



Central Lancashire Local Plan Examination

2 December 2025: Matter 1a Legal Compliance

Issue 1 – Has the Council complied with the duty to co-operate and other relevant procedural and legal requirements in the preparation of the Local Plan?

Question 1.8 – How have issues of equality been addressed in the Local Plan?

Hearing Statement

On behalf of Michael and Patty Linfoot

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This statement builds on the representations submitted by Mr and Mrs Linfoot on the Regulation 19 Local Plan. Central to Mr and Mrs Linfoot's representations is the failure of the Councils to make any allocations for Gypsy and Traveller residential needs and the para 10 a) and b) PPFTS requirement to identify a supply of specific deliverable sites, and specific developable sites or broad locations for growth. This statement builds on those representations in regard to equality legislation.

2.0 Background: Disadvantage and discrimination experienced by Gypsies and Travellers

2.1 Gypsies and Travellers are among the most prejudiced against and deprived communities in Britain, see: England's Most Deprived Groups: Gypsies, Roma, Travellers. Communities, EHRC, 2016¹ and Tackling Inequalities Faced by Gypsy Roma and Traveller, House of Commons Women and Inequalities Committee, 2019².

2.2 The treatment of Gypsies and Travellers is contrary to various international conventions and the UK Government's commitment to them, see for example the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Fifth Opinion on the UK Government, December 2022. ³

2.3 There is an accommodation crisis among Gypsies and Travellers that is far more severe than among the settled community and levels of homelessness are far more acute. The stress over sites and planning is a major contributor to anxiety, depression, and even suicide. Because having a secure home is so fundamental to people's lives and to

¹ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/is-england-fairer-2016-most-disadvantaged-groups-gypsies-travellers-roma.pdf>

² <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/360/full-report.html>

³ <https://rm.coe.int/0900001680ab55b4>

accessing services, without addressing the accommodation shortage, it will not be possible to address the other inequalities in areas such as health, life expectancy, education, and the criminal justice system which Gypsy people experience. The failures to make adequate provision for the accommodation needs of Travellers is central to perpetuating that deprivation. Some of the reasons for under-provision are related to limitations on public expenditure, but much of it is due to the unwillingness by local authorities to allow appropriate and needed development by Gypsies and Travellers themselves.

- 2.18 The Council's failures are contrary to the Public Sector Equality Duty at section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, which requires the Council *in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to*
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic [which includes Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers] and persons who do not share it;*
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*
- 2.19 We would also suggest that the Council's approach in making appropriate accommodation provision for non-Gypsies and Travellers, but not for Gypsies and Travellers, represents Indirect Discrimination, contrary to section 19 of the Equality Act, which states that:
- (1) A person (A) discriminates against another (B) if A applies to B a provision, criterion or practice which is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of B's.*
 - (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a provision, criterion or practice is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of B's if—*
 - (a) A applies, or would apply, it to persons with whom B does not share the characteristic,*

(b) it puts, or would put, persons with whom B shares the characteristic at a particular disadvantage when compared with persons with whom B does not share it,

(c) it puts, or would put, B at that disadvantage, and

(d) A cannot show it to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.