

PARISHES LIAISON MEETING – 20TH FEBRUARY

Briefing Note on Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations DPD

- 1.1 The report of the 12 September 2012 Cabinet meeting set out the scope of the 'stock take' on the preparation of the Plan. Significant work continues on progressing the document, including:
- Ongoing discussions with neighbouring local authorities about joint working, including on the local evidence base (GTAA), and on the capacity of those areas to meet some of the B&NES local need for sites;
 - Review of the site assessment criteria;
 - Review of potential for allocation of pitch requirement within major development sites;
 - Assessment of the 3 sites remaining from the previous public consultation against the revised site criteria;
 - Assessment of the additional long list of sites presented to Cabinet in September 2012 against the revised site criteria.

Stock Take Progress

- 1.2 The LDF Steering Group have agreed that, particularly in light of the need to focus on the Core Strategy, the timetable for progressing this work has been extended. It is now anticipated that a report will be presented to Cabinet in May 2013 on the results of the stock take, including the need identified in the GTAA, and the options for progressing the Site Allocations DPD. This timetable will:
- Allow specialist work to be completed and incorporated into each site assessment, forming a comprehensive understanding of each site's constraints and opportunities;
 - Allow for a comprehensive assessment of site options, including consideration of exceptional circumstances for minor Green Belt alterations, if required;
 - Ensure sufficient time for other reports to be completed, including the Sustainability Appraisal;
 - Enable sufficient time to discuss options with various committees and local communities (through parish councils) in advance of full public consultation.
- 1.3 Progress on the stocktake will be considered by the Cabinet meeting in May 2013. The revised timetable for the Site Allocations DPD currently published on the Council's website will be updated in due course to reflect this ongoing work.

Next steps:

- 1.4 The stages to follow are:

- The 2012 GTAA report is published as part of the Core Strategy background evidence (February 2013);
 - A formal decision on a revised strategy of provision for public consultation is made at Cabinet (May 2013). This will include the results of the site assessments;
 - Public consultation on the site options shortlist (May - July 2013).
- 1.5 The results of the public consultation will then inform preparation of the draft Plan, formal public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State for examination.