

Council 28.09.06 – Additional Information for the GTDPD Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach

The following recommendations to the Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach, have been recommended in Appendix 6 of the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 3 to item 8). Officers have proposed the following responses to these recommendations and ask that Council endorse these, allowing amendments to be made to the report.

#	Description of Option	Recommendation from SEA/SA	SCDC's Response/amendment
GT3	Identifying Sites – Proposed Approach: The Council will use a three-tier approach considering environmental, economic and social indicators to identify the most suitable sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches.	This is not really considered to be an option. The option essentially states that the most sustainable sites will be chosen this is as directed by guidance and will be achieved by later stages of the Sustainability Appraisal. The option is not considered to be required as it should be a given in the site selection process.	Inclusion as an option provides the opportunity to comment, and also tests the process against sustainability objectives. For completeness it should remain as an option. Action - No Change.
GT4A	Relationship to Settlements – Option A: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches may be located in areas deemed unsuitable on planning policy grounds for standard housing (e.g. outside settlement frameworks) if the site can meet the requirements of ODPM Circular 01/2006 with regard site location and those of Gypsies/Travellers.	Greater clarity in the language of GT4A and GT4B will help convey the implications of the options.	It is agreed that the wording of the option could be amended to provide greater clarity. Action - Amend wording to: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches may be located outside settlement frameworks if the site can meet the requirements of ODPM Circular 01/2006 with regard site location and those of Gypsies/Travellers.
GT4B	Relationship to Settlements – Option B: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches may be located in areas deemed suitable for standard housing on planning policy grounds (e.g. within settlement frameworks) if the site can meet the requirements of ODPM Circular 01/2006 with regard site location and those of Gypsies/Travellers.	Greater clarity in the language of GT4A and GT4B will help convey the implications of the options.	It is agreed that the wording of the option could be amended to provide greater clarity. Action - Amend wording to: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches may be located within settlement frameworks if the site can meet the requirements of ODPM Circular 01/2006 with regard site location and those of Gypsies/Travellers.
GT4C	Relationship to Settlements – Option C: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches may be located in areas deemed both suitable and unsuitable for standard housing on planning policy grounds (e.g. outside/within settlement frameworks) if the site can meet the requirements of ODPM Circular 01/2006 with	Greater clarity in the language of GT4A and GT4B will help convey the implications of the options.	It is agreed that the wording of the option could be amended to provide greater clarity. Action - Amend wording to: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches may be located both outside and/or within settlement frameworks if the site can meet the

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	regard site location and those of Gypsies/Travellers.		requirements of ODPM Circular 01/2006 with regard site location and those of Gypsies/Travellers.
GT29	Impact on Local Amenity – Proposed Approach: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches would only be permitted where they can show respect for neighbouring uses and avoid placing undue pressure on the nearest settled community.	The option suffers from a lack of clarity and would benefit from further qualification. The outcome of the option will be to create policy that rightly protects amenity of residents. Gypsy and Traveller groups suffer from prejudice and bias and the fear would be that this option could lead to policy that would effectively rule out the most sustainable sites if local residents decided that amenity in a variety of forms would be jeopardised. This will not encourage social mixing and may further stigmatise the Gypsy and Traveller population. In turn this may impact on their highlighted needs for education and health, which would result from the creation of long term residential sites. The option should therefore undergo further consideration.	<p>The statement “where they can show respect for neighbouring uses” is taken directly from the ODPM guidance 01/2006 and is therefore relevant. The issue is more about how the local area can provide for Gypsy/Traveller needs. For example is there capacity at the local GP surgery or school.</p> <p>Action - Amend wording to: Sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches would only be permitted where they can show respect for neighbouring uses and where the local services/infrastructure has the ability to meet their needs.</p>
GT30	Size of Sites – Proposed Option: New sites allocated for Gypsy and Traveller pitches should generally be for no more than 15 pitches, however all planning applications would be considered on their own merits regardless of site size.	The option could be revisited to address a need for larger sites. Perhaps seeking to provide a range of sites, including larger sites if the locations are proved to be most sustainable.	<p>This option offers a contrast to GT31, which offers the option of considering all site sizes equally. The change proposed would appear to make the two options too similar.</p> <p>Action - None</p>
GT34	Provision for Stables – Proposed Approach: Planning permission for stables on a Gypsy and Traveller site would be considered if there is an identified need for this use and where it does not result in any harmful impact on the site or surrounding area.	As stables are likely to produce some pollution it would be advisable to state that stables can be considered if there is not a ‘significant’ harmful impact on surrounding area.	<p>Action - Amend wording to: Planning permission for stables on a Gypsy and Traveller site would be considered if there is an identified need for this use and where it does not result in any significant harmful impact on the site or surrounding area.</p>