Summary of changes to Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy

This summary supports the consultation taking place from 9.00am - 5 March – 5.00pm - 25 May 2012.
It is intended to be used alongside the full policy document and the consultation questionnaire included in this pack.

The way vacant pitches are allocated on KCC’s Gypsy and Traveller sites is to be replaced with a system that is clearer, fairer, more certain, and less open to challenge.

The previous policy on allocations dates from 1998, and although it has been updated since by practice, it is a good time to consult on an overall review of the policy.

The new proposed policy has been drafted to be as similar as possible to that used to allocate social housing, and is also designed to reduce the risk of applicants challenging - through the law - decisions not to offer them specific pitches.

It will allow applicants, and those supporting them, to detail their circumstances and their needs, and help KCC to meet their accommodation needs with the most appropriate pitch offer.

Under the new system, applicants will have a clear understanding of what happens when a pitch becomes vacant. It sets out the points that will be allocated for an applicant’s circumstances and needs.

Each applicant will be able to check the number of points they have accumulated and understand how any changes in their circumstances will affect this.

Each applicant will have to provide the same types of information. They will need to verify their identity, include an address for correspondence, and provide other relevant information.

All documents will be checked before any pitch offer to make sure the information given is valid.