

Part 3 - Assessment Matrix

Title of policy/procedure: Unauthorised Encampment Policy
Policy author/assessor: A/Insp 2338
Department: Strategic Partnerships
Date/period of assessment: 09/09/04
Aim of policy/procedure: Deals with unauthorised encampments

Nature of function i.e. policy/procedure	Potential Impact (Yes/No)	Score	Comments/Rationale
Does the function impact directly on the public or any Thames Valley personnel (<i>for Human Resources issues</i>)?	Y	(Yes = 2, No = 0)	Policy impacts on both the Travelling and settled communities as well a businesses and landowners. The policy is written to ensure that the rights and responsibilities of all concerned are protected/enforced as appropriate.
Can discretion be used in the carrying out of the function?	Y	(Yes = 2, No = 0)	Yes, the policy advocates the use of discretion to ensure that the impact of an unauthorised encampment on the surrounding community as well as the behaviour of the residents are key factors rather than membership of a specific ethnic group.
Is there any evidence or reason to believe that some racial groups could be differently or adversely affected?	Y	(Yes = 2, No = 0)	The policy covers any person resorting to residing on unauthorised encampments. As a result of life styles and cultural background, the policy is likely to impact on Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and New Age Travellers more than any other sector of society.
Is there an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity?	Y	(Yes = 2, No = 0)	By attending sites with the Local Authority Traveller Liaison Officer we are ensuring equality of opportunity and access to services, eg health, education, alternative accommodation etc.
Is there an opportunity to promote good race	Y		Yes, the policy sets out a fair and balanced

relations?		(Yes = 2, No = 0)	approach, where all parties are advised of their rights and responsibilities as well as their potential impact on the rights of others. The process of toleration of sites where behaviour is acceptable, will lead to social acceptance and inclusion.
Is there data already being collected for race equality purposes?	??	(Yes = 1, No = 0)	Yes, data is collected reflecting the ethnic background of the residents of each site, with data being used to establish future provision needs.
Has any consultation been carried out so far?	Y	(Yes = 0, No = 1)	Internal consultation is currently being completed, before the external phase begins
Is there any other public concern in relation to race issues attached to this function? <i>(think locally as well as nationally)</i>	Y	(Yes = 2, No = 0)	Generally, public feeling is against unauthorised encampments, particularly when associated to unacceptable behaviour. There is therefore an expectation that encampments will be dealt with speedily and robustly. In reality, only those sites presenting particular problems require a robust response. The whole community require education to ensure that they appreciate the individuality of groups as well as individual accountability.
Do you perceive the function to be politically or socially sensitive?	Y	(Yes = 2, No = 0)	Unauthorised encampments and associated Traveller related issues are highly politically sensitive. Anti-Traveller feeling is increasingly prevalent within national media, perpetuating issues of discrimination.
Total points:		14	
Impact Assessed as <i>(Low 0-4 Medium 5-9 High 10-16)</i> :		HIGH	

