

**Meeting: Executive**  
**Date: 28 September 2010**  
**Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document:  
Advice of the Portfolio Holder to Executive**

1. As per recommendation 2 of the Executive Report on the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document, please find below my proposal for progressing this document.
2. After careful consideration of the pitch numbers, it is clear that the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment justifies the level of pitch growth to the end of 2015. In order to meet known local need in a robust way, I recommend that we provide 27 pitches, and not 26 as recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). This accords with advice in Paragraph 9 of the report. I consider that this is essential if we are to move to a sound decision by the Planning Inspectorate.
3. After further careful consideration of the pitch allocation proposed by Overview and Scrutiny, I agree with the allocation of sites and pitch numbers, at the following locations:
  - 1 Old Acres, Barton Road, Pulloxhill, 8 pitches
  - Hermitage Lane, off Westoning Road, Greenfield, 2 pitches
  - Land rear of 197 Hitchin Road, Arlesey, 10 pitches.
4. However, I propose an amendment to the pitch numbers suggested by OSC on the following site:
  - Oak Tree Nursery & Magpie Farm, Upper Caldecote, 3 pitches.

This is 3 pitches less than proposed by the OSC, as I believe that allowing any more pitches at this site would result in a site of disproportionate size in relation to the nearby settlement of Upper Caldecote.

5. My recommendation above leaves a shortfall of 4 pitches. Whilst I am fully committed to the allocation of 27 pitches, I propose that the balance of pitches is found on Council landholdings, to be determined by Executive at a later date.
6. I agree with the other recommendations made and my recommendations to the Executive are as follows:
  - a) that a total of 27 additional permanent pitches (in accordance with the advice set out in Paragraph 9 of the Report) be allocated in Central Bedfordshire (north) up to the end of 2015 (as identified in the local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007) and using a 3% compound growth rate). I am of the view that this approach will lead to approval by the Planning Inspectorate and that most critically there be no

requirement for any further local needs assessment to be undertaken of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation up to the end of 2015, which could credibly lead to a greater provision being required;

- b) that the allocation of additional pitches be as follows (as summarised in Table 1):
  - (i) 1 Old Acres, Barton Road, Pulloxhill, the authorisation of the existing 8 temporary pitches
  - (ii) Hermitage Lane, off Westoning Road, Greenfield, the authorisation of the existing 2 tolerated pitches
  - (iii) Land rear of 197 Hitchin Road, Arleseay, 10 pitches in total, comprising of the authorisation of the existing 4 temporary pitches and the addition of 6 new pitches.
  - (iv) Oak Tree Nursery & Magpie Farm, Upper Caldecote, on the plan circulated at the OSC meeting, 3 new pitches, in addition to the 3 permanent pitches on site, totalling 6 pitches.
  - (v) The remaining pitches be allocated on Council landholdings, to be determined at a later stage.
- c) that no additional pitches be allocated on the private site on land between Common Road and Myers Road, Potton;
- d) that transit pitches for the use of Gypsies and Travellers be provided on existing Gypsy and Traveller sites rather than through the provision of a new specific site elsewhere (as detailed in Paragraph 13 of the Executive Report). In the interests of certainty of provision the site locations will be determined by consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller community in conjunction with the Director of Sustainable Communities with the Portfolio Holder;
- e) that four pitches be allocated at Kennel Farm Holdings, Biggleswade for the use of Travelling Showpeople
- f) That the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, is authorised to agree the Draft Submission document of the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document for consultation purposes

**Table 1 – Pitch Distribution recommendation by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development.**

<b>Site Address</b>	<b>Ownership/ Permissions</b>	<b>OSC Recommendation</b>	<b>Recommendation of PFH for Executive</b>
1 Old Acres, Barton Road, Pulloxhill	Private Temporary Permission for 8 pitches MB/07/00290 - Expires March 2012	8	8
Hermitage Lane, off Westoning Road, Greenfield	Private Tolerated	2	2
Land rear of 197 Hitchin Road, Arlesey	Private Temporary Permission for 4 pitches CB/09/05914 – Expires November 2012	10	10
Oak Tree Nursery & Magpie Farm, Upper Caldecote	Private Full permission for 3 pitches and one day room. Permissions: MB/05/01478 (pitch), MB/05/001495 (pitch), MB/08/02009 (pitch), MB/09/00027 (day room)	6	3
Council landholdings	Public		4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>