

**Committee:** Planning Policy Working Group

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 23 February 2016

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**Title:** Response to Basildon Borough Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)

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## Summary

1. Basildon Borough Council has published its Draft Local Plan on 28 January 2016 for an eight-week public consultation ending on the 24 March 2016. The Draft Local Plan, and its supporting documents can be viewed and downloaded as PDF files from their website [www.basildon.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/localplan)
2. The Draft Local Plan sets out the development strategy for Basildon Borough up to 2034. Of relevance to Uttlesford is the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Strategy.
3. Basildon Council cannot currently meet all its need for gypsy and traveller pitches and is asking other local authorities in Essex to assist in meeting their need.

## Recommendations

4. That a response be made on the Basildon Draft Local Plan that Uttlesford is currently unable to find sufficient gypsy and traveller sites to meet its own needs and therefore does not have an overprovision of sites to assist Basildon in meeting its needs.

## Financial Implications

5. None

## Background Papers

6. None

## Impact

- 7.

Communication/Consultation	Basildon Borough Council are undertaking consultation on their plan in accordance with their Statement of Community Involvement.
Community Safety	N/A

Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	The Plan is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environment Assessment 2015
Ward-specific impacts	ALL
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

8. The Basildon Borough Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Needs Accommodation Assessment (BBLNAA) was completed in December 2013. In addition, through the Duty to Cooperate, Basildon participated in the collation of the wider Essex Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Needs Accommodation Assessment (July 2014). Both studies followed the same methodology. The BBLNAA was updated in October 2015 to take account of the changes to the definition of gypsies and travellers in the 2015 update to the DCLG Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. In addition Basildon undertook a site provision study to determine if the Borough could accommodate the pitch and plot needs identified from the BBLNAA.
9. The needs assessment identifies the need for an additional 104 pitches arising from population growth on existing authorised, temporary and tolerated sites. Furthermore there is a need for an additional 136 pitches arising from the large scale unauthorised site at Dale Farm which has now been cleared through enforcement Action.
10. The Plan identifies sufficient new sites to meet the need arising from population growth but is unable to identify sufficient sites to meet the need arising from the former Dale Farm site. The Plan states that this need will have to be met through Duty to Cooperate. Basildon Council '*accepts that more needs to be done through the Duty to Cooperate by all Greater Essex authorities in this regard, prior to Basildon Borough Council being able to submit its Local Plan to Government. This is particularly in respects of whether other local planning authorities in Essex can assist in meeting the need arising from the large scale unauthorised former site at Dale Farm. The Council will continue to seek proactive cooperation with other Greater Essex authorities at a Member and Officer level before the plan is finalised.*'
11. The Essex Needs Assessment identified the need in Uttlesford for 26 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers. Uttlesford Council have undertaken its own site assessment which identified sites for an additional 23 pitches outside the green belt and 6 pitches within the greenbelt. However evidence has subsequently shown that not all these pitches may be deliverable. It is unclear

if Basildon have drawn on any evidence to support the proposition that some of their unmet need can be met in Uttlesford.

## Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Duty to Cooperate has not been met.	1. Low.	Local Plans will be found unsound	Undertake Duty to Cooperate discussions.

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.