

**Local Plan Examinations  
Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire**

**Matters and Issues for Joint hearing sessions**

**Matter 10 Policies for Travellers/Caravan Dwellers and Travelling Showpeople**

**10.1 Assessment of need**

a) Following the enactment of section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016, which amends Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985, the assessment of the needs of gypsies and travellers must be seen in the wider context of the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed and houseboats moored. This requirement is not limited to those meeting the PPTS definition. Has the Local Plan addressed the requirements of Section 8 of the Housing Act (as amended). And to what extent does any evidence available meet the advice in *Draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs – Caravans and Houseboats (March 2016)*.

b) In respect of those meeting the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) definition of gypsies and travellers, does it comply with the requirement in PPTS to 'pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups); and to co-operate with those communities to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of the area over the lifespan of the development plan?

c) Does the GTAA 2016 provide a robust evidence for the assessment of the needs of caravan dwellers (whether or not they meet the PPTS definition). The Inspector understands that a Statement of Common/Uncommon Ground is being prepared to address technical criticisms of the study.

d) Is there a robust assessment of the needs of travelling showpeople?

e) If the Councils cannot demonstrate that the Plans are based on a robust assessment of the needs of caravan dwellers, what is an appropriate and proportionate way to resolve this problem?

**10.2 Meeting needs**

a) If the Plans have made an adequate assessment of the needs of caravan and houseboat dwellers, will the relevant policies (as set out in the submission plans or as proposed to be amended) meet that need, in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, other than in the circumstances specified; and for those meeting the PPTS definition of travellers, in accordance with Policy B of PPTS?

i) Current supply

Are the vacant pitches/unimplemented planning permission relied on as part of future supply actually available/suitable deliverable to meet existing and future needs?

## **Local Plan Examinations Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire**

With regard to the 22 vacant pitches at Southgate Farm Milton, how is the site being managed/marketed? What is its planning status?

Is it reasonable to assume these pitches are genuinely available to other travellers?

ii) New provision

Is there any evidence to demonstrate (e.g. past performance) that there is a reasonable prospect that the needs of caravan dwellers will be met by windfall sites coming forward in accordance with policies restricting development in the rural areas and the criteria-based policies in the Plans?

What should be the role of the strategic sites in helping to meet needs of caravan dwellers. Is there a reasonable prospect that these sites will deliver new pitches?

b) How will the identified need for additional plots for travelling showpeople be met, bearing in mind that no allocations are propose? Is this approach consistent with PPTS?

### **10.3 Other matters**

a) Have the Councils undertaken a robust assessment of the implications of the current policy approach for the Public Sector Equality Duty, and Human Rights considerations? NB The Council's own evidence (GTAA para 3.20) recognises that Romany Gypsies and Irish and Scottish Travellers may be able to claim culturally appropriate accommodation under the Equalities Act.

b) If I were to conclude that the Plans do not meet Legislative requirements and/or are not consistent with National Policy what would be an appropriate and proportionate way forward?