

Hartlepool Local Plan Examination Hearings

Matter 16: Gypsies and Travellers

Wednesday 11 October 2017 – Late PM

Participants:

Hartlepool Borough Council

Key documents/references:

HLP06/7 Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014

EX/HBC/83 Revised Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Sept 2017

HLP06/8 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) – 31 August 2015

Agenda

Policy HSG13 – Gypsy and Traveller Provision

See Inspector's Matter 16 questions 1-5. Additionally the Inspector wishes to discuss:

- (a) Outputs from the revised GTAA September 2017 - is the need zero using the definition in the PPTS? Is there a fair and effective strategy for those who have indicated a preference for non-bricks and mortar accommodation? What other strategies / actions of the Council would deliver culturally appropriate accommodation should the "small theoretical housing need"¹ present itself?
- (b) It appears that other Local Plans in the Tees Valley area are making provision for traveller households that do not meet the revised PPTS definition (para 4.5, p16 EX/HBC/83). Should Hartlepool consider a similar approach²?
- (c) Is the scale of site a reasonable consideration on whether or not to make plan-led provision? If small sites are not commercially viable should the public sector make the provision, as reflected in the PPTS?
- (d) What should be deduced from the number of unofficial encampments (24 since 2015) in terms of a need for either permanent or transit site accommodation in Hartlepool? Why are these unofficial encampments occurring (see Table on p24 of EX/HBC/83)? (noting the Council's response to the Inspector's Q2 in MIQs (EX/INS/15)).
- (e) Is Policy HSG13 as submitted, fair, realistic and inclusive?

Session ends.

¹ EX/HBC/83, pages 6 & 7

² Is the net demand 5 pitches as at paragraph 9.1 of EX/HBC/83?