Traveller and other Traveller population range from 120,000 to 300,000. Ethnic monitoring data of the Gypsy Traveller population is rarely collected by key service providers in health, employment, planning and criminal justice.

The provision of transit and permanent sites is intended to enable a more structured and robust approach of support which will positively impact the health and wellbeing of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities. Evidence has been gathered from local and national sources as follows:

1. Details on the Gypsy and Traveller population affected was taken from the 2021 census.
2. Local data on protected characteristics and needs in the local Gypsy and Traveller UE community was taken from an exercise carried out by Birmingham .
3. Local data on the impact on groups with protected characteristics in the resident population was taken from the evidence. This information was used to identify groups with protected characteristics to understand the community better across the west midlands and in Birmingham.

A number of limitations in the data have been identified:

1. There is a lack of national level research into the characteristics and needs of Gypsies/Travellers in Unauthorised Encampments (UE's).
2. Welfare needs assessments are offered to all people present on a UE, however not everyone may be present at the time of the visit, individuals may refuse to give information and often one individual speaks on behalf of the travelling group. A group who travels within the borough may provide different information at each site/assessment.

Wherever possible, information for each group has only been included once in the strategy. Ongoing reviews of legislation may present opportunities to explore alternative means of service provision.

The proposal in the strategy is intended to benefit the permanent community by empowering the Police and council staff to respond to unauthorised encampments more effectively. The temporary nature of



	the recommended transit sites will enable the authority to assess the extent to which the site achieves this.
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Monitoring

<p>Monitoring Details:</p>	<p>The council has built on existing partnerships and created new ones specifically to ensure the strategy is successful. The councils partnerships collectively have extensive working experience with the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community building relationships, promoting issues, gathering, reviewing and monitoring data relating to the community as a whole. Over a long period of time equating to years.</p> <p>The council intends to establish an implementation plan to accompany the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Strategy with a realistic action plan considering the following - meeting realistic expectations for the community over the 10 year period, the councils financial and capacity restraints.</p> <p>The EIA will be reviewed every 6 years from the end of January 2025, community engagement will continue through focus groups / workshops and feedback recorded then analysed for gaps / room for improvement. Conducting surveys incorporated into site visits to the Roma /Romany community by the Children and Families directorate delivered to families in fixed housing, as part of the councils children's Pupils Placement Support procedure to ensure children remain in education. As a benefit the procedure includes the council investigating whether children in families from the Gypsy Traveller community moving through Birmingham are also in education. Then working within their parameters to ensure that they are.</p> <p>Engagement between the City Housing Directorate and the Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships directorate will continue to share knowledge around the health of the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community and relevant policy for compliance.</p> <p>Ultimately, the council will move forward with the crosspollination of information regarding the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community across service areas to ensure that they are heard and are included in developing temporary as well as permanent sites in Birmingham. That are safe, suitable and sustainable.</p>
<p>Monitoring Officer Email:</p>	<p>Hannah.Forrest@birmingham.gov.uk</p>

