

Equality Impact Assessment - Originator Review

Reference: EQIA222830068

Submitted: 06 July 2020 08:36 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Cabinet Member Action - ECC as joint application in Harlow Injunction against unauthorised encampments

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): This decision is for ECC to support Harlow District Council in renewal of an injunction against unauthorised encampments in Harlow District, with ECC listed as a joint applicant with Harlow District Council

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Enable inclusive economic growth, Help create great places to grow up, live and work

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Enable inclusive economic growth: Enable Essex to attract and grow large firms in high growth industries, Target economic development to areas of opportunity

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work: Help to secure stronger, safer and more neighbourly communities, Help secure sustainable development and protect the environment, Facilitate growing communities and new homes

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?: a change to an existing policy, practice or project

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates: tbc

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents: tbc

Assessing the equality impact

Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision): Further to a request from Harlow District Council (HDC) to renew the joint HDC/ECC injunction application a pros and cons and implications analysis has been undertaken, which forms the basis of the content of the main CMA document. The injunction seeks to prevent people setting up encampments which are neither authorised nor lawful, and is based on significant previous problems caused by unauthorised encampments in Harlow district which included significant antisocial behaviour and environmental damage. Analysis for this CMA included: review of injunctions against unauthorised encampments in other parts of the country and recent court rulings/precedents, analysis of whether the injunction is proportionate to the issue it seeks to remedy, the wider Essex County context, including the partnership work undertaken by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit partnership.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users: No

Employees: No

The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities: Yes

Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?: Harlow

Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?: Yes

Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?: No

Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?: Yes

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Description of impact

Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: Race

I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics: I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics: The impact referred to is a subset of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller populations, specifically the subset which engage in unauthorised encampments

Race

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Whilst the injunction seeks to prevent those who engage in unauthorised encampments from doing so, the activity which the injunction sees to address is unlawful. there is therefore no adverse impact on activity which is lawful, so the impact has been recorded as low

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: This is a renewal of an existing injunction so is a continuation of activity which is already prevented through the injunction, rather than a substantial change to existing methods of how unauthorised encampments are dealt with in Harlow. As a mitigating factor ECC has formally requested that Harlow District Council join the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, long with other tier 2 authorities in Essex, to support consistent arrangements for welfare for any GRT communities in unauthorised encampments in Harlow, so that enforcement is proportionately balanced with welfare considerations.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date EqIA completed: 06/07/2020

Name of person completing the EqIA: Adrian Coggins

Email address of person completing the EqIA: Adrian.Coggins@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Place and Public Health

Your service area: public health

Your team: public health

Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: adrian.coggins2@essex.gov.uk