

## **Update given at LPEAC (25 March 2014) on Item 6 - Gypsies and Traveller Plan - Site Options consultation**

### **In relation to Land West of Enterprise Way, Edenbridge (the 'Reserve' Land)**

The 'Gypsy and Traveller Plan - Site Options' draft consultation document currently includes a site (Land west of Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, known as the 'Reserve' Land) that has also been discussed as part of the Allocations and Development Management Plan (ADMP) hearings over the past two weeks.

The Planning Inspector who is examining the ADMP has outlined that he plans to recommend a 'main modification' to the document, to allocate this site for housing development, under Policy H1. He therefore has indicated that it would be incompatible for this site also to be considered for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and has therefore asked the Council to re-consider the inclusion of the site in the consultation document (see attached PA019 document from the Inspector). The Inspector asked for clarification as to whether the consultation document can be amended before it is taken to Cabinet (on 10 April), and officers advised that this LPEAC can recommend amendments to the document to Cabinet.

The risk of continuing to include this site in the Gypsy and Traveller Plan - Site Options consultation document is that the ADMP Inspector could then question the deliverability of this site for housing and whether the Council is providing sufficient housing in the District, and therefore potentially call into question the soundness of the ADMP.

In addition, the Council will be required to demonstrate that sites that are proposed for Gypsy and Traveller pitches are 'available', for example being promoted by the landowner. In the case of this site, the representatives of the landowner made it quite clear to the Inspector at the ADMP hearings that they would not support such a use on their site.

Therefore it recommended to LPEAC that this site is deleted from the consultation document, before it is considered by Cabinet on 10 April.