

Communities Scrutiny Commission

12th November 2018



Report of: Acting Executive Director: Communities

Title: Vehicle Dwellers Encampment Policy Consultation

Ward: City wide

Officer Presenting Report: Penny Germon, Neighbourhoods & Communities Service Manager

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Recommendation

To note the consultation report and comment on the proposed policy approach to vehicle dwelling encampments on the highway.



1. Context

The number of people living in vehicles on the streets of Bristol has increased significantly. [There is an existing policy for encampments on other public or private land](#) which but currently no policy for encampments on the highway.

The strategic context is set out in the [Corporate Strategy](#) and Homelessness Strategy which states: *'We want to minimise incidences of rough sleeping and homelessness in Bristol and enable citizens in housing need to access affordable housing that meets their needs'*.

2. Policy

See above.

3. Consultation

Consultation on the draft policy took place 29 June - 26 August 2018.

[The consultation report is appended to this report and is available on the council website](#)

4. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
 - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - tackle prejudice; and

- promote understanding.

- 5b) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be further informed by the consultation. The proposed policy is seeking to take account of impact on the vehicle dwelling community and people who may be impacted by vehicle dwelling encampments on the highway.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Consultation report

Appendix 2: Draft Policy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None.