

Date: 20/12/2013

Your ref: Our ref: HH

Please ask for: Helen Hockenhill

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FAO Susan Heywood
Senior Housing and Planning Inspector

Dear Ms Heywood,

Re: GTAA Study and re-convened Examination

I am writing to explain that as a result of a delay to our Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), the council is no longer able to meet the agreed deadline set out earlier this year, including the Examination hearings on 20/21 March 2014. As you may be aware, we were anticipating draft need figures from the GTAA in early October; however these were only received in late November. This delay has occurred in the main due to access difficulties in reaching representatives from the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community.

This has meant we have been unable to meet our programmed Committee and Cabinet dates to discuss the draft findings with Members and to consider the findings of the study and undertake an assessment of potential sites.

The next stage is to discuss the report with the consultants and prepare a final GTAA, assess the implications and, if necessary, undertake an assessment of potential sites, discuss through our Duty to Co-operate with Central Lancashire authorities and wider Lancashire authorities the implications of the report and set out a new agreed timeframe with you for moving forward with this aspect of the Plan. I would like to take into account the need for cross boundary working and the opportunity to provide training for Members on GTAA, in any future timeframe.

I am conscious that this will result in a delay to the formal adoption of the Plan and am interested to hear from you what potential risks may occur to the Plan as a result of this. Additionally, I question the implications of re-designating existing employment/housing allocations as Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople accommodation sites, if there was a need and if one or so of these allocations was the most appropriate site/location.

I welcome the opportunity to hear from you, via the Programme Officer, to agree a new timeframe and a re-convening of the examination in 2014.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'H Hockenhill'.

Helen Hockenhill
Planning Manager