

East Lindsey Core Strategy 2016 – 2031 Examination

Lincolnshire County Council Written Statement

Matter 12: Gypsies, travellers and showpeople (Policy SP12)

Main issue: Is this policy consistent with national policy in respect of providing an on-going supply of land for this type of accommodation throughout the plan period? Is it otherwise effective in its aims?

Questions

SP12: Gypsies, Travellers & Showpeople

1. *The policy seeks to meet identified needs within the first 5 years of the plan period, but does not appear to look beyond this time horizon. Why? Has there been an assessment of the likely need for permanent and transit site accommodation for the full plan period to 2031? I.e. is the identified need in paragraph 1, page 56 (20 stopping/transit pitches, 13 permanent pitches and 2 plots for show and circus people) intended to cover the full plan period? (the GTAA 2016 identifies a future need of one pitch arising from existing authorised sites). If not, is the plan consistent with the NPPF which seeks to ensure that full objectively assessed needs are met over the plan period?*

The GTAA 2012 covered Gypsy/Traveller permanent and transit site accommodation need for a 15 year period (up to 2027) although surprisingly the report concluded there was no permanent accommodation needed in years 6-10 and 11-15, not even from family formation. The Gypsy/Traveller study 2016 does not appear to be a full GTAA as there are no calculations attaining to accommodation need within the report. The study's findings conclude that there has been very little change in accommodation need and pitch requirements since the GTAA 2012. It would appear that because of these findings, ELDC has taken the 15 year start period from the 2016 study date which would cover the proposed local plan period (up to 2031). It is arguable that this is a robust process as the findings are unlikely to be exact.

2. *If there has been no assessment of need beyond the first five years of the plan period, or if that assessment is not robust, is the policy consistent with national policy at paragraph 10 of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, August 2015?*

The 2012 GTAA did assess need beyond the first five years of the plan (up to 2027) and the Gypsy/Traveller Study 2016 identified potential deliverable and developable locations for Traveller sites.

3. *Should the policy make it clear that the relevant sites are allocated in the Settlements Proposals DPD?*

Yes. This would provide clarity and a cross-reference would also help.

4. *The policy contemplates sites in, adjacent to or in "reasonable*

proximity” to towns and large villages but in medium villages, sites should be in or adjacent to the settlement. Why would sites in “reasonable proximity” to medium villages not potentially be suitable and what is the justification for omitting any reference to the potential for such development in small villages?

In order to make the policy more consistent, providing the criteria in clause 1 Strategic Policy 12 (SP12) Gypsies, Traveller and Showpeople is met there should be no reason why sites adjacent to or in or in reasonable proximity to medium and small villages should not be considered.

5. Does Clause 4 require amendment to clarify that extensions to existing sites in medium villages should not result in a site accommodating more than 3 pitches?

The clause should be amended to set out any potential limitations on site expansion. For example:- adding 'the total number of pitches on sites in medium villages should not exceed 3 pitches'.