

DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MATTER 6: Gypsy and Traveller Provision

- 1.1 This statement has been drafted on behalf of Derbyshire County Council's Officers to support their views that the policy approach to Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision in the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Submission is sound and based on up-to-date, comprehensive and robust evidence. The statement also sets out details of Derbyshire County Council's approach to the proposed allocation of a Traveller site at Watery Lane, Ashbourne under Policy HC6, which is on land in the County Council's ownership and how Derbyshire County Council's Officers are working with Derbyshire Dales District Council's Officers with a view to bringing the site forward for Traveller pitch provision.

Issue 1: The Pitch Requirement

Derby, Derbyshire, Peak District National Park Authority and East Staffordshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

- 1.2 Under the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate set out in the Localism Act and in accordance with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), the Derby, Derbyshire, Peak District National Park Authority and East Staffordshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was jointly commissioned in August 2013 by the following partners to update the previous GTAAs published in 2008 for Derbyshire and 2013 for East Staffordshire:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group
- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- South Derbyshire District Council.

- 1.3 Derbyshire County Council was the lead authority for overseeing the commissioning and project management of the GTAA. RRR Consultancy Limited was commissioned to undertake the assessment in August 2013, following which extensive consultation and liaison took place between RRR and the partners over the course of the commission. RRR completed the final version of the GTAA on 26 June 2015.

- 1.4 The methodology applied in the GTAA is based on the approach recommended in PPTS and other best practice, and uses a fifteen stage assessment process. The GTAA draws on primary and secondary data sources including:
- Primary data: face-to-face surveys with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people;
 - Secondary information: including a literature review and secondary data analysis, for example, analysis of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Bi-Annual Traveller Caravan Count; and
 - Stakeholder consultation with local organisations involved with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people.
- 1.5 The GTAA has a base date of 2014 and provides a snapshot in time based largely on survey evidence collected between October 2013 and February 2014. The GTAA sets out recommendations for the accommodation needs across the study area as a whole and for each local authority area for the period 2014 to 2034, showing need for the number of:
- Permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches;
 - Travelling Show people plots;
 - Transit sites / emergency stopping places (study area only);
 - Bricks and mortar accommodation units.
- 1.6 The GTAA does not identify specific sites to accommodate future pitch and plot requirements in the study area. The Assessment makes it clear that this will be the responsibility of the individual city, district and borough local planning authorities (LPAs) through the preparation and review of their local plans.
- 1.7 The final GTAA report was agreed by all Derbyshire partners, including Derbyshire Dales District Council, for publication on Derbyshire County Council's website in August 2015. Since its publication, the GTAA has been used by all the partner authorities in Derbyshire to inform policies for the pitch and plot requirements set out in their emerging Local Plans.
- 1.8 For Derbyshire Dales District, based on the 15 stage assessment methodology, the GTAA recommends that there is a requirement for a total of 9 additional pitches over the period 2014 to 2034, with 6 additional pitches required in the period 2014 – 2019, and 1 additional pitch required in each of the subsequent five year periods from 2019 to 2024, 2024 to 2029 and 2029 to 2034.
- 1.9 Section 10.61 and 10.62 of the GTAA also sets out recommendations for the site size of new pitches noting that as a general guide, an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating at least an amenity building, a large trailer and touring caravan, drying space for clothes, a lockable shed, parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area.

- 1.10 Section 10.62 indicates that a pitch of approximately 325 square metres would take into account all minimum separation distance requirements between caravans and pitch boundaries as stipulated in guidance and regulations for caravan development. A pitch size of at least 500 square metres would accommodate the following on-pitch facilities:
- Hard standing for 1 touring / mobile caravan and 1 static caravan;
 - 2 car parking spaces;
 - 1 amenity block;
 - Hard standing for storage shed and drying space;
 - Garden / amenity area.
- 1.11 Derbyshire County Council's Officers consider that the GTAA is a comprehensive, thorough, robust and up-to-date piece of evidence to inform the pitch and plot requirements that are being identified in emerging district and borough Local Plans across Derbyshire, particularly the pitch and plot requirements over the period 2014 to 2019.
- 1.12 The Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group (TIWG) comprises officers from all the local authorities in Derbyshire, including officers from the emergency services and health organisations, who have responsibility for Gypsy and Traveller matters. The TIWG has been monitoring the recommendations, implications and requirements of the GTAA, since it was published in August 2015. There are no proposals at the current time by the TIWG to commission a refresh or update of the GTAA. However, it is likely that there may be a need to commission such an update after 2019, once the first five year pitch requirement period in the GTAA has expired.

Derbyshire County Council's Representations on the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan on Gypsy and Traveller Matters

- 1.13 Derbyshire County Council's Officers submitted extensive comments on the Derbyshire Dales Draft Local Plan (DDDLP) on 19 May 2016. On Gypsy and Traveller matters, these Officer comments welcomed and supported the fact that paragraph 6.12 of the DDDLDP set out details of the Derby, Derbyshire, Peak District National Park Authority and East Staffordshire GTAA, and that paragraph 6.13 and Policy HC6, appropriately set out a requirement that provision should be made for 9 pitches over the period 2014 to 2033 in the District, which was recommended in the GTAA.
- 1.14 Derbyshire County Council's Officers submitted extensive comments on the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft Plan (PSDP) on 22 September 2016. On Gypsy and Traveller matters, these officer comments largely reaffirmed comments made on the DDDLDP, which welcomed and supported the fact that paragraph 6.13 of the PSDP appropriately indicated that the GTAA had identified a total pitch requirement for the District of 6

pitches between 2014 and 2019 with an additional need for 1 further pitch in each 5 year period thereafter up to 2034, providing for a total pitch requirement for the District of 9 pitches between 2014 and 2034.

Issue 2: The Allocation at Watery Lane, Ashbourne

- 1.15 Policy HC6 of the PSDP seeks to safeguard land at Watery Lane, Ashbourne for a Gypsy and Traveller site. Derbyshire County Council's Officer comments on the PSDP, noted that the County Council owns the site, which had planning permission granted in June 2015 for 4 pitches under an application submitted by the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group. The comments indicated, however, that Derbyshire County Council does not have any capital funding available to develop the land in accordance with the proposed Local Plan allocation and, having regard to the County Council's interest as land owner, before any development of the land by any other party could take place, a lease or agreement would need to be completed with the County Council on terms satisfactory to the Authority.
- 1.16 In the context of the above, DCC's Officers are engaged in ongoing discussions with Derbyshire Dales District Council's Officers about a possible lease for the Watery Lane site, for which the County Council's Cabinet has granted approval, in principle, for its Officers to agree a lease arrangement with the District Council.
- 1.17 It is understood that the District Council's Officers are currently investigating the issue of costing and funding the establishment of a Traveller site at Watery Lane, including its management and maintenance. Depending on the outcome of these investigating, DCC's Cabinet approval would be required, if and when, the draft terms of the lease were agreed with the District Council.

Steve Buffery
Principal Planner
Policy and Monitoring