
GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVAN SITES – EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report explains the proposed arrangements for a review of Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites to be carried out by the East of England Regional Assembly. A copy of the draft project plan has been placed in the Members' Library.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the publication of Circular 1/2006 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (ODPM), the Regional Planning Panel acknowledged the need to proceed with a single issue review to the draft RSS (East of England Plan).
- 2.2 Details of the new circular and the initial work of the Regional Planning Panel were reported to the Committee on 11 July 2006 (Minute 227/06).

3 PROJECT PLAN

- 3.1 East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) has now prepared a project plan and statement of public participation and is seeking views from all authorities in the region.
- 3.2 The project plan sets out a series of objectives for the revision to the RSS:-
- A** – To ensure the appropriate level and spatial distribution of pitch provision to meet the future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Traveller communities in the East of England.
- B** – To express the level of pitch provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the RSS in an appropriate way, eg, sub-regionally.
- C** – To conduct broad public consultation and secure public involvement, especially in engaging with Gypsy and Traveller communities throughout the East of England.
- D** – To consider whether there is a need to provide guidance in policy or otherwise, concerning the size, density, tenure, management or operation or the breakdown of site provision between transit and permanent sites.
- E** – To consider the appropriateness of establishing a long term vision for the Gypsy and Traveller community to inform the content of policy.
- F** – To assess the relationship between the level of need for sites as identified through GTAA's and the level of pitch provision.

G – To consider whether it is appropriate for the RSS to give criteria with which to guide local planning authorities in identifying suitable sites.

H – To consider whether it is appropriate for the RSS to give any guidance, in policy or otherwise, on the after use of Gypsy and Traveller sites.

I – To consider any need for amendments to National Policy to better deliver the revision.

J – To consider how current relevant regional and local policies should best be reflected in the revision and in turn how they may best be developed to deliver the RSS.

K – To explore and assess the likely resources available to effectively implement the RSS revision.

- 3.3 As well as setting out the objectives of the revision, the project plan also explains the arrangements for public participation. It is envisaged that a range of approaches to public consultation will be adopted in line with Government best practice advice. A timetable of the key stages of the project and of public consultation can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The project plan appears to provide a comprehensive summary of the issues that will need to be considered to prepare a policy framework on Gypsies and Travellers for the East of England Plan.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is little doubt that the challenge of identifying suitable site allocations for Gypsies and Travellers, if shown to be required, is as significant as the identification of and for other uses, given the Green Belt status of the District.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the East of England Regional Assembly be advised that the Council has no comments to make on the draft project plan and statement of public participation for the single issue review of Gypsy and Traveller sites.

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Background Papers:-

None.

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