

## PARISHES LIAISON MEETING – 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012

### Item 12: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople DPD

- 3.1 The Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations DPD will seek to allocate **22 permanent pitches** and **20 transit pitches** for Gypsies and Travellers and **1 yard** for Travelling Showpeople in Bath and North East Somerset. These are the figures that the West of England Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007) recommends that the Council provides over the period to 2016.
- 3.2 Consultation on an Issues and Options document took place in November-December 2011. This was a consultation on the criteria to be used for assessing potential sites and was also a 'call for sites' where stakeholders and the public were asked for site information to be put forward for assessment.
- 3.3 Following this consultation the Council has undertaken an assessment of potential sites, including sites owned by the Council and those suggested through the 'call for sites'. In May Cabinet approved a Preferred Options document for consultation. This document identifies six potential sites that could be allocated for the purposes of providing pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and a yard for Travelling Showpeople. It should be noted that at this stage no decision has been taken on which sites will be allocated in the draft plan.
- 3.4 Consultation on the Preferred Options document is currently on-going and closes on 18<sup>th</sup> July. A number of staffed exhibitions are being held across the District to present and discuss the six potential sites. In addition to seeking comments on the six suggested sites the Council is also inviting further suggestions for alternative sites that should be assessed. It is intended that a report will be taken to Cabinet in autumn 2012 responding to the issues raised during consultation and considering any alternative sites suggested through the consultation. If any of these sites are considered to be suitable, available and achievable further public consultation on them will take place. It is currently anticipated that the draft plan will be published at the end of 2012 for formal consultation.
- 3.5 The current timetable for the remaining stages of the production of the document is set out below:

Date	Milestone
23rd May - 5:00 pm, 18th July 2012	<b>Consultation on the Preferred Options document</b> Public consultation on potential site allocations for 6 sites across the District.
September/ October 2012	Report back to Cabinet on any additional sites and consultation responses.
December 2012	<b>Consultation on the Pre-Submission document</b> This document will formally identify all site allocations for Gypsy and Traveller use and development principles for those sites. Final public consultation stage on sites.
April 2013	<b>Submission of the document to the Secretary of State</b>
July 2013	<b>Examination</b>
December 2013	<b>Adoption</b> The final version of the document will be adopted by the Council.