

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

LBHF Local Plan Examination: Further Note to Inspector regarding Travelling Showpeople

- 1.1 In connection with preparation of the Local Plan, the Council jointly undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) with the RBKC. The GTANA concluded that there would be a need of 9 additional pitches over the plan period (3 in the first five years of the plan). There was no evidence to suggest any Travelling Showpeople were residing in either borough, and no need identified in respect of pitches specifically for Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.2 During the Examination in Public, the Inspector requested further information as to the Councils' approach in determining the needs (or absence of need) for Travelling Showpeople within the borough. This note will explain how the Council came to its conclusion regarding the absence of need to provide pitches for Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.3 First, the Councils (LBHF and RBKC) analysed a number of data sources relevant to the consideration of Travelling Showpeople in the borough, as identified in the GTANA.
- 1.4 The Census data revealed that there were 336 individuals who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller, across both boroughs. There was no reference to Travelling Showpeople, although Census data does not differentiate in this regard. Officers therefore looked to other sources to assess whether there was a Travelling Showpeople presence in the borough.
- 1.5 Officers from both councils (ie LBHF and RBKC) scrutinised both planning files and enforcement files to identify whether there was any relevant planning history in either borough that would indicate a Travelling Showpeople presence. Officers used the Councils' databases to check for planning and enforcement records; officers also discussed with officers in other departments to check of any knowledge. The results did not reveal any indication of Travelling Showpeople in either borough.
- 1.6 The Councils also considered the 'Caravan Count', which is a count of traveller caravans across the country, compiled by local authorities (collated by the Department of Communities and Local Government "DCLG"). This count showed that there are 19 pitches accommodating 38 caravans across the two boroughs, with all these

pitches/caravans located within RBKC (previously within LBHF). The Caravan Count did not show any transit sites, nor did it show any Travelling Showpeople plots, in either borough. The Caravan Count provides a 'snapshot' view, however, as identified in figure 3.8 (p.20 of SD17), since 2013 there has been a count of nil in the borough.

- 1.7 The Council undertook consultation on the pre-submission version of the Local Plan in October 2016. The Council did not receive any comments to suggest the approach to Travelling Showpeople was inaccurate. The Council has previously identified (ref. EX3) the extent of consultation and engagement with Gypsy and Traveller community and external organisations throughout the GTANA.
- 1.8 Based on the above, both Councils concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to factor in Travelling Showpeople need in the GTANA model. The Councils are confident sufficient analysis has been undertaken and has adopted a justified policy approach in accordance with the NPPF and PPG.
- 1.9 In addition to the above, the Council was party to an assessment of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople need by the OPDC in 2015/2016.
- 1.10 OPDC commissioned ORS to undertake a needs study, and ORS confirmed that there were no Travelling Showpeople, permanent, temporary, or unauthorised Showman's yards in LBHF. The ORS Study commissioned by OPDC was based on various sources, including interviews with Showpeople in other parts of London, and with the Showpeople's Guild.
- 1.11 Significantly, the ORS Study commissioned by OPDC is consistent with the LBHF's conclusion that there is no need arising for Travelling Showpeople within LBHF.