

Committee: LDF Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 14 December 2012

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Title: Gypsy and Traveller Call for Sites

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Summary

1. This report updates Members on the situation with the sites received in response to the Gypsy and Traveller Call for Sites. Details regarding locations and proposed use of sites are given in the appendix to this report.

Recommendations

2. For information

Financial Implications

3. None:

Background Papers

4. There are no background papers.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. The list of sites will be available on the Council's website.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All

Workforce/Workplace	N/A
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Situation

6. Consultation of the Gypsy and Traveller Land Availability Assessment Call for Sites took place from the 1st October – 12th November. 10 sites came forward.
7. The appendix to this report gives a brief description of the sites with their current and proposed use, along with location maps. This will be available on the Council's website shortly.
8. The Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2009 suggests that in Uttlesford 24 permanent pitches and 7 short stay pitches and 2 additional plots for travelling show people will be required between 2008 and 2021.
9. There are currently in the District 1 socially rented gypsy and traveller site owned by Essex County Council providing 17 pitches (which can accommodate 34 caravans); 18 private permanent sites with planning permission providing accommodation for 49 caravans, and 1 site with temporary permission which can accommodate 8 caravans. There are 3 unauthorised tolerated sites used for short periods of time.
10. Since April 2008 planning permission has been granted for - temporary consent for 8 caravans on a site in Takeley; and permanent consent for 3 caravans at Great Canfield; 5 in Little Hallingbury; 1 in Great Dunmow and 5 in High Easter.
11. A total of 14 permanent caravans (12 plots) and 8 temporary caravans (8 plots) have been granted since 2008. Leaving the Council with a shortage of 12 permanent pitches, 7 short stay pitches and 2 plots for Travelling Showpeople. If the temporary planning consent is taken into consideration this reduces the shortfall of permanent pitches to 4.
12. It is the Council's responsibility to set a target for the provision of sites for gypsies; travellers and travelling show people based on a robust evidence of local need.
13. The Council has commissioned, as part of an Essex wide joint working programme, a Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment. This document will replace the Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment November 2009. It will look at existing provision across Essex and assess the accommodation and housing related needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The results of the assessment will be used to inform the allocation of sites/pitches in Uttlesford and it will be used as part of the evidence base for policy development. This document is due to be published summer 2013.
14. Once the scale of need has been established the Council will assess and filter all the proposed sites against the criteria set out in draft policy HO10 ensuring

their suitability for such a use. Sites that are considered potentially suitable to meet the identified need will be allocated in a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document which will be published for public consultation. Consultation on this document is due to take place in October/November 2013.

15. Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That there are delays in the preparation and adoption of a Gypsy and Traveller DPD and identification of 5-year supply of sites	2. Potential for delays with Assessment of Needs study and subsequent identification of suitable sites to propose for development.	The lack of a 5 year land supply of Gypsy and Traveller sites is a significant material consideration in any subsequent planning application.	Proceed with the Assessment of Needs and preparation of the DPD in accordance with the Local Development Scheme.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.