

**Report of Director of Place & Wellbeing
To
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Place)
On
10 July 2018**

Gypsy and Traveller DPD

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Place) with additional information with regards to the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD) which is now out for public consultation. This report will be supplemented by a presentation on the day of the committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- i. The details submitted in this report in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller DPD are noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. On 22 May 2018, Full Council agreed the following resolutions:
- ii. Authority to commence preparation of a Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Development Plan Document; and
 - iii. Authority to undertake an initial consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD and issue a call for sites.
 - iv. Authority to use the Council's powers to purchase any relevant sites where appropriate.
- 3.2 At the meeting, Members requested further information about the Development Plan Document (DPD) specifically in relation to the assessment criteria, methodology and the decision-making process.

Overview

- 3.3 The Housing Act 2004 requires all Local Authorities to include Gypsies and Travellers in their accommodation assessments and to take a strategic approach, including drawing up a strategy demonstrating how the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be met, as part of their wider housing strategies.
- 3.4 The Council are in the advanced stages of preparing a Local Plan, with the Regulation 19 consultation expected to commence in September

2018. The Government's Policy for Gypsies and Travellers¹ specifies that Local Authorities must identify and update annually a 5 year supply of deliverable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. These sites must also be deliverable.

- 3.5 In 2017, the Council undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) which identified a need for 3 pitches, and one transit site for the district from 2013 – 2033. It was confirmed that there was no need for additional provision for travelling showpeople within the district.

Progress so far

- 3.5 The Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD) has now commenced an 8 week public consultation from Monday 2 July 2018 until Monday 27 August 2018. As part of the public consultation, we are undertaking an additional 'call for sites'. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed at appendix A.
- 3.7 The questions within the consultation document have been devised to scope the council's approach to meeting the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community, but does not identify a site or sites at this time.
- 3.8 The Council has undertaken an initial Gypsy and Traveller Land Availability Assessment (GTLAA) earlier this year. This assessment is not in the public domain as it is based on a draft methodology and draft assessment criteria, both of which form part of the DPD consultation.
- 3.9 The initial GTLAA found that whilst there were several potential suitable sites, there were no sites which are available for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation use.

Next Steps

- 3.7 Upon completion of the consultation, the council will collate and review all comments received which in turn inform the next stage of the plan. Any sites put forward as part of this 'call for sites' will be considered as per their suitability and availability against the agreed criteria.
- 3.8 In early 2019, we intend to publish our preferred options (forming an additional Regulation 18 consultation). The submission document (Regulation 19) will be consulted on in summer 2019, with a view to being submitted in autumn 2019.

4.0 Comments of Statutory Officers

- (a) Monitoring Officer – No specific comments.
- (b) Section 151 Officer – No specific comments.

¹ [Planning Policy for Traveller Sites \(August 2015\)](#)

Author: Katie Mills
Designation: Planning Policy Team Leader
Telephone: 01623 463195
E-mail: kmills@mansfield.gov.uk