

0/2 - decision date

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR ELFAN AP REES. THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, HIGHWAYS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING.

WITH ADVICE FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT.



DECISION NO: 17/18 DE 226

**SUBJECT: GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE
ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT (GTAA August 2017)**

KEY DECISION: NO

BACKGROUND:

The latest national planning guidance (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites August 2015) advocates that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites. Current assessments are up to 2016 and need to be reviewed. The Core Strategy Policy CS18 is a criteria based policy to assist the determination of relevant planning applications

The primary objective of this Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in North Somerset up to 2036

As well as updating the previous GTAA, the principal reason for completing the study was the publication of a revised version of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) in August 2015. This included a change to the definition of Travellers for planning purposes. The key change that was made was the removal of the term persons...who have ceased to travel permanently, meaning that those who have ceased to travel permanently will not now fall under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing accommodation need in a GTAA

Because of the new planning definition the need for new sites has decreased compared to earlier assessments

DECISION:

The August 2017 GTAA be adopted as a background document for the emerging Local Plan and used as the basis for determining the future provision of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites up to 2036

REASONS:

The GTAA provides a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the preparation and implementation of Development Plan policies and the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the period up to 2036

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

A "do nothing" approach would put the Council at risk of increased illegal encampments and uncertainty in determining planning applications

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct financial implications although the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers sites can indirectly reduce the cost burden of dealing with unauthorised encampments

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The Council is duty bound by Government Guidance to undertake an assessment of need .

CONSULTATION

The GTAA is based on interviews with local gypsies and travellers. As a background paper to the emerging Local Plan it will be subject to consultation

RISK MANAGEMENT

Without a GTAA there would be no detailed assessment of need which could result in the under or over provision of sites or the granting of planning consent in unsuitable locations

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

The GTAA deals specifically with gypsies and travellers who meet the planning definition set out in national guidance (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites August 2015) which has been subject to its own Equality Impact Assessment

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS


The provision of additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites has implications for all Council services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

North Somerset GTAA August 2017

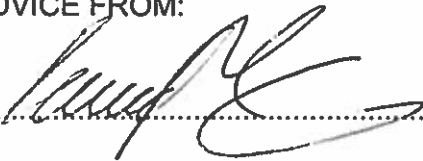
SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed:  Executive Member for Strategic Planning,
Highways, Economic Development and Housing

Date: 6/2/18

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed:  Director of Development & Environment

Date: 2/5/18

