

## APPENDIX 7

### Replacement text and policy

### Section 5.10 and Policy C6: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

#### 5.10 Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.10.1 Definitions for Gypsies and Travellers vary across pieces of legislation. The definition used for planning purposes is set out in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) (August 2015): *“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, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such”*.
- 5.10.2 Gypsies and Travellers mainly live on pitches. Pitches are permanent authorised sites either provided by Local Authorities or owned by Gypsies and Travellers themselves. Pitches can be large enough to accommodate a single static caravan and a touring caravan. They often also have a day room, with water and electric supply, to provide utility washing and bathroom facilities. Pitches in rural areas can often be a lot larger and may accommodate many caravans.
- 5.10.3 Transit sites are authorised sites which are used for short stays by Gypsies and Travellers. The sites are provided on a permanent basis and have basic amenities and services, which include water supply, shared toilets, washing facilities/utility room, and waste disposal.
- 5.10.4 National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) requires all Local Authorities to set targets for new pitches and plots. Local authorities must also identify and maintain a five-year supply of sites in order to meet their targets for both new permanent residential and transit pitches.
- 5.10.5 As evidenced in the Leicester and Leicestershire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2017, Melton’s permanent pitch requirement from April 2016 to March 2021 is 2 permanent residential pitches, and between April 2021 and March 2026 it is 1 permanent residential pitch. Work has started on 3 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches, granted planning permission (2015) as an extension to the existing Valley View site on Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray. Work has also started on a further 2 permanent pitches, granted planning permission (2016) at Sandy Lane, Melton Mowbray. These permanent pitches meet all currently identified need, and there is currently no further requirement for any pitches from April 2026 to 2036. Further permanent pitches will only be sought if subsequent GTAA reviews establish a need.
- 5.10.6 The GTAA 2017 has identified a current need for public transit pitch provision of 36 caravan spaces (or managed equivalent) spread over 2-3 sites in Leicestershire. It suggests that an initial review should be completed of potential sites that are deliverable in the short-term, and that new provision should be prioritised where needs are greatest, in the North West of the County and the City, and that further provision should reflect the location of unauthorised encampments, the strategic

transport network, and overall geography of the county. It indicates that consideration should be given as to whether new sites and/or managed approaches to dealing with unauthorised encampments, such as tolerated stopping or Negotiated Stopping Agreements, offer the best option to accommodating transit needs.

- 5.10.7 The GTAA also indicates that unauthorised encampments should be reviewed once there is sufficient evidence available, as changes to national policy in 2015 could result in more households travelling, and the consequent need for transport sites. The Council therefore commits to undertaking the appropriate evidence base review and working with the other Leicestershire Local Authorities to establish, if the review shows a requirement, the most appropriate and deliverable location for additional transit provision.
- 5.10.8 A regular review of Gypsy; Traveller and Travelling Show people permanent pitch and plot requirements (including transit pitch requirements) will be undertaken.
- 5.10.9 The GTAA 2017 has not identified need for any plots for showpeople for Melton between April 2016 and 2036.

#### **Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers**

**The most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment will be used to identify pitch and plot requirements and where a need is found, steps will be taken to deliver sites. The GTAA will also be used as a basis for determining planning applications, together with the criteria within the most up to date national Planning Policy for Traveller Sites.**

**We will support sites for Gypsies and Travellers that:**

- 1. facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community; and**
- 2. are appropriate in scale, well designed, and provide suitable landscaping and boundary treatments; and**
- 3. provide an acceptable living environment for occupiers and are free from flooding, pollution, hazards or other adverse impacts on standards of living; and**
- 4. are well-related to local infrastructure and services of a nearby town or village, including safe and convenient access to the road network; and**
- 5. promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community.**

END