

Bradford Local Plan

Core Strategy Examination

Matter 7b: Gypsies and Travellers

Further Statement Clarifying Current Work and Potential Changes to Policy HO12 and its Supporting Text

Date: 20th March 2015

Venue: Victoria Hall, Saltaire

- 1.1 On the final day of the Examination Hearings a constructive discussion was held on the provision of accommodation for gypsies and travellers under Policy HO12 of the Core Strategy. The purpose of this note is to clarify and confirm those areas where there may be a need to make changes to the plan and to confirm the current work on a new accommodation assessment which is nearing completion.
- 1.2 The first point to make is that the Council are keen to ensure that the emerging work both at a strategic level within the Core Strategy and also within the Allocations DPD reflects strong and constructive engagement and input from the local community and in particular from Leeds GATE. The Council's statement (PS/D033(ii)) outlines the ways in which it has sought to both engage and involve Leeds GATE in the emerging Accommodation Assessment being produced by Arc4 and also the consult the wider traveller community. While agreement has not been reached on all aspects of the study, discussions are ongoing. Indeed further discussion on matters such as how to account for the need of hidden households in bricks and mortar and how Leeds GATE might be involved in the Allocations DPD took place informally following the EIP hearing.
- 1.3 The Council are expecting the updated Accommodation Assessment to be completed within the next month and this will enable it to consider what changes may be required to both Policy HO12 and the supporting text. The Council do not propose to indicate those changes in detail within this note as the changes specified would only have to be revisited once the new Accommodation Assessment is completed. However it can formally set out in principle a number of changes and clarifications which may be needed. These include:
- The text within paragraphs 5.3.179 to 5.3.189 will need to be amended to reflect the content within the new accommodation assessment rather than reporting on the findings from the 2008 West Yorkshire Accommodation Assessment;
 - Both the policy and the text will make explicit the requirement for transit pitches. It is accepted that the need for transit pitches is not made as clear as it could be within the current Policy HO12.
 - The Council, in response to the discussions within the hearing session and the comments made by Leeds GATE, will be happy to insert wording into the supporting text to confirm that it will work with both the traveller community and with neighbouring local authorities to derive an appropriate type and location of transit pitches which best meets the community's needs and will consider a number of delivery models including that of negotiated stopping programme currently being developed in Leeds.
 - The Council will, if necessary remove the clause from Policy HO12 relating to temporary permissions. The Council awaits the Inspector's conclusions on this matter. As stated during the hearing the Council's intention is not to encourage or provide for temporary sites rather than permanent ones. The matter of temporary permissions is already dealt with in the Government's Planning Policy For Traveller Sites so it could be argued that a further clause within Policy HO12 is not necessary;
 - Within the submission made by Leeds GATE it was argued that the pitch targets should be expressed as minima. Within the rest of the housing section of the submission draft Core Strategy, targets for conventional homes are presaged by the term 'at least'. This reflects the general thrust of Government policy which is to plan positively for housing need and to achieve a boost to the supply of new homes. Given that it is clear that there is a significant need for new accommodation also for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, it would be consistent for the pitch targets within Policy HO12 to be also preceded by the term 'at least';