

Item 17 – Gypsy and Traveller Plan

The attached report and supplementary papers were considered by the Local Planning & Environment Advisory Committee, relevant minute extract below:

Local Planning & Environment Advisory Committee – 23 October 2014 (Minute 27)

The Joint Planning Policy Team Leader presented a report which outlined the content of the recent government consultation (Planning and Travellers which was published 14 September and possible implications for the Council. The report also set out the alternative sites proposed through the call for sites, that could be subject to a supplementary consultation in the autumn/winter and outlined the proposed next steps to progress the Plan. Members' attention was drawn to the supplementary agenda which contained details of the recent government amendment to the National Planning Practice Guidance.

To make progress on the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Plan in accordance with the Local Development Scheme it was proposed that the Council should acknowledge that the Government was consulting on changes to national policy on Gypsies and Travellers in the supplementary sites consultation but continue to prepare its plan on the basis of national policy in place at the current time. Some aspects of the consultation were a fairly radical departure from existing policy and could change following the consultation and/or the General Election. Following the supplementary sites consultation, there would be the opportunity for the Council to reflect on the changes made to national policy before submitting the plan for examination.

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the recommendations as a sensible direction. The Joint Planning Policy Team Leader advised that the gypsy and traveller unit at KCC thought that an unintended consequence of the new proposals was unauthorised encampments.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council undertake a supplementary site options consultation, to provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment on potentially suitable alternative site options, put forward through the recent call for sites.