

Examination of the New East Devon Local Plan 2006-26
Additional Hearing 1
9:30am Tuesday 7 July 2015
Gypsy & Travellers

In response to questions raised by the Inspector the Council has produced further evidence relating to accommodation for gypsies and travellers. This Hearing will consider that evidence by addressing the following questions:

1. The Devon Partnership Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014 identifies a need for 37 pitches for gypsies and travellers and 3 sites for travelling showpeople (2014 – 2034) ¹.
 - a) Are the assessments findings and the targets soundly based?
 - b) Were, as required by national guidance, traveller communities engaged in the production of the assessment?

2. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires local planning authorities to set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. A need has been identified and it has not been met. The Local Plan does not accord with national policy and is, therefore, unsound. How can this be rectified?

3. The Council intend to produce a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD) but the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF) states that local planning authorities should produce a Local Plan for its area and that any additional DPDs should only be used when clearly justified.
 - a) Given that the Local Plan is able to allocate land for housing and employment uses what is the justification for not including pitch targets for gypsies and travellers in the Local Plan?
 - b) Does the failure to allocate land for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople in the Local Plan contravene the Public Sector Equality Duty?²

4. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires criteria based policies to be fair and to facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while

¹ PSD2015o, Tables 9.2 & 9.3

² In responding to the question the Council and others may wish to refer to the following judgement 'Moore and Coates v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2015] EWHC 44 (Admin)'

respecting the interests of the settled community. Does Policy H7, as proposed to be revised, comply with national guidance?

Participants
East Devon District Council
3347 Client Group of PCL Planning