

POLICY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PITCHES ON COUNCIL-OWNED TRAVELLERS' SITES

Background

The purpose of this document is to explain the aims and objectives of Herefordshire Council's policy for the allocation of Pitches on the Council's Travellers' sites.

Policy Aims

Herefordshire Council aims to provide an allocation service that:

- Ensures maximum occupancy of its Travellers' sites.
- Sustains the existing communities living on its sites.
- Allocates Pitches in accordance with a published Allocations Scheme.
- Is sympathetic to the needs of the its users.

To these ends it has set itself the following **objectives**:

1. Service Provision

Herefordshire Council will provide an allocations service that:

- Complies with the requirements of the all-relevant legislation.
- Ensures that there is an element of choice in the allocation of Pitches
- Is of the highest quality.
- Continuously improves.
- Regularly monitors performance against targets.
- Has clear service delivery standards.
- Reviews the implementation of this policy and the service standards in conjunction with service users, other statutory agencies and the Travellers' Liaison Group.
- Complies with the Human Rights Act 2000, the Race Relations Act 1977 and the Race Relations (Amendments) Act 2000.
- Has staff who are competent to the tasks of the service.

The Allocations Service will be expected to operate in accordance with standards, performance targets and local performance indicators.

The service provision will be regularly monitored and independent reviews will be carried out periodically.

2. Partnership Working

Herefordshire Council will work in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies to:

- Meet its statutory duties.
- Develop the Gypsy and Travellers' Policy for the county.
- Increase the options available to Travellers.
- Work towards preventing homelessness among Travellers wherever possible.
- Deal promptly with applications from Travellers requiring a Pitch because of domestic violence, harassment and anti-social behaviour.
- Deal promptly with applications resulting from discrimination or harassment, (c.f. Discrimination and Harassment Policy).
- Deal promptly with applicants with special needs.

Partnership working is recognised as a fundamental requirement in dealing with the accommodation needs of gypsies. This policy commits it to developing partnerships jointly with other organisations that are open, honest and equal.