

**REPORT TO:** Planning Portfolio Holder  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Director, Planning and New Communities

3 February 2015

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## **Response to Uttlesford Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options Consultation**

### **Purpose**

1. To agree the response to the Uttlesford Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation
2. This is not a key decision it is responding to a consultation. It was first published in the January 2015 Forward Plan.

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that Portfolio Holder agrees the response in paragraphs 9 to 11 below.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. Councils have a Duty to cooperate when plan making. The proposed response reflects the situation which currently applies in South Cambridgeshire.

### **Background**

5. The Issues and Options document forms the first stage in the production of the Uttlesford Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan. Following a proposed submission consultation, and examination, they plan to adopt the document in 2016.

### **Considerations**

6. Currently there are 43 Gypsy and Traveller pitches on 17 private sites with permanent planning permission, 17 pitches on one county council owned site and 1 Travelling Showpeople site within Uttlesford. The Essex Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment 2014 concluded that a need for 26 additional pitches arises in Uttlesford over the period 2013 to 2033.
7. Uttlesford have completed a site assessment study to identify potential site allocations. Seven site options are identified with potential for allocation (at Great Canfield, Radwinter End, Bartholomew Green, Wicken Bonhunt, Takeley, and Little Hallingbury). The options would be sufficient to enable Uttlesford to meet the needs identified for their district, although the consultation also seeks views on any other potentially deliverable sites.
8. The following response to the consultation is proposed:
9. 'South Cambridgeshire District Council has no objections to the proposals in the Issues and Options Consultation. Uttlesford District Council are commended for planning to meet the needs of travellers. However, further clarification is needed as to

how wider needs identified in the Essex GTAA, such as for transit provision, will be met in Essex, if this is not in Uttlesford.

10. The South Cambridgeshire Submission Local Plan, submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2014, identifies a target of 85 Gypsy and Traveller pitches between 2011 and 2031. This reflects the Cambridge SubRegion GTANA 2011 (as amended 2012). The Council has granted planning permissions which meet this figure, such that no allocations are proposed in the Local Plan, although it indicates that opportunities will be sought to deliver sites through new communities. The Local Plan has been subject to objections which consider that the target should be higher, and this will be tested at the Examination. Several planning application appeal inspectors have also indicated that they consider there remains an outstanding need.
11. Under the Duty to Cooperate, should needs arise in the future that cannot be met appropriately in South Cambridgeshire, the Council may seek collaboration with surrounding areas, as indicated in the NPPF, Planning for Travellers and the Duty to Cooperate.'

### **Options**

12. Alternative approaches would be not to respond, or to respond differently.

### **Implications**

13. There are no significant implications.

### **Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)**

14. None.

### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

**Aim 3** - We will make sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents.

15. Planning to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers contributes to this aim.

### **Background Papers**

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Documents related to the Uttlesford consultation can be found here:

<http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/gypsiesandtravellers>

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