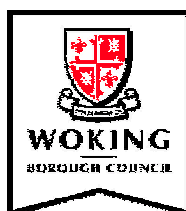




Woking Borough Council's Statement on the Implications of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites

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Produced by the Planning Policy Team

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WBC/42 - WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL'S STATEMENT ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLANNING POLICY FOR TRAVELLER SITES

- 1.0 The Government published its planning policy for traveller sites on 25 March 2012. It came into effect from 27 March 2012 and is therefore a material consideration to be taken into account in plan making and other planning decisions. The planning policy for traveller sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.0 The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers. To achieve this aim, local planning authorities amongst other things are required to:
 1. make their own assessment of need;
 2. work collaboratively to meet identified need through identification of land for sites;
 3. ensure that local plans includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies;
 4. increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply;
 5. ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.
- 3.0 Local planning authorities are also required to use robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions. It should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area. It should identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years worth of sites against their locally set targets, identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6 - 10 and, where possible for years 11 – 15. In seeking to meet need, local amenity and the environment, including the Green Belt should be protected.
- 4.0 Where there is no identified need, criteria based policies should be included in local plans to provide a basis for decision in case applications nevertheless come forward.
- 5.0 The Core Strategy includes a specific policy (CS14: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The policy is informed by a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) carried out in 2006. The Study identified that there is a need to provide an additional 10 pitches in the Borough between 2006 and 2016. This target has already been met. The Council is committed to carry out a revised GTAA in 2012 to inform the level of provision between 2017 and 2027. Work on the Study has already begun and is due to be completed by October of this year. In addition there is a need for one pitch to meet the needs of Travelling Showpeople over the plan period.
- 6.0 Policy CS14 emphasises that specific deliverable sites to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be delivered through a Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). The Council is committed to prepare a Site Allocations DPD. The work programme for this is set out in the adopted Local Development Scheme of the Council. It is anticipated that the Site Allocations DPD will be adopted by January 2014. This timescale

provides sufficient lead time to plan for the release and delivery of sites from 2017.

- 7.0 The Council through the Site Allocations DPD will identify sufficient deliverable and developable sites to meet the specific requirements of the 'planning policy for traveller sites'.
- 8.0 Policy CS14 sets out criteria to be taken into account when determining the allocation of land for Gypsy and Traveller sites and any applications for non-allocated sites.
- 9.0 Based on the above, the Council is satisfied that the requirements of the planning policy for traveller sites have been and will be met. There is already a proposed modification to the Core Strategy to commit the Council to carry out the Study in 2012 and to emphasise that the level of provision between 2017 and 2027 will be informed by the Study.

No further modification to the Core Strategy is proposed.