

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS – THE COUNCIL’S APPROACH TO PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS IN THE DISTRICT

North Lincolnshire Council previously intended to bring forward the allocation of sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople through the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document (HELADPD) and consulted on sites on a number of occasions, including the Additional Sites Paper in 2008 (BAC07). However at the Examination in Public for the LDF Core Strategy in January 2011, the formal process for the allocation of sites was discussed in detail and the outcome was that due to changes in national planning guidance on the subject that were occurring at that time, sites for Gypsies and Travellers should be allocated through the emerging General Policies Development Plan Document. This was then confirmed in the Inspectors Report.

At the Full Council meeting of 28 June 2011, North Lincolnshire Council adopted the Core Strategy as part of the LDF. The Core Strategy includes a criteria based policy CS10 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople that will be used to assess any future planning applications for a Gypsy and Traveller site. The Inspector at the Core Strategy examination requested that the policy and ancillary text be amended to reflect that sites for Gypsy and Travellers may be allocated through the General Policies DPD and that this be demonstrated through an up to date needs assessment. The Council have an up to date needs assessment and will be considering allocating sites through the General Policies DPD for Gypsies and Travellers. This is identified in the Local Development Scheme timetable to start April 2015.

Updated position as presented at Matter 2 (13/01/2014)

In line with the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (PPTS) North Lincolnshire Council has sought to ensure that a robust evidence base is in place on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs in order to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions (Policy A 6c). Accordingly the Council has produced the North Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) 2012 – 2017. This was carried out with reference to the methodology set out by the 2008 GTAA which followed the methodology in the Governments Guidance Note on preparation of GTAA’s in 2007 (CLG *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*. London: HMSO).

The 2012 GTAA identifies the following needs:

- Requirement for extra residential pitches 2012-2017: 10
- Suggested requirement for extra transit pitches 2012-2017: 13

Currently the Council is working closely with West Lindsey District Council as a number of recent planning applications have been granted permission or are pending for both permanent and transit sites just across the border. These sites are close to the settlement of Brigg which they use for their local facilities (shopping, schools etc) and the Council feel that these sites are closely linked and should be incorporated within North Lincolnshire’s needs information. The Council will continue to work with West Lindsey in order to ensure that sites are identified to cover the needs in the 2012 GTAA.