



**Winchester**  
City Council

**Winchester District: Gypsy, Traveller  
and Travelling Showpeople  
Development Plan Document:  
Regulation 18**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)**

**(incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment  
& Habitats Regulations Assessment)**

**SA REPORT**

**July 2017**

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

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# Winchester District: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document: Regulation 18

## SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment)

### SA Report

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## Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

### **This is the NTS of the Sustainability Report**

1. This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability (Integrated) Appraisal Report documenting the processes of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Winchester City Council Gypsy, Traveller and Traveling Showpeople Development Plan Document (DPD). The NTS describes the SA process, how the SA of the DPD was carried out, and the findings of the SA.

### **The Gypsy, Traveller and Traveling Showpeople Development Plan Document (DPD)**

2. The Winchester Local Plan comprises several local development documents that set out Winchester City Council's policies relating to the development and use of land in its area. The over-arching document is Local Plan Part 1- the Joint Core Strategy, which sets out the long-term vision and strategic objectives for the Winchester District area, and was adopted in 2013. Local Plan Part 2- Development Management and Site Allocations (LPP2) includes development management policies and site allocations for development and was adopted in 2017. Both LPP1 and LPP2 were subject to Sustainability Appraisals that were found sound through independent examination with SA Adoption Statements published in 2013 and 2017 respectively.
3. LPP1 includes Core Policy CP5 Sites for Gypsies, Travellers, & Travelling Showpeople stating that the Council will undertake needs assessments in LPP2 to quantify the accommodate requirements; sites will be allocated and planning permission granted providing they meet all the required criteria. LPP2 includes Policy DM4 that states that planning permission will be granted for pitches/plots to meet identified traveller needs of about 15 gypsy/traveller pitches and 24 travelling showpeople's plots over the Plan period, subject to the criteria outlined in policy CP5, and that sites will be identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD and consent granted as necessary to meet this need. The criteria referred to in CP5 relate to requirements for encouraging social inclusion and minimising tension with existing communities, capacity of local services/facilities and highways, and environmental protection.
4. The Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople (Traveller) DPD is being developed by Winchester City Council and includes that part of the District that lies outside the South Downs National Park. The plan period is for September 2016 to August 2031. The purpose of the DPD is to identify and allocate sites and ensure that the identified pitches/plots reflect the requirements of LPP1 Policy CP5. The Traveller DPD will form part of the Development Plan, along with LPP1 & 2, the Denmead Neighbourhood Plan, and the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan.

5. The Traveller DPD has been prepared with wide evidence and consultation, including accommodation needs assessment of gypsies & travellers and travelling showpersons, call for sites, site options assessments, and an options consultation published on the Council's website during late March to early May 2017. The Council found that a combination approach provides a flexible and pragmatic response to helping resolve the issue of limited site availability and accommodating the needs of travellers. Therefore, the Traveller DPD considers the following:
- Safeguarding existing permitted and lawful sites
  - Regularising suitable existing sites
  - Specific site allocation policies to consider the needs of larger sites particularly for travelling showpersons plots

### **Integrated Appraisal: SA, SEA and HRA**

6. The purpose of Sustainability (Integrated) Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in the preparation of Local Plans. This requirement for SA is in accordance with planning legislation and paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Local Plans must also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Government advises that an integrated approach is taken so that the SA process incorporates the requirements for SEA – and to the same level of detail. The Council is also required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) that considers the effects of plans on designated habitats and species. The Council commissioned independent specialists Enfusion Ltd to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document.

### **Characteristics of the Winchester District**

7. Winchester District is in the South of England, and has a landscape of rolling downland typical of the Hampshire area. There are over 50 rural settlements in the area, and the major settlement of Winchester Town. The area has an approximate population of 120,000 people, and is a generally prosperous area with key employment sectors including public administration, banking and finance. The area has reasonably low deprivation, good health conditions and low crime rates. There is an identified need for affordable housing which is currently not being met. Areas for development are limited by physical constraints, including areas at risk of flooding, protected for their landscape, historic, and ecological values.

### **Key Sustainability Issues, Problems and Opportunities**

8. The key sustainability issues and opportunities for the District overall were identified for the SAs of LPP1 & 2 and remain relevant, as follows:
- Maintaining and developing Winchester City as a centre for commerce and learning, and stimulating the rural economy

- Reducing unsustainable traffic and transport trends (commuting patterns)
- Creating opportunities for renewable energy development
- Improving the supply and availability of affordable housing
- Protecting valued landscape and habitats; enhancing Green Infrastructure networks
- The needs of an ageing population
- Ensuring that infrastructure requirements meet the needs of new development and take account of constraints

9. The characteristics of the District with sustainability issues that are particularly relevant to Travellers' pitches/plots may be summarised as follows:

- Tensions with the settled community
- Accessibility to services, especially schools and medical facilities
- Connections to local infrastructure, especially drainage
- Safe play space
- Sites with direct road access and capacity for storage and parking
- Limited number of sites appropriate for the preferred size of 5 or less pitches/plots
- Unauthorised pitches, those with temporary planning permission, and concealed/doubled-up households

**How has the DPD been assessed?**

10. The initial SA scoping report (2007) included an SA Framework of SA Objectives informed by the Plans/Programmes Review and the baseline information. This SA framework was used to test LPP1; it was then refined to be more applicable to consideration of sites for the SA of LPP2. For the SA of the Traveller DPD, the SA Framework was further refined with more specific and relevant thresholds of significance to reflect the key sustainability issues for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople site options.

11. The overall SA Framework of Objectives remained the same as that used to appraise LPP1 & 2 and as follows:

SA No	SA Objective
1	To create and sustain communities that meet the needs of the population and promote social inclusion
2	To provide for the timely delivery of infrastructure suitable to meet community needs
3	To provide good quality housing for all
4	To maintain the buoyant economy and develop greater diversity that meets local needs
5	To increase accessibility; reduce car usage and the need to travel
6	To improve the health and well-being of all
7	To protect, enhance and manage water resources in a sustainable way
8	To ensure sustainable waste management

9	To address the causes of climate change and to mitigate and adapt in line with Winchester's Climate Change Strategy
10	To promote the sustainable design and construction of buildings and places
11	To conserve and enhance biodiversity
12	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage
13	To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape of Winchester District
14	To secure high standards of design
15	To minimise local and global sources of pollution

12. In the same way that site options were tested through for LPP2, the traveller site options were grouped according to relevant settlements. Each option was assessed against each SA Objective using baseline information and professional judgment and the likely significant effects recorded. The SA considered the nature of the likely sustainability effects (including positive/negative, duration (short, medium or long term), permanent/temporary, secondary, cumulative and synergistic) and according to categories of significance as set out in the following table:

<b>Categories of Significance</b>		
<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Sustainability Effect</b>
<b>x</b>	Absolute constraints	Absolute sustainability constraints to development, for example, internationally protected biodiversity
<b>--</b>	Major Negative	Problematical, improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation likely to be difficult and/or expensive
<b>-</b>	Minor negative	Potential sustainability issues: mitigation and/or negotiation possible
<b>+</b>	Minor positive	No sustainability constraints and development acceptable
<b>++</b>	Major Positive	Development encouraged as would resolve existing sustainability problem
<b>?</b>	Uncertain	Uncertain or Unknown Effects
<b>0</b>	Neutral	Neutral effect

13. The SA made suggestions for mitigating significant negative effects, where possible, and possibilities for enhancement, where relevant. Sustainability Appraisal is informed by the best available information and data. However, data gaps and uncertainties exist and it is not always possible to accurately predict effects at the plan level. The Traveller DPD is topic specific DPD and some mitigation measures have already been taken into account through core and development management policies in LPP1 & 2, together with the requirements set out in criteria in Policy CP5, such that the SA was limited at this stage of planning.

### **What reasonable alternatives have been considered & addressed?**

14. Policies CP5 and DM4 set out the identified traveller pitch/plot needs. The Council identified 41 options and these were tested through the SA process. It may be noted that the Do-Nothing scenario is not a reasonable option for the



Traveller DPD as the Council is obliged to provide development according to the identified needs.

### **What are the likely significant effects of the Traveller DPD?**

15. The SA found positive effects for sustainability objectives on housing, employment (for travelling showpeople), communities, and cultural heritage. There is the potential for negative effects on integrating with existing communities, access to services and facilities, noise & light pollution, water and waste management; however, there is strong mitigation provided by LPP1 CP5 and the Policies in the Traveller DPD TR1-7. There are further positive effects on the soil resource through the continuing use of existing sites.
16. The SA found that there is the potential for negative effects on some sites for landscape and visual amenity; however, strong mitigation is provided by LPP1 CP5 and the Policies in the Traveller DPD TR1-7. None of the sites are likely to have significant effects on protected or important biodiversity; some sites are located within 5.6km of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy for internationally protected sites at the coastline and as such may be required to contribute to this Mitigation Strategy.
17. The SA found some potential negative cumulative effects for the clusters of sites at Shedfield and North Boarhunt. These have been mitigated through the approach of specifying the size and numbers of pitches/plots and the site-specific requirements set out in TR4 Shedfield & TR5 N Boarhunt. Furthermore, by continuing with existing sites, there will be limited change reducing the potential for adverse effects. The general requirements in TR7 and the site-specific requirements in TR3-5 will ensure that effects are reduced to residual neutral and there is the potential for enhancement with biodiversity and landscape screening.

### **How could negative effects be mitigated?**

18. Potential negative effects have been mitigated by limiting development size and ensuring in policy that general and site-specific requirements will avoid or reduce potential negative effects on community integration, noise, light & water pollution, and landscape/visual amenity. Limiting the number of pitches/plots in clusters, particularly for Shedfield and North Boarhunt, provides mitigation measures for potential synergist or cumulative negative effects.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

19. Several sites were found to be within 5.6km of the internationally protected coastline on the Solent with the potential for additional recreational pressures on protected wintering birds. However, these sites proposed in the DPD are existing gypsy, traveller & travelling showpeople sites such that the recreational impacts are negligible. Nonetheless, the draft Traveller DPD acknowledges that there is a requirement to contribute towards mitigating recreational impacts affects some sites proposed in the DPD. Overall, the

HRA found that the policies and sites in the Traveller DPD would not, either alone or in-combination, have impacts on any designated European sites.

### **Were there any difficulties encountered?**

20. There were no significant technical difficulties encountered during the preparation of this SA and any data gaps or uncertainties about the effectiveness of mitigation measures were recorded.

### **How has the SA influenced the draft Traveller DPD?**

21. The SA made suggestions for mitigating potential negative effects, such as limiting the size and number of sites to avoid cumulative negative effects. The SA identified some sites where additional screening could mitigate landscape/visual amenity effects and potentially provide enhancement with positive effects for both landscape and biodiversity.

### **Monitoring Proposals**

22. The SEA Directive and Regulations require that the significant effects (positive and negative) of implementing the plan should be monitored to identify at an early stage any unforeseen effects and to be able to take appropriate remedial action. Government guidance on SA/SEA advises that existing monitoring arrangements should be used where possible to avoid duplication. Government requires local planning authorities to produce Monitoring Reports (MRs), and the Winchester City Council Monitoring Report (produced annually) and the Monitoring Framework set out in Appendix C of the Traveller DPD are considered sufficient to ensure appropriate monitoring takes place.

### **Consultation & Next Steps**

23. This SA Report will accompany the Regulation 18 draft Traveller DPD for public consultation from July through to 4 September 2017. Comments received on the draft DPD will be taken into account in the preparation of the Pre-Submission DPD and any significant changes will be subject to SA. Any comments on the SA and HRA will be reviewed and responses considered in the next version of the SA Report to accompany the Traveller DPD.

Any comments on the SA or HRA should be sent to the City Council via email:

[ldf@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@winchester.gov.uk)

Or post: Head of Strategic Planning  
Winchester City Council,  
Colebrook Street  
Winchester, Hants SO23 9LJ

All comments must be received by **5pm on Monday 4 September**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

- 1.1 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in the preparation of Local Plans. Initially the scope of the SA is determined by establishing the baseline conditions and context of the draft plan by considering other relevant plans and objectives, and by identifying issues, problems and opportunities for the area. From this scope, an SA Framework of objectives relevant for sustainable development in the plan area is developed to form the basis against which the draft plan is assessed.
- 1.2 This requirement for SA is set out in planning legislation<sup>1</sup> and paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012)<sup>2</sup>. Local Plans must also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>3</sup> (SEA) and Government advises<sup>4</sup> that an integrated approach is taken so that the SA process incorporates the requirements for SEA – and to the same level of detail. Winchester City Council has commissioned independent specialist consultants Enfusion Ltd to undertake the SA process (incorporating SEA) of the Gypsy, Traveller and Traveling Showpeople Development Plan Document (Traveller DPD).

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

- 1.3 The Council is also required<sup>5</sup> to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Gypsy, Traveller and Traveling Showpeople Development Plan Document. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) [the Habitats Regulations] require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The HRA screening considers if the potential impacts arising as a result of the plan are likely to have significant effect on these sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. HRA reports were prepared for both Local Plan Part1 and Local Plan Part 2 of the Winchester District Development Framework and the findings incorporated into the SA Reports.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 19(5) of the 2004 Act and Regulation 22(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>3</sup> EU Directive 2001/42/EC, and, Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

<sup>5</sup> The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/contents/made>

## **The Gypsy, Traveller and Traveling Showpeople Development Plan Document (Traveller DPD)**

- 1.4 The Winchester District Local Plan comprises a number of documents which taken as a whole set out Winchester City Council's policies relating to the development and use of land in their area. The Plan includes:
- Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy (with South Downs National Park)
  - Local Plan Part 2 - Development Management and Allocations
  - Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document
  - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which supplement the Local Plan by providing direction on specific issues: Village and Neighbourhood Design Statements
  - Neighbourhood Plans
  - Council's Strategy 2017 (replacing the previous Community Strategy)
  - Monitoring Report
- 1.5 LPP1<sup>6</sup> is the overarching strategic document of the Local Plan and sets out the key elements of the planning strategy for the district; it is the spatial expression of the Community Strategy. In particular, the LPP1 established various development requirements for the District's larger settlements, including outlining levels of housing provision from 2011 to 2031. The LPP1 also supports the retention and improvement of employment, public transport, facilities and services in these settlements, as well as setting standards for the provision of open space and built recreation facilities. LPP1 was developed between 2007 and 2013, informed by the findings of the SA/SEA, and adopted in 2013.
- 1.6 LPP2<sup>7</sup> refined the development requirements for the District's larger settlements as set out in the LPP1 and includes the development management policies required to assess and determine planning proposals and applications, particularly where these were not already covered by the general policies set out in LPP1. LPP2 allocates sites to deliver the development need outlined in LPP1 but only covers the part of Winchester District that lies outside the South Downs National Park. The plan was subject to SA/SEA and the findings informed the development of the plan with LPP2 adopted in March 2017.
- 1.7 Local Authorities are required by Central Government through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015) to assess the accommodation needs of the gypsy and traveller community, including travelling showpeople, and to develop a strategy that addresses any unmet need. Policy CP5 (LPP1) and Policy DM4 (LPP2) will act in conjunction to determine planning applications and have assisted in proposing allocation sites in the Traveller DPD.
- 1.8 Core Policy CP5 Sites for Gypsies, Travellers, & Travelling Showpeople states that the Council will undertake needs assessments in LPP2 to quantify the

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/>

accommodate requirements; sites will be allocated and planning permission granted providing they meet all the required criteria – these relate to encouraging social inclusion and minimising tension with existing communities, capacity of local services/facilities and highways, and environmental protection. LPP2 Policy DM4 states that planning permission will be granted for pitches/plots to meet identified traveller needs of about 15 gypsy/traveller pitches and 24 travelling showpeople's plots over the Plan period, subject to the criteria outlined in policy CP5, and that sites will be identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD and consent granted as necessary to meet this need.

1.9 Thus, the purpose of the Traveller DPD is to:

- Identify and allocate a supply of deliverable sites in the first 5 years of the plan and a strategy to accommodate growth in years 6-10 and where possible years 11- 15 in accordance with Policy DM4 and advice set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, published by the Government in August 2015
- Ensure that the identified pitches/plots reflect the requirements of Policy CP5

1.10 The Traveller DPD comprises the elements following:

- Introduction, Background, Evidence & Consultation
- Proposed Approach
- Safeguarding Existing Permitted Sites  
Policy TR 1 – Safeguarding Permitted Sites
- Sites with temporary consents  
Policy TR 2 – Sites with Temporary Consent
- Site Specific Policies  
Policy TR 3 – Carousel Park  
Policy TR 4 – The Nurseries, Shedfield  
Policy TR 5 – Firgrove Lane, North Boarhunt
- Expansion or intensification within existing sites  
Policy TR 6 - Expansion or intensification within existing sites
- General Design Guidance and Site Layout  
Policy TR 7 – Traveller Site Design Guidance and Layout
- Monitoring Framework

### **Inter-Relationships between SA & Plan-Making Processes**

1.11 Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative and ongoing process that informs plan-making by assessing developing elements of the Plan, evaluating and describing the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and suggesting possibilities for mitigating significant adverse effects and enhancing positive effects. The Government's extant guidance recognises value in undertaking SA and HRA concurrently (although the findings and reporting of the two processes should be kept distinct)<sup>8</sup>. In practice, the

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<sup>8</sup> Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment: Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (DCLG, August 2006)

evidence base for both SA and HRA processes can be shared, as well as with the evidence base for the plan-making process.

### **Consultation: Statutory, Public, Community & Stakeholder Engagement**

- 1.12 The Council has undertaken wide consultation during the preparation of the draft Traveller DPD. A consultation on the scope of the DPD was available through the Council's website between 28 October and 12 December 2016; comments received were considered in the development of the DPD. A second consultation ran through April until 8 May 2017 and comprised a questionnaire that sought opinions on potential options for the DPD, including extending existing sites or allocating new sites. This SA Report accompanies the draft DPD on public consultation from July through to 4 September 2017. Comments received on the draft plan and the SA will be taken into consideration in the next stage of plan-making and assessment.

### **Compliance with the Requirements of the EU SEA Directive**

- 1.13 National Planning Policy and National Planning Practice Guidance advises that where the SEA Directive/Regulations apply to local plans there are some specific requirements that must be complied with and that should be addressed as an integral part of the SA process. Therefore, it is important that the sections of this SA Report which meet the requirements of SEA Directive are clearly signposted -and as provided in Appendix I: Statement on Compliance with SEA Directive/Regulations.

### **Structure of this SA Report**

- 1.14 Following this introductory Section 1, Section 2 describes the methods used to appraise the draft Traveller DPD and Section 3 provides the sustainability context and characteristics of the Plan area. Section 4 explains how options in plan-making and alternatives in SA have been addressed and reported explicitly to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the SEA Directive. The findings of the SA of the draft Traveller DPD are discussed in Section 5 with details of the SA of site options presented in Appendix II. Consideration of HRA is reported in Section 6 and proposed monitoring in Section 7 with Section 8 explaining the next steps and the requirements for consultation.
- 1.15 In accordance with the SEA Regulations, a Non-Technical Summary is also provided - at the beginning of this SA Report and can also be available separately.

## 2.0 METHODS

### Introduction

- 2.1 Sustainability (Integrated) Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment is an iterative and ongoing process that aims to provide a high level of protection for the environment and to promote sustainable development for plan-making. The role of SA is to inform the Council as the planning authority; the SA findings do not form the sole basis for decision-making – this is informed also by other studies, feasibility and feedback from consultation.
- 2.2 There is a tiering of appraisal/assessment processes that aligns with the hierarchy of plans – from international, national and through to local. This tiering is acknowledged by the NPPF (2012) in paragraph 167 that states that “Assessments should be proportionate and should not repeat policy assessment that has already been undertaken.” This SA is an Integrated Appraisal that has incorporated the requirements of the EU SEA Directive and the findings from the review of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

### Scoping & the SA Framework

- 2.3 SA scoping was initially undertaken during 2007 to help ensure that the SA covers the key sustainability issues that are relevant to the spatial and development planning system in the Winchester area. The SA Scoping Report was published in July 2007 for consultation with statutory bodies and the public (available on the Winchester City Council Website<sup>9</sup>). Comments received were considered in the final Scoping Report.
- 2.4 The SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of the emerging Local Development Documents are described, analysed and compared. It includes sustainability objectives, elaborated by ‘decision-aiding questions’, to provide a systematic guide to the assessment. These have been developed from considering the objectives of other relevant Plans and Programmes, analysis of baseline information, identification of the key sustainability issues, and responses from the scoping consultation.
- 2.5 The sustainability objectives seek to address and progress the main sustainability issues and opportunities identified as important in the Winchester area. The decision-aiding questions assist by clarifying the detail of the issues, improving objectivity, ensuring that the appraisal is relevant to land use planning, and making the SA Framework more locally specific.
- 2.6 The framework was reviewed and kept updated throughout the development of LPP1. It was further updated to assess the potential site allocations of LPP2, to avoid duplication and make the appraisal more relevant to appraisal of locationally specific sites, whilst ensuring that the SA of LPP2 remained in conformity with that for LPP1.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/sustainability-appraisals/>

- 2.7 The Traveller DPD is a topic focussed plan and with the specific aim to guide implementation of development requirements as set out in LPP1 Policy CP5 and LPP2 Policy DM4 by allocating sites. Therefore, the SA framework was further refined to better reflect the plan-making and assessment processes relevant to such a specific plan.
- 2.8 The table below (table 2.1) sets out the refinement of the SA and shows how it relates to the decision-aiding questions for the previous SAs of the higher-level plans. Column 1 lists the headline SA Objectives; column 2 lists the decision-aiding questions applicable to LPP1 and those in column 3 refer to the site-specific questions amendments used for LPP2 (shown in coloured text that reports changes made after consultation comments). Column 4 explains further refinement of questions to make them applicable to the assessment of the Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople DPD. This includes explanation of the approach to identifying the thresholds of significance for likely effects, considering the issues associated with such plots and pitches.



Table 2.1: SA Framework

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) OBJECTIVE	DECISION-AIDING QUESTIONS - LOCAL PLAN PART 1 (LPP1) (ALSO TO BE USED FOR POLICIES IN LOCAL PLAN PART 2 OR A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	DECISION-AIDING QUESTIONS – FOR SITE ALLOCATIONS IN LOCAL PAN PART 2 (LPP2) or a NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	Refinement and Applicability to SA of site options for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople with Thresholds of Significance of Likely Effects
<p><b>1) Building Communities</b> <i>SEA topics: Population</i></p> <p><b>To create and sustain communities that meet the needs of the population and promote social inclusion</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help provide facilities for social interaction</li> <li>▪ Promote diverse communities and meet a range of housing needs</li> <li>▪ Ensure inclusion of all sections of the community</li> <li>▪ Ensure equality of access to services</li> <li>▪ Integrate new and existing communities</li> <li>▪ Encourage community cohesion and a sense of community ownership</li> <li>▪ Reduce social exclusion of disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▪ Meet the needs of an ageing population</li> </ul>	<p>All development proposed on the sites are required to meet DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles and CP21 – Infrastructure and Community Benefit. Housing needs are covered in SA Objective 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How does the site deliver the vision as set out in Policies WT1/SH1 or MTRA1 of LPP1?</li> <li>▪ How does the site deliver the locally derived vision and objectives identified by the community?</li> <li>▪ Could the site provide space for facilities for social interaction?</li> <li>▪ Does the site allow for equality of access to services? Please refer to objective 5 – transport for distances to services.</li> </ul>	<p>If a site option is an existing gypsy &amp; traveller or travelling showpeople site, there is the potential for major positive effects as communities are likely to already have been formed and groups integrated. If a site option is not existing, it will result in a minor positive effect.</p> <p>Potential for negative effects if site option sizes are disproportionate to local community or over-concentrated &amp; thus might not be in compliance with the requirements as set out in Policy CP5 Sites for Gypsies, Travellers &amp; Travelling Showpeople.</p>
<p><b>2) Infrastructure</b> <i>SEA topics: Material Assets</i></p> <p><b>To provide for the timely delivery of infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the provision of community facilities, for example cultural, health, recreational and social facilities.</li> <li>▪ Encourage the enhancement of green infrastructure (strategic</li> </ul>	<p>All sites proposed are required to meet the requirements of policies: DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles; CP6 – Local Services and Facilities; CP7 Open Space, Recreation and Built facilities; CP15 – Green Infrastructure; and CP21 – Infrastructure and Community Benefit.</p>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>Loss of GI, POS or local facilities &amp; services would be likely major negative effects; minor negative effects if the site option is likely to put pressure on capacity of local facilities, such as a school, health, or GI &amp; POS.</p>

<p><b>suitable to meet community needs</b></p>	<p>network of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces, and greenway linkages)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure the delivery of infrastructure that meets the needs of new and existing development</li> <li>▪ Ensure appropriate timing and phasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Could the site provide space to deliver enhancement of green infrastructure and open space and provide linkages to existing local network of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces, and greenway linkages (e.g. footpaths)?</li> <li>▪ Will the development of the site result in the loss of green infrastructure identified in: the Green Infrastructure Study 2010; PUSH GI Strategy; PUSH Implementation Framework 2012; or land identified in the 2015 Open Space Strategy?</li> <li>▪ Will the development of the site result in the loss of a local facility or service or registered community assets?</li> <li>▪ Is the site within the specified distances of other facilities as identified in Policy CP7 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation?</li> </ul>	<p>Neutral effects if local services/facilities have capacity.</p> <p>Minor positive effects if site option within specified distances as identified in Policy CP7 Open Space, Recreation &amp; Built Facilities.</p>
<p><b>3) Housing</b> <i>SEA topics: Population</i></p> <p><b>To provide good quality housing for all</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver affordable and sustainable housing both in urban and rural areas, in keeping with local character</li> <li>▪ Support the sympathetic accommodation of housing growth in sustainable locations</li> <li>▪ Balance housing and employment land delivery with community facilities and environmental capacity</li> </ul>	<p>Sites which provide for residential development can achieve the requirements set out in the decision aiding questions through the following Local Plan Part 1 Policies, where applicable, ( Policy CP 1 – Housing Provision; Policy CP 2 – Housing Provision and Mix; Policy CP3 – Affordable Housing Provision on Market Led Housing Sites; Policy CP4 – Affordable Housing on Exception Sites to Meet Local Needs; Policy CP5 - Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpersons; Policy CP6 – Local Services and Facilities); Policy CP13 – High Quality Design; DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles.</p>	<p>All site options are likely to have the potential for major positive effects on the SA Objective due to the safeguarding and allocation of sites, and granting permanent planning status to temporary/unauthorised sites.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide for an appropriate mix of dwelling size, type, density and phasing to meet local needs</li> <li>Provide for a range of housing to meet the needs of specific groups, (e.g. the elderly, disabled, young, Gypsies and Travellers) and adaptable housing that meets the needs of people in different life stages</li> </ul>		
<p><b>4) Economy and Employment</b> <i>SEA topics:</i> <i>Population</i></p> <p><b>To maintain the buoyant economy and develop greater diversity that meets local needs</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a diverse range of jobs that meet the needs of local people</li> <li>Ensure jobs are located in sustainable locations</li> <li>Support the rural economy</li> <li>Reduce both out commuting and in commuting</li> <li>Help maintain Winchester City as a major focus of learning and education</li> <li>Assist in the retention of young people and graduates</li> <li>Recognise the role of tourism in the local economy</li> <li>Support retail diversity across the district</li> <li>Support live work units &amp; working from home</li> </ul>	<p>Sites which propose mixed use or employment related development sites are required to meet the requirements of Policies: CP8 – Economic Growth; CP9 – Retention of Employment Land and Premises; and DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well is the site located in relation to places of employment? Please refer to objective 5 – transport for distances to employment.</li> <li>Would the use of the site lead to a loss of employment land/ jobs?</li> <li>Could the site provide a balance between housing and local employment opportunities and local community facilities and retail?</li> </ul>	<p>Likely neutral effects for most site options as no employment land is explicitly being proposed.</p> <p>Potential for negative effects if employment land is lost.</p> <p>Sites for travelling showpeople include provision of space for vehicles &amp; equipment to support their work, so there is the potential for minor positive effects by supporting diversity of jobs.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Balance suitable employment with housing growth</li> <li>▪ Encourage environmentally and socially responsible employment and help to create local markets for local goods/services</li> <li>▪ Aim towards establishing a low carbon economy for Winchester District</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5) Transport</b> <i>SEA topics: Air, Climatic Factors, Population, Material Assets</i></p> <p><b>To increase accessibility; reduce car usage and the need to travel</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support delivery of quality public transport that is accessible to all sections of the community</li> <li>▪ Enable the enhancement of a District-wide network of footpaths and cycle links between settlements, homes and work and community facilities</li> <li>▪ Support the need to reduce travel, especially during peak times</li> <li>▪ Locate new development to reduce the need to travel</li> <li>▪ Help create an integrated sustainable transport</li> </ul>	<p>All sites proposed are required to meet the requirements of Policies CP10 – Transport and DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is the site served well by public transport (i.e. frequency of service every hour on days when a bus service operates<sup>10</sup>)?</li> <li>▪ Is the site within walking distance (ideally between 400 to 800 m<sup>11</sup>) of a number of services and facilities including<sup>12</sup>: opportunities for local employment; Bus stop; and Local facilities which could include (shop, health and education facilities)?</li> <li>▪ Is there safe access to and from the site (pedestrian, cycle and</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>A good site access (road, footpaths) will have minor positive effects; if none, then minor negative effects.</p> <p>New site options or extensions to existing sites may result in additional car usage.</p>

<sup>10</sup> Winchester City Council (July 2011) Market Towns and Rural Area Development Strategy Background Paper, Table 3: Accessibility criteria, pp. 14.

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/evidence-base/local-communities/market-towns-rural-area-development-strategy/>

<sup>11</sup> Winchester City Council (2013) Transport Assessment for Potential Allocations (Draft).

<sup>12</sup> Winchester City Council (July 2011) Market Towns and Rural Area Development Strategy Background Paper, paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 (list of facilities), pp. 15. Online at

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/evidence-base/local-communities/market-towns-rural-area-development-strategy/>

	<p>system, for example through providing for safe storage for cycles, respect for users of shared road space, green lane linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt maximum parking standards</li> </ul>	<p>vehicle) to the facilities mentioned above, onto an adopted road with pavements to key facilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any existing transport infrastructure issues in the local area such as congestion, single track roads, and accident hotspots which development of the site could exacerbate?</li> <li>Is access to and from the site (pedestrian, cycle and vehicle) to the facilities mentioned above, constrained by typography?</li> <li>Could the site enable the enhancement of a local network of footpaths and cycle links between settlements, homes and work and community facilities?</li> <li>Could the site help create an integrated sustainable transport system, for example through providing for shared road space, green lane linkages?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6) Health</b> <i>SEA topics: Human Health</i> <b>To improve the health and well being of all</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and increase the provision of and accessibility to community, cultural and recreational facilities</li> <li>Require design that ensures safe, attractive places and engenders a sense of place</li> <li>Require design that promotes healthy lifestyles</li> </ul>	<p>All sites proposed are required to meet Policy DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles.</p> <p>Design is dealt with under Objective 14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the site improve access to healthy and affordable food through, for example, the provision of allotments? Through meeting the specified standards in CP7.</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>Open space, recreation &amp; use of allotments can promote healthy lifestyles. If an under provision or over walking distance, minor negative effects; if within walking distance to an allotment, then minor positive effect.</p> <p>Potential for minor positive effects if site options have good access to open space and sports facilities, and</p>

	<p>and increased physical activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase accessibility to health facilities and encourage multi-functional use of facilities</li> <li>▪ Ensure residents have access to healthy and affordable food through, for example, the provision of allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is there access to community, cultural facilities by walking/ cycling and access open space, sport and recreational facilities? Please refer to Objective 5 – transport for distances to community and cultural facilities and Objective 2 – Infrastructure for open space, sport and recreational facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>are within walking/cycling distance. Minor negative effects if not.</p>
<p><b>7) Water</b> <i>SEA topics: Water, Climatic Factors, Biodiversity, Health</i></p> <p><b>To protect, enhance and manage water resources in a sustainable way</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Require the use of water efficiency measures</li> <li>▪ Manage and minimise risk of flooding including regard to future climate change (promotion of adaptation measures)</li> <li>▪ Promote the adoption and use of sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>▪ Protect ground and surface water sources: quality &amp; quantity</li> <li>▪ Progress compatibility with the objectives of the Water Framework directive</li> <li>▪ Promote access to water for recreation, enjoyment and understanding (including valued biodiversity/ habitats)</li> </ul>	<p>All sites proposed are required to meet Policies: CP11 – Sustainable Low and Zero Carbon Built Development; DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles; and CP17 – Flooding, Flood risk and the Water Environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is the site Flood Zone 2 or 3?</li> <li>▪ Are there any known problems with flooding on the site?</li> <li>▪ Is the site in a ground water protection zone, safeguarded zone, water protection zone and/ or situated on major aquifer with high/ intermediate vulnerability?</li> <li>▪ Is there potential for adverse effects on the quality of ground and surface water sources?</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>If in flood zone, safeguarded water zone, nitrate vulnerable zone, or vulnerable aquifer zone potential for minor negative effects; otherwise likely neutral effects.</p>

<p><b>8) Waste</b> <i>SEA topics: Material Assets</i></p> <p><b>To ensure sustainable waste management</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help reduce waste and facilitate recycling in construction and operation</li> <li>▪ Encourage composting</li> <li>▪ Encourage development that is self-sufficient in waste management</li> <li>▪ Support the recovery of energy from waste</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable at the site level as all sites can achieve this objective through meeting the requirements set out in the Local Plan Part 1 Policies (including Policy DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles).</p>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options – N/A.</p> <p>Policy CP5 requires accommodating G,T &amp;TSP uses to acceptable standards including waste management appropriate to the type &amp; size of the site – providing mitigation measures for potential negative effects such as litter &amp; with likely neutral effects.</p>
<p><b>9) Climate Change</b> <i>SEA topics: Climatic Factors, Air, Water</i></p> <p><b>To address the causes of climate change and to mitigate and adapt in line with Winchester's Climate Change Strategy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote renewable energy generation</li> <li>▪ Help reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>▪ Ensure adaptation planning that maximises opportunities and minimises the costs of climate change.</li> <li>▪ Promote community involvement, understanding and action on climate change</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable at the site level as all sites can achieve this objective through meeting the requirements set out in the Local Plan Part 1 Policies (including DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles; CP11 – Sustainable Low and Zero Carbon Built Development and CP12 – Renewable and Decentralised Energy).</p>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options – N/A.</p> <p>Neutral effect likely as all site options are generally of a small size.</p>
<p><b>10) Sustainable Construction</b> <i>SEA topics: Air, Water, Climatic Factors, Material assets</i></p> <p><b>To promote the sustainable design</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure the incorporation of energy and water efficiency measures and renewables in new development aiming for zero carbon dwellings and workplaces</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable at the site level as all sites can achieve this objective through meeting the requirements set out in the Local Plan Part 1 Policies (including CP11 – Sustainable Low and Zero Carbon Built Development and CP12 – Renewable; and Decentralised Energy; CP14 – Effective Use of Land).</p>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options –</p> <p>Policy CP5 requires accommodating G,T &amp;TSP uses to acceptable standards including any proposals for permanent brick and mortar dwellings.</p>

<p><b>and construction of buildings and places</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek higher density in new development in appropriate locations</li> <li>▪ Require the use of sustainable building standards (Code for Sustainable Homes, BREEAM)</li> <li>▪ Promote locally and sustainably sourced (e.g. recycled) materials in construction and renovation</li> </ul>		
<p><b>11) Biodiversity</b> <i>SEA topics: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</i></p> <p><b>To conserve and enhance biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect and enhance designated and locally valued habitats and species</li> <li>▪ Prevent and reverse habitat fragmentation, where possible promote understanding of and access to biodiversity</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for provision and enhancement of a network of greenspaces.</li> </ul>	<p>All sites proposed are required to meet Policies: CP16 – Biodiversity; DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles; and CP15 – Green Infrastructure, when developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Does the whole or part of the site or is the site near to a designated site (international, European, national or local)?</li> <li>■ Does the site contain any protected species?</li> <li>■ Are there any locally valued habitats and or species (non-recorded biodiversity interests) present or adjacent, for example: mature hedgerows, traditional orchards, veteran trees etc.?</li> </ul> <p>Could the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have any adverse impact on any designated sites or protected species (International, European, National or</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>Potential for major negative effects if any designated sites or protected species. Minor negative effects if the option affects a SINCC or other locally valued biodiversity.</p> <p>For any site options with existing trees/hedgerows acting as boundaries and/or screening, there is the opportunity to enhance local biodiversity with minor positive effects.</p>



		<p>Local) and/ or on any locally valued habitats and species (non-recorded biodiversity interests)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have potential to enhance designated and locally valued habitats and species?</li> <li>▪ Provide space to reverse habitat fragmentation?</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for provision and enhancement of a network of greenspaces using an ecosystems approach?</li> <li>▪ Are there streams, rivers, lakes or other watercourses/ aquatic habitat on or within 200m of the site<sup>13</sup>?</li> <li>▪ Is the site within 500m of a large<sup>14</sup> pond?</li> <li>▪ Will development of this site affect any structure or features that could be habitats for protected species?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12) Heritage</b> <i>SEA topics: Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p><b>To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect and where appropriate, enhance the historical and archaeological environment (landscapes, sites, buildings and settings), including resources of local value</li> <li>▪ Support, develop and where appropriate, enhance and increase access to cultural &amp;</li> </ul>	<p>All proposed development on all the sites are required to meet Policies: CP20 – Heritage and Landscape Character; and DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does the site contain or is it close to heritage assets including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scheduled Monuments</li> <li>○ Conservation Areas</li> <li>○ Listed Buildings</li> <li>○ Archaeological sites (recorded and non-recorded)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>Major negative effects if nationally designated assets adversely affected; minor negative effects if locally important.</p> <p>All site options are likely to have minor positive effects on cultural heritage by protecting the G&amp;T and TSP ways of life.</p>

<sup>13</sup>Hampshire & Isle of Wight Chief Planning Officers Group (No date) Biodiversity Checklist. <http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/1app.htm>

<sup>14</sup> Where the surface area of the pond, when water is at its highest level (excluding flood events), is 225m<sup>2</sup> (c. 15m x 15m)

	<p>heritage resources and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help accommodate new development without detriment to the existing built and cultural heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Historic Parks and Gardens</li> <li>○ Existing landscape and townscape character?</li> <li>■ Would the use of the site increase access to local cultural and heritage resources and activities?</li> <li>■ Could the site accommodate new development without detriment to the existing local built and cultural heritage?</li> <li>■ Could the site have an adverse impact on the historical and archaeological environment (landscapes, sites, buildings and settings), including resources of local value?</li> <li>■ Could the site enhance the historical and archaeological environment (landscapes, sites, buildings and settings), including resources of local value?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>13) Landscape &amp; Soils</b> <i>SEA topics: Landscape, Soils</i></p> <p><b>To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape of Winchester District</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimise adverse impact on the landscape setting of the city, towns and rural settlements</li> <li>▪ Prioritise the use of previously developed land to minimise greenfield development</li> <li>▪ Conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the South Downs National Park, and locally designated landscapes</li> </ul>	<p>All development on proposed sites is required to meet Policies: CP20 – Heritage and Landscape Character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Could the site adversely impact on the landscape setting of the city, towns and rural settlements?</li> <li>■ Is the site classified as previously developed land or Greenfield? Prioritise the reusing of land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.</li> <li>■ Could the site contribute towards conserving and enhancing:</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>If a site option will result in the erosion of the settlement gap, there is the potential for a minor negative effect.</p> <p>Similarly, with loss of the soil resource.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect soil resources and manage in a sustainable way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognised built form and designed or natural landscapes that include features and elements of natural beauty, cultural or historic importance;</li> <li>local distinctiveness, especially in terms of characteristic materials, trees, built form and layout, tranquillity, sense of place and setting.</li> <li>Could the use of the site protect soil resources or would it result in the loss of high grade (1 – 3a) agricultural land?</li> <li>Is the site within a defined settlement gap (LPP1 Policy CP18)?</li> <li>Is the site or part of the site underlain by mineral reserves? Is extraction possible within the timeframe of the plan or could it be extracted prior to development?</li> <li>Is the site or part of the site in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>14) Built Environment</b> <i>SEA topics: Cultural heritage, Population, Material Assets</i></p> <p><b>To secure high standards of design</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote recognition of local distinctiveness and a sense of place in style, materials and scale within the public realm</li> <li>Make best use of existing buildings through reuse and conversion</li> <li>Promote innovation in sustainable design for new and heritage development</li> </ul>	<p>All sites can achieve the requirements set out in the Local Plan Part 1 Policies (including DS1 – Development Strategy and Principles; and CP13 –High quality design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would the development of the site be in keeping with the character and sense of place of the local area and where applicable, aid with the delivery of locally derived design principles as set through a Village Design</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote integration of new development with existing context/design</li> <li>Recognise the role of the community in securing good design e.g. Village design statements, community planning</li> </ul>	<p>Statement/ Neighbourhood Design Statement?</p>	
<p><b>15) Pollution</b> <i>SEA topics: Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health, Soils, Water</i> <b>Minimise local and global sources of pollution</b></p>	<p>Does the option/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve air quality, e.g. through transport management and reduction of employment related emissions</li> <li>Reduce and manage noise pollution</li> <li>Reduce and manage the impact of light pollution</li> <li>Ensure there is no pollution of water sources</li> <li>Ensure there is no pollution of the soil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the use of the site result in an increase in air, noise, light, water, odour and soil pollution in the area?</li> <li>Is there a risk of contamination on the site?</li> <li>Are there overhead power cables on the site?</li> <li>Is the site a known landfill site?</li> <li>Are there any adjacent uses to the site which may cause noise, light, odour or air pollution conflicts?</li> <li>Is the site in or adjacent to an AQMA?</li> </ul>	<p>As for the SA of LPP2 site options.</p> <p>All site options have the potential to increase noise and/or light pollution in the local area.</p> <p>Conflicting neighbouring land uses have the potential for minor negative effects.</p>

## Appraising the Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople DPD

- 2.9 The Council identified 41 reasonable site options for potential gypsy & traveller pitches and travelling showpeople plots, comprising existing sites, sites allowed on appeal, or granted planning permission since September 2016. One site greenfield site was submitted through the call for sites.
- 2.10 The SA for LPP2 grouped site options together with their location in individual settlements, and this approach was taken for the assessment of the DPD. Some settlements included several site options, whilst other settlements only one site option. Each settlement grouping of options was appraised using the full SA Framework and a narrative provided to record the significant negative and positive effects identified; mitigation was suggested for any negative effects found.
- 2.11 The appraisal was undertaken using professional judgment, supported by the baseline information and available plan evidence, as well as any other relevant information sources available, such as through Defra Magic maps<sup>15</sup>. The narrative reported any significant effects found for each site option and the potential cumulative effects on the settlement – represented by colours and symbols as set out in the following table:

**Table 2.2: Categories of Significance of Likely Effects**

<b>Key: Categories of Significance</b>		
<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Sustainability Effect</b>
<b>x</b>	Absolute constraints	Absolute sustainability constraints to development, for example, internationally protected biodiversity
<b>--</b>	Major Negative	Problematical, improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation likely to be difficult and/or expensive
<b>-</b>	Minor negative	Potential sustainability issues: mitigation and/or negotiation possible
<b>+</b>	Minor positive	No sustainability constraints and development acceptable
<b>++</b>	Major Positive	Development encouraged as would resolve existing sustainability problem
<b>?</b>	Uncertain	Uncertain or Unknown Effects
<b>0</b>	Neutral	Neutral effect

## Consultation

- 2.12 The SEA Regulations require that the SA/SEA scoping stage is subject to formal consultation with the statutory environmental bodies – Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. The SA scoping for assessment of the Local Plan documents LPP1 & 2 was subject to formal consultation and comments received were considered in the SA process. SA Reports

<sup>15</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

accompanying the draft and submission Local Plans LPP1 & 2 were subject to public consultation, comments received and responses made were reported.

- 2.13 This SA of the draft Regulation 18 Traveller DPD uses the same SA Framework of Objectives refined for applicability to a lower level Plan. The SA Report accompanies the draft Traveller DPD on statutory consultation and any comments made on the SA (and HRA) will be taken into account in preparing the next version of the DPD and its accompanying SA Report.

### 3.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES & BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

#### Review of Plans & Programmes and Baseline Conditions

- 3.1 The SA Scoping Report was originally produced in 2007, and since then both the baseline information and the Plans and Programmes review (PP review) have been updated during the SA process for the appraisal of both LPP1 and LPP2. The most recent PP Review is set out in Appendix IV of the LPP2 SA Report (2015) and is still relevant for the SA of the Traveller DPD. The key update for the PP Review and the baseline information is the revision to the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites published by DCLG<sup>16</sup> in August 2015 that amended definitions of Travellers.
- 3.2 The baseline information compiled for the SA of LPP2 as set out in Appendix V of the SA Report (2015) is still valid and relevant for the SA of the draft Traveller DPD. The SA used evidence compiled for the preparation of the DPD, such as the PBA Sites Assessment Study (2016), and other information available through various Government sources, including Magic Maps for environmental data and Environment Agency flood maps for planning.

#### Key Sustainability Issues

- 3.3 The key sustainability issues, problems and opportunities distilled from the relevant baseline information informed the development of the SA Framework of SA Objectives, as described previously and shown in Table 2.1. The sustainability issues identified for the Winchester District area and detailed in the SAs of LPP1 and LPP2 are still considered applicable and relevant to the SA of the DPD. The key issues may be summarised as in the table 3.1 following:

**Table 3.1: Key Sustainability Issues**

Key sustainability issues identified for Winchester City Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintaining and developing Winchester City as a centre for commerce and learning, and stimulating the rural economy in the context of growing development pressures from the urban centres to the south of the District.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing unsustainable traffic and transport trends (commuting patterns), including associated carbon emissions by reducing the need to travel by car and creating opportunities for renewable energy development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving the supply and availability of affordable housing.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protecting valued landscape and habitats; including seeking opportunities for new Green Infrastructure networks.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catering for the need of an ageing population.</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>

- Ensuring that infrastructure requirements meet the needs of new development and take account of constraints (water, biodiversity etc).

3.4 The characteristics of the District with sustainability issues that are particularly relevant to Travellers' pitches and plots may be summarised as follows:

- Tensions with the settled community
- Accessibility to services, especially schools and medical facilities
- Connections to local infrastructure, especially drainage
- Safe play space
- Sites with direct road access and capacity for storage and parking
- Limited number of sites appropriate for the preferred size of 5 or less pitches/plots
- Unauthorised pitches, those with temporary planning permission, and concealed/doubled-up households

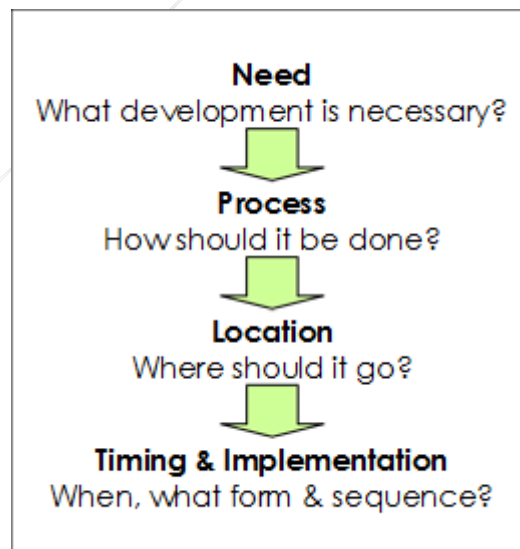


## 4.0 CONSIDERATION OF PLAN-MAKING OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES IN SA/SEA

### Assessment of Alternatives in SA/SEA

- 4.1 The EU SEA Directive<sup>17</sup> requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan and “reasonable alternatives” taking into account “the objectives and geographical scope” of the plan and the reasons for selecting alternatives should be outlined in the Report. The Directive does not specifically define the term “reasonable alternative”; however, UK SA/SEA guidance<sup>18</sup> advises that it should be taken to mean “realistic and relevant” i.e. deliverable and within the timescale of the plan. The NPPF (paragraph 165) requires that a Sustainability Appraisal which meets the requirements of the SEA Directive should be integral to the plan preparation process.
- 4.2 Extant SEA guidance<sup>19</sup> sets out an approach and methods for developing and assessing alternatives. This includes acknowledgement of a hierarchy of alternatives that are relevant and proportionate to the tiering of plan-making. Alternatives considered at the early stages of plan-making need not be elaborated in too much detail so that the “big issues” are kept clear; only the main differences between alternatives need to be documented i.e. the assessment should be proportionate to the level and scope of decision-making for the plan preparation. The hierarchy of alternatives may be summarised in the following diagram:

**Figure 4.1: Hierarchy of Alternatives in SA/SEA and Options in Plan-Making**



<sup>17</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

<sup>18</sup> <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf)

## Assessment of Options in Plan-Making

- 4.3 At the later stage of development planning, such as with the Traveller DPD, there are limited options available for consideration. The role of the SA is to inform the Council in the selection and assessment of options; SA is undertaken of those reasonable alternatives (options) identified through the plan-making process. The SA findings do not form the sole basis for decision making – this is informed also from planning and other studies, feasibility, and consultation feedback.

## Options for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.4 The Council identified 41 options that might be suitable for allocation as pitches or plot sites for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople. These options were identified through the call for sites; various technical studies, including a sites assessment study<sup>20</sup>; and early consultation with resident and travelling communities. Most of the identified site options are established gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites – some are authorised, some have temporary planning permission, and some are unauthorised. The Council has taken an approach in line with responses received during consultation and to focus on safeguarding existing sites and granting planning permission to unauthorised sites to meet the identified need<sup>21</sup> for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople plots/pitches in the District.
- 4.5 Each option was subject to SA using the full SA Framework of Objectives and decision-aiding questions, thresholds of significance refined for applicability to testing the emerging elements of the draft Traveller DPD. The options investigated through SA are listed in the table 4.1 as follows:

**Table 4.1: Site Options Tested through SA**

<b>Carousel Park</b>
W020-Carousel Park-Travelling Showpeople (8 Plots)
<b>Colden Common</b>
W005- Ashbrook Stables- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch) W011- Riverside- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch)
<b>Curdrige</b>
W004- Joymount Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch) W083- Bowen Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (3 Pitches)
<b>Denmead</b>
W001- The Ranch- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch) W003- Westfork- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitche) W007- Windy Ridge- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch) W021- The Haven- Travelling Showpeople (1 pitch)
<b>Durley</b>
W087- Durley Street- Gypsy & Traveller (4 Pitches)

<sup>20</sup> PBA for Winchester & East Hampshire Councils & the South Downs NPA (2016) Travellers Site Assessment Study

<sup>21</sup> ORS for Winchester Council (2017) Winchester Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment

<b>Knowle</b>
W002- Ash Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (2 Pitches) W017- Ourlands- Gypsy & Traveller (3 Pitches)
<b>Lower Upham</b>
W010- Land Opposite Woodward Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch) W012- Big Muddy Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch) W086- Woodley Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch)
<b>Fishers Pond</b>
W084 Little Ranch- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch)
<b>New Alresford</b>
W008- Travellers Rest- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch)
<b>North Boarhunt</b>
W014- The Piggeries- Gypsy & Traveller (4 pitches) W019- The Old Piggery- Gypsy & Traveller (3 pitches) W027- The Bungalow- Travelling Showpeople (2 pitches) W030 Firgrove Lane- Travelling Showpeople (8 pitches) W081 Caravan 2 & 3, Firgrove Lane- Gypsy & Traveller (n/a pitches)
<b>Shedfield</b>
W009- Rambling Renegade- Gypsy & Traveller (1 Pitch) W023- Plot 1, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (1 Plot) W024- Plot 2, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (1 Plot) W025- Plot 5, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (N/A) W032a- Plot 3, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (1 Plot) W032b- Plot 4, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (1 Plot) W032c- Plot 6, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (2 Plots) W032d- Plot 7, The Nurseries- Travelling Showpeople (1 Plot)
<b>Swanmore</b>
W006- Barn Farm Caravan Park- Gypsy & Traveller (5 pitches) W013- Land west of Lasek- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch) W015- Cushty Tan- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch) W018- Stablewood Farm- Gypsy & Traveller (1 pitch) W022- The Orchard- Travelling Showpeople (4 pitches) W028- Stokes Yard- Travelling Showpeople (1 pitch) W029- The Vardo- Travelling Showpeople (1 pitch) W082- Beacon Haven- Gypsy & Traveller (6 pitches) W085- Land adjacent to Gravel Hill- Gypsy & Traveller (3 pitches)
<b>Whiteley</b>
W016- Tynfield- Gypsy & Traveller (18 Pitches)
<b>Wickham</b>
W026- Grig Ranch- Travelling Showpeople (1 Plot)

### The Do-Nothing Scenario

- 4.6 If the Council did not produce a Traveller DPD, it is likely that the unauthorised gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites within the District would remain, including any negative effects; there may be an increase in unauthorised sites and/or expansion of sites with the potential for further cumulative effects. The development of the DPD allows the Council to meet the identified need for plots/pitches in a sustainable manner, by allocating sites that meet the requirements of relevant Policies in LPP1 and 2.

## 5.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE REGULATION 18 GYPSY, TRAVELLER & TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE DPD

### SA of the Site Options

- 5.1 The findings of the SA of the site options are detailed in Appendix II. This section provides summary SA findings. It may be noted that the options identified as reasonable alternatives for travellers' pitches/plots were determined with consideration of various technical studies and from early consultation responses. Thus, mitigation measures had been utilised to some extent by avoiding significant effects on sensitive environmental and community receptors, including limiting the size of pitches/plots to reduce negative effects on the existing communities.
- 5.2 For several sustainable development themes and SA Objectives, the SA found likely effects to be similar for all the site options, as follows:

**Housing, Social Inclusion, Employment, Health, & Cultural Heritage:** All site options were found to have major positive effects through providing pitches/plots that will meet the needs of gypsy & travellers and travelling showpeople; minor positive effects on health and cultural heritage, by provision of pitches/plots accessible to services and facilities, and helping maintain travellers' ways of living. Neutral effects for employment except for those site options with space that could be suitable for traveller showpeople who need space to store equipment – minor positive effects indicated.

**Water Resources, Waste, Energy & Climate Change, Sustainable Construction, Pollution:** Neutral effects were indicated for all site options were indicated since most of the sites are small with caravans/mobile homes such that energy and water efficiencies are not applicable, capable of accommodating waste. Options are unlikely to result in significant brick and mortar development such that sustainable construction objectives not applicable and neutral effects. All options are not in or adjacent to an AQMA, nor any overhead power cables. The existing sites are unlikely to result in an increase of significant noise or light pollution, and those that are small such that any increase in noise and light is likely to be negligible – with overall likely neutral effects.

**Soils, Land, Biodiversity & Landscape:** Site options on existing brownfield land have the potential for major positive effects by reuse of land. Most existing site options have the potential to enhance current natural screening with minor positive effects on biodiversity and mitigation of landscape/visual impacts – particularly through limiting the size of pitches and plots.

- 5.3 The following summarises the key other effects identified through the SA for each defined group of site options. The common effects as described above have not been included in the summaries to avoid repetition; details remain in Appendix II.

- 5.4 **Carousel Park, North of Stratton Park, 1 Site Option (W020 with 8 plots):** Minor positive effects on soils by reuse of brownfield land. There is no footpath access and the nearest public transport is irregular, with potential for minor negative effects on transport and health.
- 5.5 **Colden Common, 2 Site Options (W005 1 pitch & W011 with 1 pitch):** Minor positive effects on soils by reuse of brownfield land. Good site access and good public transport with minor positive effects on transport. W011 has the potential for a minor positive effect on health, as it is in walking distance to an allotment, whilst W005 is not. However, both site options are within walking distance to some public open space areas, with a minor positive affect. W011 is in flood zone 3 designated area, with the potential for a major negative effect without mitigation measures.
- 5.6 **Curdridge, 2 Site Options (W004 1 pitch & W083 3 Pitches):** Minor positive effects on soils by reuse of brownfield land; both have poor site access, with potential minor negative effects for transport, and neither are within walking distance to allotments or most public open space with potential minor negative effects for health. Both site options are located within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area, and therefore could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see the HRA in Section 6 of this report).
- 5.7 **Denmead/Hambledon, 5 Site Options (W001 1 pitch; W003 1 pitche; W007 1 pitch; W021 1 pitch):** Minor positive effect on soils through the reuse of brownfield land. W021 is a travelling showpeople site, with minor positive effects for employment. No site options have footpath access or are in walking distance to the nearest bus stop, with a minor negative effect for transport. None of the site options are within walking distance to an allotment garden or any public open space, with a minor negative effect on health.
- 5.8 **Durley, 1 Site Option (W087 4 pitches):** No footpath access, with a minor negative effect for transport, nor within walking distance to an allotment garden or public open space with potential for a minor negative effect on health. A greenfield site located in the countryside, with the potential for minor negative effects on soils, landscape and the built environment. As the site option is not an existing gypsy & traveller site, there is the potential for negative effects with new residents and the capacity of local services/facilities; - some uncertainty of assessment at this stage. The site option is located within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area and therefore, could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see HRA in Section 6 of this SA Report).
- 5.9 **Knowle/Wickham, 2 Site Options (W002 2 pitches; W017 3 pitches; W026 1 plot):** Both site options at Knowle have poor site access and are not within walking distance to an allotment, with potential for minor negative effects. W017 has the potential for a minor negative effect on landscape due to its location and current lack of screening. It is within walking distance to a range of public open space with a minor positive affect for health. The option at Wickham W026 has minor positive effect on soils through the reuse of brownfield land; proposed for a travelling showpeople site, with a minor positive effect on employment. All three site options are located within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area and therefore, could be expected to contribute

to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see HRA in Section 6 of this SA Report).

- 5.10 **Lower Upham/Upham, 3 Site Options (W010 1 pitch; W012 1 pitch; W086 1pitch):** Positive effects for soils through the reuse of brownfield land. All site options have the potential for minor negative effects on health and transport with poor access to sustainable transport and public open space.
- 5.11 **Fishers Pond, 1 Site Option (W084 1 Pitch):** The site option has the potential for minor negative effects on transport as there is no footpath access and the nearest public transport does not provide a regular service. The site option is not within walking distance to an allotment garden or public open space, therefore, with a potential minor negative effect for objectives on health.
- 5.12 **New Alresford, 1 site option (W008 1 Pitch):** Positive effect on soils through the reuse of brownfield land. No footpath access and poor sustainable transport links; not within walking distance to an allotment garden or public open space, therefore, with the potential for a minor negative effect on health objectives.
- 5.13 **North Boarhunt, 5 site options (W014 4 Pitches; W019 3 Pitches; W027 2 Pitches; W030 8 Pitches; W081? Pitches):** Minor positive effect for soils through the reuse of brownfield land. Site options W027, W030 and W081 are travelling showpeople sites, with a minor positive effect for employment. Potential for a minor negative affect for integrating with the existing community, due to clustered sites being possibly disproportionate to the surrounding community. Most of the site options are only partially screened with the potential for a minor negative affect on both landscape and the built environment. There is poor sustainable transport access and options are not within walking distance to an allotment garden or public open space, with the potential for a minor negative affect on health objectives.
- 5.14 Mitigation for these potential minor negative effects could be provided by site specific policy requirements for the cluster of sites. All the site options are located within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area and therefore could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see HRA and Section 6 of this SA Report).
- 5.15 **Shedfield, 8 site options (W009 1 Pitch; W023 1 Plot; W024 1 Plot; W025 N/A; W032a 1 Plot; W032b 1 Plot; W032c 2 Plots; W032D 1 Plot):** Positive effect on soils through the reuse of brownfield land; further minor positive effects on health due to some access to public open space. Site options W023, 24, 25, 32a, 32b, 32c & 32d are all travelling showpeople site options, with a minor positive effect on employment. Potential for a minor negative affect for integrating with the existing community, due to clustered sites being possibly disproportionate to the surrounding community. The site options are not within walking distance to well serviced bus stops, with a minor negative affect for sustainable transport.
- 5.16 Mitigation for these potential minor negative effects could be provided by site specific policy requirements for the cluster of sites. All site options are located within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area and therefore, could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see HRA and Section 6 of this SA Report).

- 5.17 **Swanmore, 9 site options (W006 5 Pitches; W013 1 Pitch; W015 1 Pitch; W018 1 Pitch; W022 4 Pitches; W028 1 Pitch; W029 1 Pitch; W082 6 Pitches; W085 3 Pitches):** Site options W022, 28 & 29 are travelling showpeople site options, with a minor positive effect on employment. The site options have no footpath access and are not in walking distance to the nearest allotment gardens, with potential minor negative effects. Site options W022, W028 and W082 are located within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area and therefore, could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see HRA and Section 6 of this SA Report).
- 5.18 **Whiteley, 1 site option (W016 18 Pitches):** Reuse of brownfield land with a minor positive effect on soils. Potential for a minor negative affect for integrating with the existing community, due the number of pitches and being possibly disproportionate to the surrounding community. There is no footpath access, poor access to sustainable transport, and the site is not in walking distance to the nearest allotment garden or public open space, with potential minor negative effects. It is within 5.6km of a Special Protected Area and therefore, could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (please see HRA and Section 6 of this SA Report).

### Developing the Draft Regulation 18 Traveller DPD

- 5.19 The Council identified the needs of the Traveller community by commissioning a comprehensive accommodation needs assessment<sup>22</sup> of gypsies and travellers in the Winchester district area. The study identified a need within the plan period of up to 2031 for 15 pitches for gypsies & travellers and for 24 plots for travelling showpersons. The Council had a limited number of potentially suitable available options for traveller sites to meet with this identified need. An approach has been proposed in the draft DPD that aligns with consultation comments received and takes into account limited options. Consultees indicated a preference for retaining existing sites, authorising temporary sites, supporting sites of 5 or less pitches, and in locations that have good access to services and facilities.
- 5.20 There are a number of traveller sites that have been established for some years within the area and the Council investigated an approach as follows:

	G&T pitches	TSP plots
Requirement Policy DM4 (2016 – 2031)	15	24
Sites with planning permission/allowed on appeal since 1/9/16)	6	3
Vacant sites to be retained	1	0
To be delivered through the DPD	About 15	About 18

<sup>22</sup> ORS for Winchester Council (2017) Winchester Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Total supply (b+c+d)	22	21
Surplus/shortfall	+ 7	-3

5.21 Therefore, the Council utilised most of the available options for traveller sites (39 out of 41 options) to meet the identified need in developing the Traveller DPD. Two options were not taken forward: W015 is currently unauthorised with non-travellers and it is not proposed to regularise the site; W087 is a greenfield option that is not needed as the identified need can be met through the strategy of safeguarding and regularising extant traveller sites. **Policy TR1 Safeguarding Permitted Sites** lists 17 existing gypsy & traveller sites and 11 existing sites for travelling showpersons that will be safeguarded from alternative development unless acceptable replacement accommodation can be provided or the site is no longer required to meet any identified need. **Policy TR2 Sites with Temporary Consent** recognises those sites with temporary consent and 4 sites are listed for which planning permission will be granted for permanent traveller accommodation subject to certain site specific requirements.

5.22 For three more complex sites, site specific matters and requirements are detailed in three separate policies:

**Policy TR3 Carousel Park, Micheldever**

**Policy TR4 the Nurseries, Shedfield**

**Policy TR5 Firgrove Lane, North Boarhunt**

5.23 **Policy TR6 Expansion or Intensification within Existing Sites** explains how the Council will consider proposals for any additional provision of pitches/plots on sites covered by Policies TR1-5. **Policy TR7 Traveller Site Design Guidance and Layout** sets out the general requirements of sites in so far as they are relevant regarding access & parking, landscaping/reducing visual impacts, open/safe play areas, minimising light pollution, wastewater & waste management, site drainage with SUDS where possible, and no commercial activities are permitted.

### **SA of Draft Regulation 18 Traveller DPD**

5.24 The SA considered the likely significant effects of each Policy TR1-7 and the implementation of the DPD as a whole, in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Considering the stage of this DPD in the hierarchy of plans (LPP1&2) and assessments (SA Reports for LPP1&2), a pragmatic approach was taken that also aligns with the SA of LPP2. SA Objectives were grouped into Sustainable Development themes to demonstrate the inter-relationships and any potential synergistic and cumulative effects – and to focus the reporting on the significant likely effects – negative and positive.



### **Housing, Employment, Communities, Health & Cultural Heritage**

SEA Directive Topics: Population & Human Health, Cultural Heritage  
NPPF paras 18-27; 47-78; 126-141

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 1: To create and sustain communities that meet the needs of the population and promote social inclusion
- SA Objective 2: To provide for the timely delivery of infrastructure suitable to meet community needs
- SA Objective 3: To provide good quality housing for all
- SA Objective 4: To maintain the buoyant economy and develop greater diversity that meets local needs
- SA Objective 6: To improve the health and wellbeing of all
- SA Objective 10: To promote the sustainable design and construction of buildings and places
- SA Objective 12: To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage
- SA Objective 14: To secure high standards of design

- 5.25 The SA found that there are major positive effects for housing, equality and cultural heritage by provision of pitches and plots for the gypsies, travellers and travelling showpersons traditional ethnic group. There is the potential for negative effects through tensions between travellers and the resident communities. However, there are mitigation measures in place by restricting the size and numbers of pitches and plots in any one area or settlement; also, most sites are existing such that there will be insignificant change for integrating communities and to minimise effects.
- 5.26 The DPD has recognised where there have been tensions and Policy TR3 Carousel Park, Micheldever provides strong mitigation measures by seeking to ensure that there the numbers of travelling showpersons should be restricted to 9 plots and that these should only be for people that meet the definition of travelling showpersons. Policies TR4 the Nurseries, Shedfield & TR5 Firgrove Lane, North Boarhunt limit the number of pitches/plots and prohibit any further expansion or intensification.
- 5.27 Positive effects are also indicated for health by having a safe place to live and work (for travelling showpersons) and with good access to public open space. Neutral effects are indicated for SA Objectives on sustainable design and construction and travellers' mobile homes; mitigation is available through LPP1 Policy CP5 that requires development to be consistent with policies on design and limits any built structures to essential facilities such as a small amenity block.

**Transport and Accessibility**

SEA Directive Topics: Population & Human Health  
NPPF paras 29-41

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 5: To increase accessibility; reduce car usage and the need to travel

- 5.28 Most of the sites are located within or in proximity to settlements with access to services and facilities indicating neutral or positive effects for sustainable transport. There were no major significant negative effects found through the SA.

**Air Quality, Climate Change, Water & Flooding**

SEA Directive Topics: Air, Climatic Factors & Water  
NPPF paras 93-104 & 109-125

- Relevant SA Objectives:
- SA Objective 9: To address the causes of climate change and to mitigate and adapt in line with Winchester's Climate Change Strategy
- SA Objective 7: To protect, enhance and manage water resources in a sustainable way
- SA Objective 15: Minimise local and global sources of pollution

- 5.29 The traveller pitches/plots represent very small development that is not likely to have any significant effects on air quality, climate change, and sustainable water management. Policy CP5 requires all sites to provide appropriate facilities regarding water supply, foul water drainage, and waste management, and confirmed through requirements set out in Policy TR6, providing mitigation measure such that effects will be neutral. All development is required to meet with national policy to avoid flood risk and most site options were not located in or near any flood risk zones. The SA found potential negative effects for flood risk for 3 options – W011 and W006/18 at Swanmore – considering the proximity of flood zone 3. Site W011 at Colden Common has planning permission. Mitigation measures are provided by Policy TR2 that includes a requirement for flood risk assessment for W018 Stablewood Farm Swanmore.

- 5.30 There is the potential for polluting effects from noise and light; however, Policy CP5 provides mitigation measures by requiring that harmful impacts on nearby residential properties should be avoided. Further mitigation is provided by limiting the size and numbers of pitches/plots, minimising the potential for negative effects, including cumulative effects.

**Natural Environment (Landscape, Flora & Fauna, Soils)**

SEA Directive Topics: Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Soil and Landscape  
NPPF paras 17, 79-92 & 109-125

Relevant SA Objectives:

- SA Objective 11: To conserve and enhance biodiversity
- SA Objective 13: To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape of Winchester District

- 5.31 The SA found neutral effects for biodiversity as all the sites are not located within or adjacent to any nationally designated or locally important habitats or nature conservation areas. However, some sites are within 5.6km of an internationally Special Protected Area on the Solent coastline and therefore, could be expected to contribute to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy. This is discussed in the HRA Section 6 of this SA Report. Overall, the HRA considered that the numbers of additional residential accommodation and corresponding additional recreational use with risk of adverse effects on the SPAs is negligible but it is acknowledged that there may be some requirement to contribute towards the Mitigation Strategy.
- 5.32 The SA found several sites where the effectiveness of current screening and landscaping was uncertain with the potential for negative effects. However, mitigation measures are provided by Policy CP5 that states that additional landscaping may be necessary to maintain visual amenity and provide privacy for occupiers. Further mitigation is provided by the Traveller DPD Policy TR7 that requires avoidance of any boundary treatment that would have a detrimental impact on the character of the site and locality; also, a requirement local biodiversity and landscape.

## 6.0 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA)

### LPP1 & LPP2 HRA

- 6.1 LPP1 and LPP2 were subject to HRA<sup>23</sup> during their development, subject to consultation, and found sound through the examination process, with adoption in 2013 and 2017 respectively. These HRAs considered the likely significant effects of the emerging plans on the 16 European sites that are located within the influence of the Winchester Local Plan. The HRA screening assessment for LPP1 screened out 3 of the European sites, due to their location and the sensitivity of the sites. However, the screening found that the effects of the Plan on air quality, water levels, water quality and disturbance for 7 sites were uncertain, and the loss and fragmentation of important habitat was uncertain for 4 other sites. Therefore, the HRA process progressed to the Appropriate Assessment (AA) stage. The AA recommended several policy safeguards and strengthened policy wording to provide comprehensive mitigation, and concluded that the LPP1 has effective strategic plan level mitigation to address any issues identified in the HRA process.
- 6.2 The HRA of LPP2 considered the same 16 designated European sites as investigated in the HRA of LPP1. The HRA screening found that the policies and allocations would not, either alone or in-combination, have impacts on any designated European sites. Some allocations were highlighted as being in close proximity to the River Itchen SAC, however mitigation was considered comprehensive enough to prevent negative effects from occurring.

### The Traveller DPD HRA

- 6.3 One site option (W011) was identified to be within close proximity to a European protected site, located approximately 100m from the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The potential threats to the River Itchen SAC were highlighted in the HRA of LPP2. W011 is a small site option of only 1 pitch, and has been established for several years. The site option is not considered likely to result in any of the identified threats to the SAC, and therefore an overall neutral effect was found, with a recommendation that no further expansion to the site is allowed.
- 6.4 The Solent coastline is located to the south of the Winchester district. Along the coastline there are 3 internationally designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that have been designated for the significant numbers of over-wintering waterfowl along the coast and adjoining estuaries as follows:
- Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA
  - Portsmouth Harbour SPA
  - Solent & Southampton SPA

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/evidence-base/environment/habitat-regulations-assessment/>

- 6.5 The Solent is a popular area for recreational activities, including, walking, cycling and jogging. Such recreational activities can have negative effects on bird species – people walking along the shore can, often unintentionally, disturb the birds – especially dog walkers. Millions of people visit the Solent coastline and the planned new housing is set to increase the numbers of visitors. Therefore, local authorities, including Winchester City Council, and conservation bodies are working together to prevent that disturbance through the Solent Mitigation Partnership<sup>24</sup>.
- 6.6 The Interim Mitigation Strategy (2014) requires that any new development within 5.6km of any of the identified SPAs resulting in a net increase in dwellings will be asked to make a contribution towards mitigation projects in the Strategy – thus contributing to mitigating against recreational impacts. For example, through funding from developers in association with planning permissions for new housing, the Partnership has already established a team of rangers who will talk to visitors to the coast in the county about how to enjoy a walk without disturbing the birds who are spending winter along our shores.
- 6.7 There are several traveller sites in the DPD that are located within 5.6km of the Solent SPAs as follows:
- Curdrige- W083
  - Durley- W087
  - Firgrove Lane, North Boarhunt- W014, W019, W030, W081, W027
  - Knowle- W002, W017
  - Shedfield-W009, W023, W024, W032A, B, C, D, W025
  - Swanmore- W022, W028, W082
  - Curdrige Lane- W004
  - Whiteley- W016
  - Wickham-W026
- 6.8 These are existing gypsy, traveller & travelling showpeople sites such that any additional residential numbers (if considered appropriate) are likely to be minimal and the recreational impacts negligible. However, the draft Traveller DPD acknowledges that the requirement to contribute towards mitigating recreational impacts affects some sites proposed in the DPD. Overall, the HRA found that the policies and sites in the Traveller DPD would not, either alone or in-combination, have impacts on any designated European sites.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/n/planning/solent-recreation-mitigation-partnership/>

## 7.0 PROPOSED MONITORING

- 7.1 The SEA Directive and Regulations require that the significant effects (positive and negative) of implementing the plan should be monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen effects and to be able to take appropriate remedial action. Government guidance<sup>25</sup> on SA/SEA advises that existing monitoring arrangements should be used where possible in order to avoid duplication. Government requires local planning authorities to produce Monitoring Reports (MRs), and the Winchester City Council Monitoring Report (produced annually) is considered sufficient to ensure appropriate monitoring takes place.

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS, CONSULTATION & NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The SA found positive effects for sustainability objectives on housing, employment (for travelling showpeople), communities, and cultural heritage. There is the potential for negative effects on integrating with existing communities, access to services and facilities, noise & light pollution, water and waste management; however, there is strong mitigation provided by LPP1 CP5 and the Policies in the Traveller DPD TR1-7. There are further positive effects on the soil resource through the continuing use of existing sites.
- 8.2 The SA found that there is the potential for negative effects on some sites for landscape and visual amenity; however, strong mitigation is provided by LPP1 CP5 and the Policies in the Traveller DPD TR1-7. None of the sites are likely to have significant effects on protected or important biodiversity; some sites are located within 5.6km of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy for internationally protected sites at the coastline and as such may be required to contribute.
- 8.3 The SA found some potential negative cumulative effects for the clusters of sites at Shedfield and North Boarhunt. These have been mitigated through the approach of limiting the size and numbers of pitches/plots and the site-specific requirements set out in TR4 Shedfield & TR5 N Boarhunt. Furthermore, by continuing with existing sites, there will be limited change reducing the potential for adverse effects. The general requirements in TR7 and the site-specific requirements in TR3-5 will ensure that effects are reduced to residual neutral and there is the potential for enhancement with biodiversity and landscape screening.
- 8.4 This SA Report will accompany the Regulation 18 draft Traveller DPD for public consultation from July through to 4 September 2017. Comments received on the draft DPD will be taken into account in the preparation of the Pre-Submission DPD and any significant changes will be subject to SA. Any comments on the SA and HRA will be reviewed and responses considered in next draft of the SA Report to accompany the Traveller DPD.

<sup>25</sup> [http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/?post\\_type=&s=sustainability+appraisal](http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/?post_type=&s=sustainability+appraisal)

Any comments on the SA or HRA should be sent to the City Council via email:

[ldf@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@winchester.gov.uk)

Or post: Head of Strategic Planning  
Winchester City Council,  
Colebrook Street  
Winchester,  
Hants SO23 9LJ

All comments must be received by **5pm on Monday 4 September**