

Update on planning policies for Gypsies and Travellers

Emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 47 as amended provides traveller and travelling showpeople accommodation requirements up until 2026; and locational criteria which will guide development. This policy will inform determination of planning applications for traveller sites when the Core Strategy is adopted. The Council will receive the Inspector's report into the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy for fact-checking by the end of this month. This demonstrates that the examination in public process into the plan will draw to a close shortly.

In its correspondence with the Inspector in February 2014 the Council committed to make rapid progress on a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which will inform the review of the Core Strategy post adoption; and the development of a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD). The GTAA was undertaken during the spring and the final report is imminent. The timing for the publication of this report is linked to the timing for the adoption of the Wiltshire Strategy.

Based on the emerging evidence the spatial planning team is undertaking technical work to find suitable sites to meet identified need for eventual inclusion as allocated sites in the Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Part of this work has involved a review of Council-owned land. This took place as a result of a commitment to the Core Strategy Inspector in February 2014 to consider Council-owned land. Relevant approval for a review was obtained from Cabinet Capital Asset Committee on 20 May 2014¹ and 22 July 2014². This review is ongoing in collaboration with the Council's Property Service. In addition, officers are considering sites submitted during a 'Call for Sites' exercise which is ongoing; and are assessing permitted sites where established need could be met locally.

A timetable for the publication of a draft plan is being reviewed in response to the ongoing Wiltshire Core Strategy process.

¹ <http://moderngov.wiltshire.council/documents/s73711/Item%20no.%206%20-%20Gypsy%20and%20Traveller%20DPD.pdf>

²

<http://moderngov.wiltshire.council/documents/s77825/Gypsy%20and%20Traveller%20DPD%20Site%20Allocations%20report.pdf>