

Modified text of the Draft Policy incorporating the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes

Policy H3 – Provision for Gypsy and Travellers

Local authorities should make provision through Development Plan Documents for at least 1,237 net additional residential pitches for Gypsy and Traveller Caravans by 2011 distributed as follows:

District	<i>Authorised Pitches in 2006</i>	Minimum Additional Pitches 2006-2011	<i>Minimum Pitches 2011</i>
Bedford	20	25	45
Central Bedfordshire	118	80	198
Luton	20	15	35
Cambridge	0	15	15
East Cambridgeshire	59	35	94
Fenland	183	89	272
Huntingdonshire	20	25	45
South Cambridgeshire	203	69	272
Peterborough	95	30	125
Basildon	112	62	174
Braintree	25	25	50
Brentwood	10	15	25
Castle Point	0	15	15
Chelmsford	35	46	81
Colchester	5	25	30
Epping Forest	94	34	128
Harlow	34	15	49
Maldon	39	15	54
Rochford	3	15	18
Tendring	2	15	17
Uttlesford	37	25	62
Southend	0	15	15
Thurrock	80	44	124
Broxbourne	22	18	40
Dacorum	36	20	56
East Hertfordshire	7	25	32
Hertsmere	35	18	53

North Hertfordshire	6	15	21
St Albans	52	28	80
Stevenage	14	10	24
Three Rivers	11	15	26
Watford	10	10	20
Welwyn Hatfield	51	17	68
Breckland	32	15	47
Broadland	2	15	17
Great Yarmouth	4	15	19
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	93	53	146
North Norfolk	1	15	16
Norwich	18	15	33
South Norfolk	25	28	53
Babergh	0	15	15
Forest Heath	35	18	53
Ipswich	43	15	58
Mid Suffolk	69	42	111
St Edmundsbury	2	20	22
Suffolk Coastal	0	31	31
Waveney	20	15	35
East of England	1,782	1,237	3,019

Local authorities should achieve the levels of provision required by 2011 as soon as possible through development control decisions and Local Development Documents. The preparation of joint or co-ordinated Local Development Documents is encouraged and where they are produced, provision can be redistributed across the areas concerned.

Opportunities should be taken to secure provision through major developments. Beyond 2011 provision should be made for an annual 3% compound increase in residential pitch provision, equivalent to 1,038 additional pitches between 2011 and 2021. Where Local Development Documents look beyond 2011 provision should be made for the same proportion of the regional requirement as in Policy H3 for 2006-11.

Local Development Documents should consider the need for rural exception sites and the alteration of Green Belt boundaries, where necessary, to meet the required provision.

Local authorities should work together to establish a network of transit pitches. Provision should be made through Development Plan Documents for an additional 160 transit pitches by 2011, distributed as in the table below. The location and size of sites should be defined following local studies.

County groupings	Existing Provision (pitches)	Additional Pitches 2006-11	Locational Guidance
Bedfordshire & Luton	Nil	10	Central location capable of meeting a range of needs; could be two smaller sites.
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Nil	40	Cambridge area, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.
Essex, Southend-on-Sea, & Thurrock	Nil	30	Distributed network of 3-4 sites aligned with transport routes and urban centres.
Hertfordshire	15	20	Two sites, one in South West Hertfordshire, complementing the existing South Mimms site, the other in North East Hertfordshire.
Norfolk	18	40	Across Norfolk, including Norwich fringe.
Suffolk	Nil	20	Two sites, one in the Ipswich/Felixstowe area.

5.11 There is an urgent need to address the shortage of permanent and transit accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, which creates problems for Gypsy and Traveller communities in terms of access to health, education, employment and other opportunities and can create tensions over the use of pitches without planning permission. This is a national issue, but particularly pressing in the East of England.

5.12 The level of provision in Policy H3 reflects the needs of those currently resident on sites without planning permission, natural growth and movements between pitches and other forms of accommodation. The provision of permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches contributes towards meeting local housing targets and pitches provided by Local Authorities or Registered Social Landlords to affordable housing targets.

5.13 Accommodation is concentrated in certain parts of the region. Policy H3 balances providing most additional pitches in those parts of the region where most Gypsies and Travellers currently live with broadening the choice available to families by providing some pitches in all parts of the region which will assist delivery by ensuring all areas contribute to provision.

5.14 Delivery of the required pitches by 2011 will provide for the existing backlog. The 3% compound increase in provision will ensure that accommodation will be available to meet continuing needs after 2011.

5.15 Local Development Documents should identify the location and capacity of sites to deliver the pitch requirements in Policy H3 in locations likely to be attractive to the local Gypsy and Traveller communities while avoiding areas at risk of flooding and adverse effects on areas of wildlife and landscape importance. Guidance on site location is provided in ODPM Circular 01/2006 and on site layout and design in Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites, CLG May 2008. Policies should recognise the diversity of the Gypsy and Traveller communities, for instance, provision of sites for New Travellers may require different forms of site development.

Policy H4 – Provision for Travelling Showpeople¹

Local authorities should make provision through Development Plan Documents for 184 net additional plots for Travelling Showpeople by 2011, distributed as in the table below. Where Local Development Documents look beyond 2011 they should provide for an annual 1.5% compound increase in plots.

County groupings	Existing Provision (families)	Additional Plots 2006-11	Locational Guidance
Bedfordshire & Luton	27	13	Bedford and elsewhere
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	54	18	East Cambridgeshire and elsewhere
Essex, Southend-on-Sea, & Thurrock	166	103	Needs in Thurrock and also Chelmsford, Basildon and elsewhere. Locations should take account of the wider distribution philosophy in paragraph 5.13.
Hertfordshire	60	20	Needs in Broxbourne and also in East Hertfordshire
Norfolk	75	21	Norwich and elsewhere
Suffolk	20	9	Suffolk Coastal and elsewhere

Local authorities should work in County groupings with local Travelling Showpeople and the Showmen's Guild to identify the sites required to meet the above needs for inclusion in Local Development Documents. The preparation of joint or co-ordinated documents is encouraged. Local Development Documents should consider the need for rural exception sites and the alteration of Green Belt boundaries, where necessary, to meet the required provision.

5.16 The interim targets in Policy H4 will ensure that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople in the East of England can be met, as required by CLG Circular 04/2007. The 1.5% compound increase in provision will ensure that accommodation will be available to meet continuing needs after 2011.

5.17 Local Development Documents should identify the location and capacity of sites sufficient to deliver the plot requirements in Policy H4 in locations likely to be attractive to Travelling Showpeople while avoiding areas at risk of flooding and adverse effects on areas of wildlife and landscape importance. Guidance on site location is provided in CLG Circular 04/2007.

Delivery, Monitoring and Review

5.18 Delivering 1,237 additional residential pitches, 160 transit pitches and 184 plots for Travelling Showpeople by 2011 poses challenges. The Regional Assembly, local authorities, the Homes and Communities Agency, Gypsy and Traveller communities, the Showmans Guild and others should work together to ensure delivery. The Regional Assembly are developing a Delivery Plan, which will identify the range of delivery mechanisms and the role of the different agencies in securing delivery. Policy H3 stresses the importance of using opportunities presented by major developments to secure delivery. In this context major developments will vary relative to the range of developments in each district: the objective is to ensure there are opportunities to help secure the required provision in each area.

5.19 The Regional Assembly, working with partners, should monitor net changes in numbers of permanent and transit pitches, pitches with temporary permission and unauthorised pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, together with net changes in plots for Travelling Showpeople, for inclusion in its annual monitoring reports.

5.20 The Regional Assembly (or its successors, the Regional Development Agency and Local Authority Leaders Board) working with the local authorities should ensure a coordinated review of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments across the region and of Policies H3 and H4 in, or as soon as possible after, 2011. The GTAAs should be carried out on a consistent basis and consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar housing, Travelling Showpeople, and New Travellers.