

Member Briefing

Number: 1207

- Title:** Consultation on Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD)
- Summary:** The purpose of this briefing note is to inform members about a consultation on the Traveller Development Plan Document issues paper.

Background

As a local planning authority, the Council has to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in its area. The Council also has to find suitable sites in its development plan to meet this need. As detailed in a separate briefing note, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) has recently been updated to provide information on the needs for pitches and plots for Travellers within the borough.

It was agreed by Cabinet on 29 November 2017 that a separate Traveller Development Plan Document should be prepared. Details of the stages of plan preparation and a timetable are set out in the [Local Development Scheme](#). It should be noted that the timetable has changed largely because of the time taken to complete the GTAA and the knock on effects on consultation periods.

Traveller DPD issues consultation

At an early stage of DPD preparation, the Council has to consult with local communities, key stakeholders, businesses and other interested parties on the scope and content of the document. SOC 4 in the Local Plan (Part One) is used as the starting point for policy in the Traveller DPD issues paper. It sets out broad criteria for Traveller sites. It then asks a series of questions to inform the development of more detailed policy and site identification, including:

- whether the search should include sites in the greenbelt
- whether it should focus on Council owned land
- what would be the most appropriate site size
- whether there are any additional matters regarding site layout and design that should be taken into account.

A call for sites will be included to allow respondents to submit details of sites that might be appropriate for Traveller accommodation to allow further assessment.

Consultation will follow the principles set out in the Council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#).

The documents will be made available online and paper copies will be left in Council offices and the mobile library. Emails or letters will be sent to all statutory consultees and town and parish councils, as well as other bodies, including landowners, agents, organisations representing the Traveller community and members of the public who have previously commented on this issue (in accordance with GDPR requirements). Direct consultation with Traveller families in the area will be co-ordinated by Irish Community Care, overseen by the Cheshire Partnership Gypsy and Traveller Coordinator. Consultation will take place from 16 July to 5 October.

The Council is at an early stage of the plan making process and **no specific sites** are being put forward through this consultation. Once the consultation has closed, the next stage will be for the Council to determine how to respond to the issues raised through the consultation. The development of detailed proposals and consultation responses will be considered by Councillors through relevant public meetings.

The consultation documents can be viewed online from 16 July.

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