

Inspector's further questions about the Plan's provisions for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation

Date: 14/12/2020

The updated assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (ED15) identifies a need for provision of additional pitches over the next 5 years and also for the remainder of the Plan period. The Council's response to the questions I have raised under Matter 8 on this issue includes a suggested modification of Policy 8F to say that "further small scale site (sic) to meet the indicative need of 13 pitches to 2036 will be allocated during the lifetime of the Plan." The precise level of need will be subject to discussion at the Matter 8 hearing session in due course. However, leaving aside Policy 33.17 (Firs View Yard), it appears that no additional allocations are proposed by the Council in this Plan, notwithstanding the up-to-date evidence of current need. The Council is invited to consider this position further, in light of government policy set out in *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015), especially Policies A and B of the document.

Also, I have noted the Council's statements on Matters 4 and 6(i) which include references to the potential for provision for the above needs on the proposed land allocations at Lea Castle (Policies 31, 31.1 and 31.2) and on land to the rear of Zortech Avenue (Policy 30.22). However, the Council has not suggested any modifications to these policies in this regard, nor have the implications for the proposed employment allocation on the Policy 30.22 site been clarified. It would be helpful for the Council to consider further how these policies and any other parts of the Plan might be modified for consistency with national planning policy on meeting the accommodation needs of this group.

I would be grateful for a response from the Council by the end of this month.

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