

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014**

Item 6: Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

Introduction

Members will be aware that a Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) took place on Tuesday 14 January 2014 to consider revisions to the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan in light of responses received to consultation on the draft Plan and the implications of the new Gypsy, Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014.

Minutes of that meeting have been circulated separately but are attached again as an Appendix to this supplementary report.

Compound Growth Rates and Levels of Gypsy and Traveller Pitch and Travelling Showpeople Plot Provision up to 2031

Following detailed consideration and debate about what should be chosen as the most appropriate compound growth rate, the OSC recommended that a compound growth rate of 2% should be used for future Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision rather than 2.5% and that it should be 1.5% for Travelling Showperson provision. Based on those growth rates, OSC consequently recommended that Executive approve a future Gypsy and Traveller requirement of 131 pitches and 20 Travelling Showperson plots in Central Bedfordshire in the period up to 2031.

Table 1 shows the breakdown of Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements by 5-yr time period that are based on OSC recommendation of a 2% compound growth rate, and a comparison to the level of provision being suggested in the draft Plan (based on the old GTAA). Part of the higher level of provision required in the first 5-yr period results from the backlog of historic under-provision for Gypsy and Traveller pitches (some 35 pitches) which the Council needs to address.

Table 1: Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirement

	Draft Plan	New at 2%: OSC Recommendation
Period 1: 2014-19 (incl. backlog)	65	54
Period 2: 2020-24	31	30
Period 3: 2025-29	36	33
Period 4: 2030-31	25	14
Total	157	131

Pitch delivery will be monitored annually and the Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Trajectory will be amended as necessary. A greater provision of windfall pitches could lead to a reduction in the number of pitches required on the allocated sites. Conversely, a drop in windfall could lead to a requirement to identify further sites at a future review of the Gypsy & Traveller Local Plan or consideration being given to the need to increase pitches on allocated sites.

‘Windfall’ sites are sites that come forward outside of the plan-making process but that receive planning permission. Historically, windfall sites have represented the majority of Gypsy and Traveller pitch delivery in Central Bedfordshire. Based on experience, Development Management officers consider future windfall provision is likely to be in the region of 5-6 pitches per year. This could deliver between 90 and 108 pitches over the Plan period to 2031. However, whilst it is reasonable to assume that additional sites, such as infill sites or extensions to existing sites will continue to emerge, the Council cannot and should not continue to rely on a high level of windfall provision going forward, unless it is prepared to permit the majority of unauthorised sites as they arise in future.

Table 2 shows the breakdown of Travelling Showperson plot requirements by 5-yr time period that based on OSC recommendation of a 1.5% compound growth rate.

Table 2: Travelling Showpeople Plot Requirement with OSC amendment

Plot need from 2014 to 2019 (to meet backlog)	7
Growth between 2014 and 2019 (1.5%)	4
Growth between 2020 and 2024 (1.5%)	3
Growth between 2025 and 2029 (1.5%)	4
Growth between 2030 and 2031 (1.5%)	2
Total need to 2031	20

Sites Recommended for Allocation by OSC to help meet the Future Needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities in Central Bedfordshire up to 2031

In respect of future Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision, following consideration of points made to the meeting by members of the public and further debate, OSC recommended that 66 pitches were allocated across 7 sites to help meet the pitch requirement. The remainder of pitches required for the first 10 year period from 2014-2024 were recommended to be met through continued windfall provision.

In respect of future Travelling Showperson provision, OSC recommended that 4 plots were allocated to help meet the plot requirement. The remainder of plots required for the first 10 year period from 2014-2024 were recommended to be met through windfall provision.

Table 3 below indicates the sites and pitch/plot numbers recommended by OSC for Executive's consideration.

Table 3: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitch and Travelling Showperson Plot provision recommended for allocation in the draft Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

Site	Pitches	Change from draft GTLP
Site 16 - Barton	15	Additional 5 pitches
Site 26 - Dunton Lane	15	Site 55 to be replaced with site 26 allocation increased from 10 to 15 pitches
Site 58 - Potton	0	Site to be removed from the plan
Site 92 - Caddington	9	No change
Site 116 - Pulloxhill	13	No change
Site 76 - Fairfield	10	No change
Site 78 - Tingrith	4	No change

Total	66
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Windfall to meet first 10 years requirement at 2%	18
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Recommendations

Based on the detailed consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, revised recommendations to Executive are set out below:

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

1. endorse the new Gypsy, Traveller and Showperson Accomodation Assessment 2014 conducted by ORS;
2. approve the use of a compound growth rate of 2% for future Gypsy and Traveller provision and 1.5% for Travelling Showperson provision and the consequential requirement for 131 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 20 Travelling Showperson plots to be provided in Central Bedfordshire up to 2031, as recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

- 3. approve the allocation of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson sites as set out in Table 3 above for inclusion in the draft Plan along with recommended changes to the draft Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan attached at Appendix D and recommend that Council agree the document for the purposes of Publication and submission to the Secretary of State;**

- 4. recommend that the Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development , to make any minor amendments to the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan:**
 - (i) prior to publication;**
 - (ii) after Publication but before Submission; and**
 - (iii) during the examination process.**