

COUNCIL

17 NOVEMBER 2015

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J CLARKE TO COUNCILLOR T J PENDLETON

What is the legal position for the Council with regard to providing sites for the travelling community?

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR T J PENDLETON

Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004 requires that every local housing authority must, when undertaking a review of housing needs in their district under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985, carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their district.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012) requires local planning authorities to assess and meet the housing need of its communities, including gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.

This is developed further in 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' issued by DCLG in August 2015. This states that "Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers [as defined in Annex 1] and plot targets for travelling showpeople [as defined in Annex 1] which address their permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities".

It goes on to require that as part of their Local Plans local planning authorities should "identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets.