

**APPENDIX A(I) – POLICY H9: GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE**

**RESPONSES TO PROPOSED POLICIES**

<b>CHAPTER: 6</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER: H9</b>	<b>POLICY NAME: GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE</b>		
<b>MAIN ISSUES RAISED</b>	<b>COUNCIL RESPONSE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS ID</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS NAME</b>
We generally support this policy.	Noted	No change	92	Ashby de la Zouch Town Council
Paragraph 6.90 The GTAA for North West Leicestershire was completed recently in November 2022. However, in December 2023 a change was made to Planning definition in the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites. It may be necessary to consider the implications of the change in planning definition for the study through an update or position statement.	The 2022 GTAA considered the needs of ‘non-travelling’ Gypsies and Travellers <i>in addition to</i> those who met the previous PPTS definition. This is covered by an update note prepared by ORS in April 2026.	No change	139	Leicester City Council
[Paragraph 6.96-6.100] Provision of transit site (3 month stay) as there is currently no provision in NWL. Who pays for this?	We have not been able to identify a suitable transit site.	No change	289	Swannington Parish Council
Para 6.95 – requiring Gypsy and Traveller provision as part of other large housing allocations has worked well in Charnwood for delivering socially rented sites and as such is strongly supported.	We met with a Planning Inspector as part of a Local Plan advisory meeting (February 2025). At that meeting, the Inspector acknowledged that there are very few actual examples of pitches being delivered as part of strategic housing allocations. The Inspector went on to say that as the need in the district is for private provision, it is unclear	No change	341	Leicestershire County Council

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	pitches on a strategic housing allocation would be delivered.			
Para 6.99 – There is scope and agreement in principle for the costs of setting up and ongoing management of Gypsy and Traveller Transit sites to be shared amongst the other District and Borough councils in Leicestershire in the same way that the Multi Agency Travellers unit is funded, Transit sites anywhere in the county would be to the benefit and use of all district authorities in that area (we would be able to direct unauthorised campers from anywhere in the county), especially as there are existing joint agreements for the management of unauthorised encampments in place, currently it is still possible to apply for grant funding for the provision of Transit sites from Homes England.	Noted, although officers have been unable to identify a suitable transit site in the district.	No change	341	Leicestershire County Council
Draft Policy H9 – 1 (a) This statement leads the reader to assume that just because a plot or site is empty it is available, the majority of sites in this area (as well as most other parts of the county) are privately owned and occupied by extended family units, therefore if plots are empty it is down to the individual family that own them if they would like to allow others to occupy or for them or if they would like to sell it, the days of large privately owned sites with rented pitches on	As part of the above-mentioned Local Plan advisory meeting, the Planning Inspector highlighted that PPTS para 25 (December 2024) states that local authorities should ‘consider’ a number of factors including the existing level of provision and need for sites - rather than <u>require</u> evidence of need.	<b>Delete part (1)(a) of Policy H9.</b>	341	Leicestershire County Council

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<p>them is long gone, the only certain way of providing pitches for rent is for further social provision (supporting para 6.95 again), it may be useful to have a plan of how to manage vacant plots or bring old sites back into use. It would be better to state that 'there is evidence that need cannot be met elsewhere' as this would cover vacancies on local authority sites in the region not just the District and prevent unnecessary public comments about private pitches being empty (as families may be away travelling intending to return to them)</p>				
<p>Para 6.101 – is it really necessary (or equitable) to require that all applications are required to '<i>provided evidence of why the accommodation is needed</i>' if the application meets the policy criteria and is within the scope of identified need, matters such as the availability of pitches and personal circumstances of the intended occupants should only be required where applications do not fully meet the criteria of planning policy or are in addition to identified need, this guidance could prevent the commercial development of sites that are sold on the open market, although if unsold and undeveloped sites like these can in themselves cause issues.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Do not include this statement in the supporting text.</p>	<p>341</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council</p>

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<p>We support Draft Policy H9 (3) as there has been sizable loss of Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in the last 10 years where sites have been converted to conventional mobile home sites with rented caravans being occupied by the general population rather than Gypsies and Travellers specifically</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>341</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council</p>
<p>Of further note, Gypsy and Travellers groups are identified as a population of concern in the recent Health Inequalities Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as a group more at risk of experiencing health inequalities In Leicestershire. COVID-19 has exacerbated health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups. Evidence indicates the COVID-19 pandemic had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups including Traveller communities.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>341</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council</p>

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INSPECTORATE**

<b>Summary of discussion points (February 2025)</b>	<b>Officer Update (April 2026)</b>
<p>The plan should include pitch requirement figures in a strategic policy so that it takes an equitable approach to that for general housing (having regard to the need for fairness and equity and the provisions of the Public Sector Equality Duty).</p>	<p>Noted, the policy has been amended to refer to the 'identified needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople' and the supporting text will reference the latest need figures as identified by ORS (April 2026 – Appendix B to this report).</p>
<p>The GTAA identifies a need for private pitches; to date the Council has been unable to identify any suitable potential sites. The Council is looking to work with the traveller families in the area to ascertain if there are areas of land adjoining existing sites or other suitable sites in traveller ownership.</p>	<p>The Council is not aware of any other suitable sites in the ownership of Travellers. Extensions to existing sites can be dealt with via a criteria-based policy.</p>
<p>A dossier of information for the Inspector on what efforts have been made to identify sites will be vital if no suitable sites are found and the Council wishes to promote an approach based on windfall.</p>	<p>Noted, a topic paper will accompany the Regulation 19 consultation.</p>
<p>A positive criteria-based policy will be important if the Council is seeking to rely on windfall development. Part (a) of Policy H9 in the Regulation 18 plan states that new sites will be permitted where 'there is evidence of need for the development....'. I highlighted that paragraph 25 in the PPTS (December 2024) states that local authorities should 'consider' a number of factors including the existing level of provision and need for sites - rather than <u>require</u> evidence of need.</p>	<p>Noted, delete part (1)(a) of the Regulation 18 policy.</p>
<p>We discussed the challenges of delivering allocated Gypsy sites when they are part of a strategic housing allocation. Although similar allocations exist in a number of other LPA plans, there are very few actual examples of pitches being delivered in this format on the ground. An Inspector would therefore usually look at the deliverability of any such proposed allocations. Furthermore, in the case of NWL, as the need is for private provision it is unclear how such pitches would be delivered.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p>

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<b>Summary of discussion points (February 2025)</b>	<b>Officer Update (April 2026)</b>
<p>Leicestershire has a need for a transit site in the north of the district but no identified resources to commit to a scheme. We discussed the option of negotiated stopping, which has been used elsewhere in England as an alternative approach to constructing new transit sites.</p>	<p>The 2017 GTAA identifies a need for transit provision in the north west of the county (not the north of the district). Officers have been unable to identify a suitable transit site.</p>

### Draft Policy H9 - Provision for Gypsies, ~~and~~ Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (Strategic Policy)

- (1) ~~Proposals for new, expanded or intensified sites for~~ Development to meet the identified needs of Gypsies, ~~and~~ Travellers or Travelling Showpeople will be ~~supported/~~ permitted where:
- ~~(a)~~ (a) ~~There is evidence of need for the development that cannot be met by vacant pitches or plots at existing authorised sites;~~
  - ~~(b)~~ (a) The development has reasonable access to a range of services, ~~such as~~ including schools, healthcare facilities and shops, preferably by walking, cycling or public transport;
  - ~~(c)~~ (b) The scale of development is proportionate to the nearest settlement and its local services and infrastructure;
  - ~~(d)~~ (c) A safe and suitable highway access can be provided;
  - ~~(e)~~ (d) There is adequate space for on-site parking and the turning of vehicles;
  - ~~(f)~~ (e) Adequate services including water supply, power, drainage, sewage disposal, and waste disposal facilities can be provided;
  - ~~(g)~~ (f) There is an acceptable standard of amenity for the occupants of the site; ~~and~~
  - (g) The development would not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and land uses; ~~and~~
  - (h) ~~The development would not involve inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and would not have an unacceptable environmental impact, including in relation to biodiversity, heritage assets, landscape character and water/air quality.~~
- (2) In addition to a) to h) above, ~~proposals for new, expanded or intensified~~ development for Travelling Showpeople Sites will be ~~supported~~ permitted where ~~they~~ it makes adequate provision for the storage of vehicles, trailers, plant and other equipment necessary to meet the occupants' needs.
- (3) ~~Authorised sites (existing and new) sites will be safeguarded for Gypsies, and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople~~ will be safeguarded unless they are no longer required to meet an identified need where there remains an identified need for this type of accommodation.