



Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document Options Paper

Solihull Local Development Framework

July 2011



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Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Options Paper

1. Introduction

The Local Development Framework

In 2004 the Government introduced a new type of development plan known as the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will gradually replace the Solihull Unitary Development Plan with a new suite of documents providing the framework for planning and development in Solihull to 2026. One of the key issues for the LDF to address will be meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

One of the most important policy documents in the LDF is the Core Strategy, which will provide the framework for more detailed policies to be set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs), which include the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).

What Have We Done So Far?

Public consultation on the Solihull Core Strategy began in early 2009 with the publication of an issues and options document known as “Challenges and Choices”. One of the key issues that we identified as needing to be specifically addressed by the Core Strategy was the lack of appropriate sites to accommodate Gypsy and Travellers in Solihull.

Further consultation on an Emerging Core Strategy took place in between October and December 2010. One of 9 priority challenges to be addressed is the shortage of Gypsy and Traveller sites, and the provision of sites to meet the identified accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers is also included as part of an overall strategy for the Borough.

Policy 5 of the Emerging Core Strategy outlines the policy direction for the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers, which is:

“To meet the need for 26 residential pitches and 5 transit pitches to 2017 as identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, although the first priority will be to meet the immediate need of 17 residential pitches to 2012. There are already well established sites in the Borough which do not have a permanent permission and the overall number of pitches that the Council is required to provide is partly as a direct result of Gypsies and Travellers living on these sites.

As a first measure to meet immediate need to 2012 the Council will assess the suitability of the existing sites against the following criteria:

- *The size and scale of the site and the number of caravans stationed*
- *Whether the site has any adverse visual impact*
- *Whether the site is in an area prone to flooding*
- *Whether the site has any adverse impact on the landscape or local nature conservation designations*
- *The potential for noise and disturbance to neighbouring land uses from the movement of*

vehicles to and from the site and from the stationing of vehicles on the site

- *Whether the site has safe and convenient access to the highway network*
- *How accessible the site is to local services and facilities such as schools, health facilities, fresh food and employment by sustainable transport.*

Sites in the green belt will not normally¹ be permitted unless other locations have been considered, and only then in “very special circumstances”.

Development in open countryside will only normally be considered in circumstances where there is a pressing general or personal need and only against the site suitability criteria outlined above.

The above criteria will also be used for the allocation of future sites (post 2012) and the determination of future planning applications.

Provision of sites beyond 2012 will be determined through the preparation of a Development Plan Document proposed in the light of an up to date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

In order to meet any shortfall between 2012 and 2017 it is proposed to search for additional sites and / or extend existing sites.”

The next stage in the development of the Solihull Core Strategy will be the preparation of a Submission Draft for consultation. In

¹ Current Government guidance on Gypsy and Traveller sites states that new sites in the Green Belt are “normally inappropriate development”. At the time of writing, new guidance is currently being consulted on which proposes to remove the word “normally” when referring to Traveller sites being inappropriate development in the Green Belt to ensure consistency with Planning Policy Guidance 2 –Green Belts.

the meantime, the Council is committed to addressing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers through the preparation of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD.

Throughout the development of the Core Strategy, a number of sites have been come forward as potential Gypsy and Traveller sites. These include a new site and extensions to existing authorised and temporary sites. However, the Council have made no decision in favour of any site, nor discounted the possibility of other sites coming forward.

Work undertaken to date on the Core Strategy, together with the existing evidence base available, has already enabled the key issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers to be identified. Therefore the next step is to consult on this Options paper.

The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document and Why We Need One

The statutory duty for local authorities to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites was removed in 1994. Nationally this has led to a lack of suitable accommodation provision, an increase in unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites and tensions between the settled community and the travelling population.

Gypsies and Travellers have been recognised by the courts as being distinct ethnic groups and are protected from discrimination by the Equality Act 2010. The courts have made clear that travelling is not a defining characteristic if these groups, but only one among others. There is a statutory duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in the course of developing policies and delivering services. The current planning policy framework for Solihull (the Solihull Unitary Development Plan) does not include any policies

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Options Paper

on providing for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough.

As in most other areas of the Country, there is a shortage of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in Solihull to meet identified need. This leads to unauthorised developments and encampments and results in uncertainty for both the settled population and the Gypsy and Traveller community.

The lack of suitable accommodation underpins many of the inequalities that Gypsies and Travellers experience and research has consistently confirmed the link between the lack of good quality sites for Gypsies and Travellers and poor health and education. The provision of sites can therefore be the key to tackling a host of issues, including the setting up of unauthorised sites which are often a source of tension between the gypsy and traveller community, the settled population and the local authority.

The failure to allocate sufficient land to meet the need for new pitches has a number of impacts including:

- Continuing the current problem of unauthorised development and encampments, as well as tensions with the settled community
- Reinforcing the cycle of nomadism for those Gypsies and Travellers who may prefer a more settled existence, but cannot find a permanent site;
- Restricting the Council's ability to enforce against unauthorised development as our ability to enforce is related to our proactivity in meeting the need for new provision; and
- Increasing the difficulty of ensuring that the Gypsy and Traveller community has access to all the support and services they need.

The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD will therefore seek to address these issues by identifying sites to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull between 2012 and 2026². It will also include planning policies against which Gypsy and Traveller associated development will be determined.

Doing nothing to address the issues is not an Option.

The National Planning Policy Context

Government Circulars 01/2006 “Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites” and 04/2007 “Planning for Travelling Showpeople” set out the current national planning policy and guidance for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople respectively.

At the time of writing the Government are consulting on a draft new Planning Policy Statement on “Planning for Traveller Sites”, which aims to consolidate and streamline the two Circulars into a shorter single document which contains only necessary planning policy.

The new draft PPS outlines that the Government’s overarching objective is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of Travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

The Government’s objectives for planning in respect of Traveller sites are to:

² This may be extended to 2027 if a draft new PPS on Planning for Traveller Sites becomes adopted in its current form. It proposes that development plans should identify specific sites that will enable the continuous delivery of pitches to at least 15 years from the date of adoption. The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD is programmed for adoption in 2012.

- *Enable local planning authorities to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning*
- *Ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites*
- *Encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale*
- *Protect Green Belt from development*
- *Promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites*
- *Reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective*
- *Ensure that the development plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies*
- *Increase the number of traveller sites, in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply*
- *Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan making and planning decisions*
- *Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure*
- *Have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment*

The draft PPS outlines the Government's intention to remove top down targets and make local authorities responsible for determining how to meet their own housing need including Gypsy and Traveller site provision. Unlike the current Circular

01/2006, the draft PPS does not stipulate the way in which local authorities should assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their areas. Local authorities will be able to set their own pitch / plot provision, based on "robust evidence of local need in the light of historical demand".

The draft PPS gives a clear indication of the Government's intended policy direction and the Gypsy and Traveller DPD will need to have regard to this.

Definitions

For the purposes of planning, Government guidance defines Gypsies and Travellers as:

"Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such."

Travelling showpeople are defined as:

"Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers."

2. This Options Paper

This Options paper is the first stage in the process of meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull. The final DPD will ultimately allocate sites, however, as a first step, this Options paper focuses on how need should be met between 2012 and 2026 by identifying the possible ways in which pitches and sites could come forward and undertaking a 'call for sites' exercise. This consultation paper also seeks opinion on some of the more detailed aspects that would need to be considered when dealing with Gypsy and Traveller related development.

This Options paper has been prepared in light of publication and subsequent Council approval for policy development, of the joint Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

Sustainability Appraisal

The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which will contribute to the evidence base and ensure that the plan delivers sustainable development.

3. Gypsy and Traveller Need in Solihull

The Evidence Base

In Solihull, a sub-regional assessment of need was undertaken together with Birmingham and Coventry Councils. The final report was published in March 2008 and endorsed for policy development on May 2008. The main objective of this study was to quantify the current and future need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. Although carried out at a sub-regional level, the assessment of need was undertaken separately for each local authority in the study area.

The GTAA identified a need in Solihull for a total of 26 additional residential pitches to be provided in the Borough to 2017. This is split into an immediate need for 17 permanent residential pitches (2007 – 2012) and a further 9 permanent residential pitches to accommodate family increases and possible in-migration (2012 – 2017).

Provision of residential pitches should be evidence based and so reflect local circumstances and local need. The Solihull GTAA identifies need to 2017 and we consider that it provides the most reliable and robust evidence base to establish need in order to plan positively and manage development.

However, although guidance in the draft new PPS on planning for Traveller Sites stresses the importance of ensuring that pitch/plot provision is based on robust evidence, it no longer requires Local Planning Authorities to undertake a GTAA. The draft PPS refers to addressing the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers “in the light of historical demand”.

Questions

Do you still consider the GTAA to be the most appropriate way of identifying the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull to 2017? If not, why not?

Should the evidence base be updated to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull to 2017? If so, in what ways does it need updating?

What other ways are there to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull to 2017?

Current Need in Solihull

At the time of writing, of the 17 pitches required between 2007 and 2012, 12 pitches have been granted planning permission, leaving a shortfall of 5 pitches. A further 9 pitches would then also need to be provided to meet need between 2012 and 2017 as identified in the GTAA. At present, this would result in a total of 14 pitches to be provided to 2017.

However, it should be recognised that an additional 8 pitches could come forward if planning applications to regularise existing, well established sites in the Borough, which do not currently have permanent planning permission were successful. This is our approach to meeting immediate need to 2012, assuming such sites meet criteria set out in Policy 5 of the Emerging Core Strategy.

Notwithstanding this, this Options Paper sets out other approaches for the way in which our future pitch requirements may be met.

Gypsy and Traveller Need Beyond 2017

The GTAA identifies Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in Solihull to 2017, beyond which there will be an ongoing need for additional pitches.

In order to identify Solihull's pitch requirement post 2017 to 2026 an estimate of need could be made using the current family formation rate identified in the GTAA. The GTAA suggests that the new Gypsy and Traveller family formation rate is around 4% per year.

However, it is considered that the evidence base will need to be updated to inform pitch requirements beyond 2017.

Questions

Is the application of the GTAA household formation rate an appropriate way to identify Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in Solihull beyond 2017? If not, why not?

Should the evidence base be updated to determine Gypsy and Traveller need in Solihull beyond 2017? If so, in what ways does it need updating?

Travelling Showpeople

There are currently no sites for Travelling Showpeople in Solihull. The Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull GTAA identifies a single site in Birmingham within the study area and the site owner is actively looking for land to relocate the site to provide more space. The GTAA states that while need is arising in the study

area (although this is not specifically in Solihull) it is not clear that it could or should be met within that area.

Stopping Place and Transit Provision

Although nomadism and travelling is currently restricted to a certain extent, it remains an important feature of Gypsy and Traveller identity and way of life, even if only to visit fairs or family members. Although transient unauthorised encampments appears to be a less major issue than a few years ago, encampments still occur and cause tensions with the settled community while providing very basic accommodation and little access to services for the Gypsies and Travellers involved.

The Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull GTAA outlines that in Solihull, the scale of encampment experienced recently is too small to merit provision of formal transit provision. It suggests that it would be more appropriate to ensure that future residential provision has space to provide temporary accommodation for people visiting site residents (not strangers or other Gypsies and Travellers in transit). However, the GTAA also recognises that requirements for the provision of transit accommodation in the period 2012 – 2017 is impossible to predict, although additional provision would only be required if the level of travelling were to increase markedly.

4. The Options

The Approach to Meeting Need

Policy 5 of the Emerging Core Strategy on the 'Provision of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers' outlines that the first priority for the Council will be to meet the immediate need of 17 pitches to 2012 by considering the suitability of existing, well established sites, which do not have permanent permission, against a series of criteria.

To meet Solihull's longer term needs (post 2012) Policy 5 also gives a commitment to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD in light of an up to date GTAA.

The Emerging Core Strategy was the subject of separate public consultation exercise between October and December 2010. Therefore, it is not the intention of this Options paper to again consider the details of Policy 5.

With regard to meeting Gypsy and Traveller need between 2012 and 2026, the Options for the way in which our future pitch requirements may be met include:

- **Expansion of existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites**
- **Increasing capacity on existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites**
- **Allocation of new sites**

Questions

Are the approaches to the way in which our future pitch requirement may be met considered appropriate?

Of the three approaches outlined, do you have any preference for how need should be met?

Are there any alternative ways in which our future pitch requirements may be met?

Call for Sites

Throughout the LDF process so far, a number of sites have been put forward as potential Gypsy and Traveller sites. These include one new site and 3 others which have been proposed or mooted as possible extensions to existing sites. The Council have made no decision in favour of any site, nor discounted the possibility of other sites coming forward.

As part of this Options consultation therefore, we are specifically providing the opportunity for individuals, organisations and other stakeholders to suggest any sites that they consider to be suitable for allocation as Gypsy and Traveller sites.

The potential sites put forward under this "call for sites" exercise, together with the sites submitted so far, will be subject to public consultation and assessed for their suitability, in order to determine which may be identified for allocation in the DPD.

Questions

Can you suggest any sites that you consider suitable for use as Gypsy and Traveller sites?

Please submit details using the site proposal form available at www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf or from the Sustainable Development Team.

Consideration of Gypsy and Traveller Related Development

Once sites have been allocated and/or detailed applications for Gypsy and Traveller development are submitted, it is proposed that applications would need to be assessed against more detailed policy considerations. A number of draft policy considerations have been identified. These include:

- Access/turning space should be good enough to include emergency vehicles and comply with Fire Service requirements
- The design/layout should clearly define individual pitches but without 'enclosing' them too much with inappropriate high, close-boarded fencing
- Appropriate landscaping proposals, to include where necessary, hard landscaping, fencing and boundary treatment to soften any visual impact and protect amenity but not enclose and separate the site so much that it hampers cohesion with the neighbouring settled community.
- Look for opportunities for Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Accommodate travelling lifestyle by provision of room for at least one touring caravan per pitch

- Schemes should make clear what commercial activity, if any, would be carried out on the site and where.
- Proposed amenity buildings or day rooms should be the minimum necessary to provide required facilities, be sensitively sited, and use sympathetic materials.
- Details of the keeping of animals to be submitted with applications
- External lighting should be controlled and kept to a minimum
- In order to ensure good design, detailed applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites and Gypsy and Traveller related development should have regard to guidance outlined in 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites - Good Practice Guide'.

Questions

Should detailed policy considerations for Gypsy and Traveller related development be included in the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD?

Do you think that the detailed policy considerations listed are the right ones?

Are there any other detailed policy considerations that need to be identified?

Have you got any other comments to make about the detailed policy considerations?

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Options Paper

Tenure

As indicated in the Government's draft new PPS, it is important to recognise that there will always be those Travellers who cannot provide their own sites. There are currently no socially provided sites in Solihull.

The findings from the Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull GTAA suggest that opinion was split about desired site ownership from Gypsies and Travellers living on sites in the study area. The majority of respondents stated that they would prefer to live on privately owned sites (not family). The next most popular preference was for family owned sites on their own land. 17% of respondents stated that they would prefer to live on Council owned sites and 17% of respondents indicated that it did not matter.

It is considered that as part of its overall identified pitch requirement, the Council should make provision for an element of socially rented pitches. A possible way of assessing the number of socially rented pitches to be provided in the Borough is to adopt the same percentage figure as the number of respondents who expressed a preference to live on Council sites (i.e. 17%).

Questions

Should the Council be identifying socially rented pitches as part of the overall pitch requirement for the Borough?

Is it appropriate that 17% of the total number of pitches to be provided in Solihull between 2012 and 2026 be available as socially rented pitches, based on the findings of the GTAA?

Are there any other ways of establishing the number of pitches within our overall requirement that should be identified as socially rented pitches?

Do you have any other comments?

Other Matters

Travelling Showpeople

Question

In view of the fact that there is currently no specific identified need for a Travelling Showpeople site in Solihull, is there a need to provide additional capacity for Travelling Showpeople in the Borough?

Stopping Place and Transit Provision

Questions

Should provision be made for transit accommodation in Solihull?

Should there be a separate site identified for transit pitches?

Should any future residential site provision include space for visitors?

Should temporary stopping places be identified?

Do you have any other suggestions for how transit provision should be made?

Do you have any other comments on stopping place and transit provision

Family Growth

Question

Should new residential sites include an element of provision for future family growth?

Safeguarding of sites

To ensure that levels of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation are maintained, it is considered that existing sites and any proposed new sites are safeguarded for Gypsy and Traveller use in perpetuity. This will ensure that development or redevelopment of land on safeguarded sites for uses other than for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation would not be permitted.

Question

Should existing sites and potential site allocations be safeguarded for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation use in perpetuity?

Rural Exceptions Sites

Current Government guidance in Circular 01/2006 and the draft new PPS on Planning for Traveller Sites states that in areas where there is a lack of affordable land to meet local Traveller needs, authorities should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable Traveller sites through a Rural Exception Site Policy³.

In response to the Emerging Core Strategy consultation, the Council outlined its commitment to considering the need for rural exception sites for Gypsies and Travellers through the DPD.

Question

Should the DPD include a Rural Exception Site Policy for affordable Gypsy and Traveller sites?

³ A Rural Exception Site Policy enables small sites to be used, specifically for affordable Traveller sites, in small rural communities, that would not normally be used for Traveller sites because, for example, they are subject to policies of restraint.

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Options Paper

5. Next Steps

The timetable for the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD is outlined in the Council's Local Development Scheme 2011. It is summarised as follows:

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD Options Consultation	July - August 2011
Prepare a Submission Draft, including consultation on the call for sites exercise	September – November 2011
Publication and Consultation of Submission Draft	January – February 2012
Submission to Secretary of State and Publication of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD	July 2012
Adoption of the DPD	December 2012

The next stage in the process will be for us to consider all responses to the Options consultation. Sites that are identified as potential site allocations will be given a full public airing prior to the publication and consultation of a Submission Draft document in early 2012, in which final site allocations will be identified.

What Do You Need to Do?

Tell us your views on this options paper

We would like as many people as possible to have their say about this document.

Please send your response to us by Wednesday 31st August 2011. This will enable us to consider responses in preparation for the Submission Draft document.

You can respond in two ways:

- Using the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD response form and returning it to the address given on the back of the form.
- Emailing your comments to:

sustainabledevelopment@solihull.gov.uk

To find out more about the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD you can visit our web page at www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf or call us on 0121 704 6428.

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Options Paper

6. Glossary⁴

Authorised site: An authorised site has planning permission for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site.

Caravan: Mobile living vehicle. Also referred to as a trailer.

CRE: Commission for Racial Equality.

Family: In this document family is used to denote a group of related people who live and / or travel together. It is assumed to be the basic unit when assessing accommodation requirements.

Family site: A private caravan site owned and occupied by an (extended) family. Broadly equivalent to owner occupation in mainstream housing.

Gypsy: (or Romany or English Gypsy) Since the case of CRE v Dutton in 1989 Romany Gypsies have been recognised as a distinct ethnic group for the purposes of the Race Relations Act 1976 (and subsequently the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000). This group is included within the definition of Gypsies and Travellers throughout this document.

Gypsy and Traveller: The term used in this document to include all ethnic Gypsies and Irish Travellers, plus other Travellers who adopt a nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life. It does not include Travelling Showpeople.

Irish Traveller: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain. Irish Travellers are thought to have a distinct indigenous origin in Ireland. Irish Travellers were recognised as a distinct ethnic group in the O'Leary v Allied

Domecq case in 2000. This group is included within the definition of Gypsies and Travellers throughout this document.

Mobile home: Legally a caravan, but not normally capable of being moved by towing. May include residential homes and static holiday caravans.

Pitch: Area of land on a Gypsy and Traveller caravan site developed for a single family. On socially rented sites, the area let to a licensee for stationing caravans and other vehicles. The equivalent term for Travelling Showpeople is a plot.

Plot: A pitch on a site or yard occupied by Travelling Showpeople (use of this term stems from Circular 04/2007).

Residential site / pitch: A site/pitch intended for long-stay use by residents. No maximum length of stay is set.

Site: An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy and Traveller caravans.

Socially rented site: A Gypsy and Traveller caravan site owned by a council or registered social landlord.

Trailer: Term commonly used for a caravan amongst Gypsies and Travellers.

Transient unauthorised site: For the purposes of this document, defined as land occupied by Gypsies and Travellers in caravans for a short period only while visiting or passing through the area. Land may be privately or publicly owned. Gypsies and Travellers are normally there without the consent of the landowner.

⁴ Definitions taken from the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

Transit site / pitch: A site/pitch intended for short-term use. The site is usually permanent, whilst its residents are temporary and a maximum period of stay is usually imposed.

Travelling Showpeople: People who move (or have moved) from place to place with living vehicles to provide travelling fairs or circuses and associated services. Most Travelling Showpeople are members of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

Unauthorised development: A Gypsy and Traveller site established on Gypsy-owned land without appropriate planning permission or site license.

Unauthorised encampment: A piece of land where Gypsies and Travellers reside in vehicles or tents without permission. The land is not owned by those involved in the encampment. Unauthorised encampment normally involves trespass.

Unauthorised site: Land occupied by Gypsies and Travellers without the appropriate planning or other permissions. The term included both unauthorised development and unauthorised encampment, and long-term and transient unauthorised sites.

Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document Options Paper Response Form

You can reply:

On-line at www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf or by completing this questionnaire and returning it by post to Sustainable Development, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, PO Box 19, Council House, Solihull, B91 9QT or by email to sustainabledevelopment@solihull.gov.uk

The information that you provide on this form will be presented to Members and published on our website. This information will include your name, organisation and your comment.

Name		
Organisation		
Address		
Telephone		Email

Preferred communication (please tick)

Phone Email Post

If you are not already on our consultation database, would you like to be added and receive automatic updates on our consultations?

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

 Data Protection

The information you provide will be used by Sustainable Development to prepare the Local Development Framework (LDF). You can contact Sustainable Development on 0121 704 6395. Any information you provide may be shared with other employees or agencies (such as the Planning Inspectorate) who may be involved with the LDF, now or in the future. Additionally, your personal details may be shared with other Solihull MBC departments and partner organisations to ensure our records are kept accurate and to keep you informed of future consultation documents.

Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

The Evidence Base (page 7)

<p>1. Do you still consider the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to be the most appropriate way of identifying the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull to 2017?</p> <p>If not, why not?</p>	
<p>2. Should the evidence base be updated to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull to 2017? If so, in what ways does it need updating?</p>	

Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

<p>3. What other ways are there to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Solihull to 2017?</p>	
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Gypsy and Traveller Need Beyond 2017 (page 8)

<p>4. Is the application of the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment household formation rate an appropriate way to identify Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in Solihull beyond 2017?</p> <p>If not, why not?</p>	
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<p>5. Should the evidence base be updated to determine Gypsy and Traveller need in Solihull beyond 2017?</p> <p>If so, in what ways does it need updating?</p>	
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Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

The Approach to Meeting Need (page 9)

<p>6. Are the approaches to the way in which our future pitch requirement may be met considered appropriate? The approaches are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expansion of existing Gypsy and Traveller sites- Increasing capacity on existing Gypsy and Traveller sites- Allocation of new sites	
<p>7. Of the three approaches outlined, do you have any preference for how need should be met?</p>	

Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

<p>8. Are there any alternative ways in which our future pitch requirements may be met?</p>	
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Call for Sites (pages 9 - 10)

<p>9. Can you suggest any sites that you consider suitable for use as Gypsy and Traveller sites?</p> <p>Please submit details using the site proposal form available at www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf or from the Sustainable Development Team.</p>	
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Consideration of Gypsy and Traveller Related Development (page 10)

<p>10. Should detailed policy considerations for Gypsy and Traveller related development be included in the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD?</p>	
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<p>11. Do you think that the detailed policy considerations listed on pages 12 and 13 are the right ones?</p>	
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Solihull Core Strategy – Emerging Core Strategy

12. Are there any other detailed policy considerations that need to be identified?	
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13. Have you got any other comments to make about the detailed policy considerations?	
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Tenure (page 11)

14. Should the Council be identifying socially rented pitches as part of the overall pitch requirement for the Borough?	
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<p>15. Is it appropriate that 17% of the total number of pitches to be provided in Solihull between 2012 and 2026 be available as socially rented pitches based on the findings of the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment?</p>	
<p>16. Are there any other ways of establishing the number of pitches within our overall requirement that should be identified as socially rented pitches?</p>	
<p>17. Do you have any other comments to make about tenure?</p>	

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Other Matters (page 11)

Travelling Showpeople

18. In view of the fact that there is currently no specific identified need for a Travelling Showpeople site in Solihull, is there a need to provide additional capacity for Travelling Showpeople in the Borough?	
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Stopping Place and Transit Provision

19. Should provision be made for transit accommodation in Solihull?	
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20. Should there be a separate site identified for transit pitches?	
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21. Should any future residential site provision include space for visitors?	
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22. Should temporary stopping places be identified?

23. Do you have any other suggestions for how transit provision should be made?

24. Do you have any other comments on stopping place and transit provision?

Family Growth

25. Should new residential sites include an element of provision for future family growth?

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Safeguarding of Sites

26. Should existing sites and potential site allocations be safeguarded for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation use in perpetuity?	
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Rural Exceptions Sites

27. Should the DPD include a Rural Exception Site Policy for affordable Gypsy and Traveller sites?	
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General Comments

28. Are there any other general comments that you wish to make?

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

May I remind you that the information you provide on this form will be presented to Members and published on our website. This information will include your name, organisation and your comment.

