

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 6 OCTOBER 2016

Title of report	GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE ALLOCATION DPD: SITE OPTIONS CONSULTATION
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Purpose of report	To outline for Members the progress that has been made to prepare a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document that sets out site options.
Council Priorities	<p>These are taken from the Council Delivery Plan:</p> <p>Value for Money Homes and Communities</p>
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial/Staff</p> <p>Link to relevant CAT</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Equalities Impact Screening</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>In previous reports, reference has been made to an on-going risk that the North West Leicestershire Local Plan may not be found sound due to the way in which it addresses the accommodation needs of travellers. To mitigate this risk, the Council must be able to demonstrate that good progress is being made on the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD, especially with regard to the identification of sites, by the time of the examination of the Local Plan.</p> <p>A full equality impact assessment has been prepared.</p>

Human Rights	European Convention on Human Rights art.8 imposes a positive obligation on the State to facilitate the Gypsy and Traveller way of life.
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The Report is Satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The Report is Satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The Report is Satisfactory
Consultees	Local Plan Project Board
Background papers	<p>Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document: Consultation Draft http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/gypsy_and_traveller_site_allocation_consultation_document/Gypsy%20and%20Traveller%20Site%20Allocation%20DPD%20Draft%20for%20Consultation%20-%20hard%20copy.pdf</p> <p>National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf</p> <p>Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment Refresh (2013) https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/leicester_leicestershire_and_rutland_gtaa_refresh_may_2013/Leicester%2C%20Leicestershire%20and%20Rutland%20GTAA%20Refresh%20-%20May%202013.pdf</p> <p>North West Leicestershire Local Plan: Publication http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/proposed_publication_local_plan_2016/LocalPlanDocJune2016.pdf</p> <p>Equalities impact assessment of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation DPD: Draft for Consultation</p>
Recommendations	<p>THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:</p> <p>(i) NOTES THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SITES AND BROAD LOCATIONS TO MEET THE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS OF GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE;</p> <p>(ii) NOTES THE BROAD FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE ALLOCATION DPD: SITE OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT;</p> <p>(iii) NOTES THE NEED TO UNDERTAKE A</p>

	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT; AND (iv) NOTES THE CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SITE OPTIONS DOCUMENT.
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The North West Leicestershire Local Plan published in July 2016 sets out the Council's strategic approach to meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople at Policy H7 (see Appendix A). Policy H7 sets out the minimum accommodation need that is required to be met in North West Leicestershire and criteria for the identification of sites and seeks to safeguard existing sites. Policy H7 also sets out the intention to prepare a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD as a means of identifying a range of sites to meet the identified need.
- 1.2 At its meeting of the 27 July 2016, the Local Plan Advisory Committee considered an update on the preparation of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document. The Committee noted that potential sites are being considered for their suitability, deliverability and availability using the criteria for the identification of sites set out in Local Plan Policy H7. The Local Plan Advisory Committee resolved that any sensitive information regarding the identification of possible sites be considered initially in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Local Plan Advisory Committee.
- 1.3 While the Committee Chairman and Deputy Chairman have been consulted, at the time of writing this report, potential sites are still being considered for their suitability. In particular, sites need to be assessed to confirm that a suitable highway access can be achieved. As a consequence, officers have not yet contacted landowners to determine the availability of potential sites.
- 1.4 The Council is working with the other local planning authorities (excluding Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council) in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area to update the pitch targets for Gypsies and travellers and the plot targets for travelling showpeople. A consultant has been appointed and it is anticipated that this update will be completed by the end of the year. This will help maintain and provide a robust and up to date evidence of need that may give rise to revisions to Local Plan Policy H7 and inform the emerging Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD.
- 1.5 Notwithstanding the need to update the pitch targets for Gypsies and travellers and the plot targets for travelling showpeople, the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD will need to identify a supply of specific deliverable sites and, potentially, broad locations for growth too.

2.0 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE ALLOCATIONS: SITE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Although it is not yet possible to confirm the suitability, deliverability and availability of potential sites, an outline of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations: Site Options document has been prepared (Appendix B). It should be noted that this is a 'working draft' document and is intended to provide the Advisory Committee with an indication as to how it will look when it is presented to Full Council at its meeting of 8 November 2016. For

example, at this stage potential sites are not identified but it is intended that they will be included. In addition, as new information becomes available other changes may be required.

2.2 The Site Options document identifies three options for addressing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and travellers:

Option A: Identify sufficient sites to meet the full need identified by the latest Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller's Accommodation Needs Assessment;

Option B: Minimising the allocation of new sites. This will be achieved by allocating sufficient sites to meet needs over a shorter period, such as up ten years (i.e. to 2027), to allow a future plan review to inform site provision for years 2027 to 2031; or

Option C: Identify sufficient sites to meet needs over the period to 2027 and then identifying a broad area of search to meet longer-term needs (2027-2031). The area of search would most likely focus on the A42 corridor in North West Leicestershire.

2.3 In broad terms, the Site Options document takes a sequential approach to the identification of Gypsy and Traveller sites. Depending on the level of need, preference will be given to the intensification or extension of existing traveller sites and then the allocation of sites that have previously been permitted but where planning permission has lapsed. Any residual requirement will be met by:

Option 1: Sites in locations that have good access to services and facilities; or

Option 2: Sites in locations that have good access to the road network and with limited impact on the settled population.

2.4 At the present time, it is expected that the accommodation needs of travelling showpeople (9 plots) can be met by the intensification or extension of existing travelling showpeople sites without the need to identify new sites.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

3.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required during the preparation of a Local Plan. This will help the authority to assess how the plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. SA applies to any of the documents that form part of the Local Plan, including the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD.

3.2 SA considers the plan's wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts. SA should meet all of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, so a separate strategic environmental assessment (SEA) should not be required.

3.3 The initial scoping stage (Stage A) must identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA report. Given the narrow scope of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD, plus the fact that a detailed SA Scoping consultation has

already been undertaken in connection with the North West Leicestershire Local Plan, instead of preparing a full Scoping Report the intention is to set out the scope of the SA work for the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD in the form of a scoping letter for consultation with the consultation bodies (Historic England, English Nature and the Environment Agency). Consultation on the scope of the SA work will be undertaken at the same time as consultation on the Site Option document.

- 3.4 The DPD will also require a Habitats Regulations Assessment, as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), as it could have significant effects on European habitats or species.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Work on the identification of potentially suitable sites will continue and officers will then contact landowners to determine the availability sites. At this time arrangements will be made for all Members to inspect the identified sites.
- 4.2 Suitable, deliverable and available sites will be then included in the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations: Site Options document for approval by Full Council at its meeting on 8 November 2016. It is proposed to formally commence consultation on the Site Options document later in November or December 2016.
- 4.3 An eight-week consultation period will be advertised on the Council's website and individuals, organisations and stakeholders who may have an interest in provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be contacted directly. Consultees will include Leicestershire County Council, adjoining county and local planning authorities, parish councils, representatives of the Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople communities, the Leicester and Leicestershire Multi-Agency Travellers Unit and specific consultees such as the Highway Agency, Environment Agency, English Heritage and the Coal Authority. On the advice of the Leicester and Leicestershire Multi-Agency Travellers Unit, there will be no public meetings.

APPENDIX A: NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN: PUBLICATION

Policy H7: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- (1) Provision will be made to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople between 2012- 2031 for a minimum of:**
 - 2012 – 2017: 27 pitches plus 20 transit pitches
 - 2017 – 2022: 11 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
 - 2022- 2027: 14 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
 - 2027- 2031: 16 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
- (2) The required provision will be identified through the production of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document, taking into account the most-up-to-date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodations Needs Assessment.**
- (3) A five year supply of deliverable sites will be identified as well as a supply of developable sites or broad locations for the following years. The following criteria will be used to guide the site allocation process, and for the purposes of considering planning applications for such sites.**
- (4) Proposals for new sites or extensions to existing sites should meet the following requirements:**
 - (a) Be located with reasonable access to a range of services, such as shops, schools, welfare facilities or public transport**
 - (b) Be proportionate to the scale of the nearest settlement, its local services and infrastructure**
 - (c) Have suitable highway access, and is not detrimental to public highway safety**
 - (d) Provides for adequate on-site parking and turning of vehicles as well as appropriate facilities for servicing and storage**
 - (e) Be capable of being provided with adequate services including water supply, power, drainage, sewage disposal, and waste disposal facilities**
 - (f) Be compatible with landscape, environment, heritage and biodiversity as well as the physical and visual character of the area,**
 - (g) Be compatible with the amenities of neighbouring properties and land uses.**
- (5) Authorised, existing and new, sites will be safeguarded for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople groups unless they are no longer required to meet an identified need.**
- (6) Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.**