

Date: 13 June 2013

Your ref: PINS/F2360/429/2

Our ref: JB

Please ask for: Jeni Barnes

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FAO Susan Heywood
Senior Housing and Planning Inspector

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Dear Ms Heywood,

Re: Additional information relating to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

The authority welcomes your comments in relation to providing evidence for an up to date needs assessments for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. The authority is committed, alongside the other Central Lancashire authorities of Chorley and Preston Councils, to provide an updated GTAA and if illustrated by the results of the GTAA, a separate DPD on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation would be appropriate.

Having given consideration to your letter dated 24 April 2013, and understanding that the authority's initial approach presented in CD4.32 is not sufficient, the authority has now contacted several consultancy firms with the view to gaining indicative quotes and timescales for updating the GTAA.

At present the authority is awaiting the results of this initial investigation and is committed to presenting you with these findings as soon as practicable. In the first instance we would like to take this opportunity to set out our anticipated timescales for updating the GTAA and producing a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation DPD if the results indicated this was necessary.

The authority would be prepared to update the LDS to include the timescales for producing the updated GTAA and timescales to produce a DPD, if appropriate. On the following page is our indicative timescales for the production of a GTAA study and associated DPD.

Indicative timescales

Timeframe	Preparation Stage
May 2013	Indicative quotes and timescales. Initial discussion with Councillors.
September 2013	Gain agreement through JAC to update GTAA jointly.
October 2013	Commission GTAA study.
December/January 2013/14	Report on initial findings.
February/ March 2014	Final Report received.
March 2014	Consider findings/ Decide if a DPD is appropriate.
April 2014	Begin work on a Gypsy and Traveller DPD, if necessary.
June 2014	Draft DPD consultation and a 'Call for Sites' could occur at this stage – 6 weeks. Accompanying SA/HRA.
Mid July 2014	Consider all responses from the consultation stage. Update DPD to Publication version. Update accompanying SA/HRA/ evidence base/ statements required through regulations.
October 2014	Publication version DPD representation stage – 6 weeks.
November 2014	Consider all responses and prepare document for submission to the Secretary of State.
December 2014	Submit DPD to Secretary of State for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate.
March 2015	Examination with Planning Inspectorate.
May/June 2015	Inspector's Report received.
July 2015	Adoption of DPD.

Your letter dated 24 April also raised the question of how a modification could be included to the text of the Plan, to ensure compliance with the Framework in respect of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. The authority presents the following modification and would welcome your comments as to whether this would now be satisfactory.

Suggested modification

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (Page 29 of the Plan)

7.9 This document does not propose to allocate any sites for gypsies, travellers or travelling showpeople. Currently, the evidence from the GTAA, 2007 identifies no need for pitches in the Borough. The authority is in the process of updating the GTAA evidence and if required will produce a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation DPD in the early years of the Plan Period. If applications for sites are received they will be assessed against Policy 8 of the Core Strategy, which is a criteria based policy to assess applications for such development. This will need to be taken together with any updated GTAA evidence and associated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation DPD if produced in the future.

If you have any further questions or require additional information please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,



Jeni Barnes

Forward Planning
South Ribble Borough Council