

# **West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Examination**

## **Consideration of amendments to 5.6 Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

Arising in Matter 4



West Dorset District Council and  
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

At the EIP session on Matter 4 – Housing Policy HOUS 1-7 on Thursday 27 November, the Inspector and objectors raised concerns over section 5.6 – Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople - paragraph 5.6.3. The main issue was:

1. Para 5.6.3 – the Inspector suggests additional wording to clarify how applications will be assessed in the interim period before the Gypsy & Traveller DPD is adopted.

**Para 5.6.3 – the Inspector suggested additional wording to clarify how applications will be assessed in the interim period before the Gypsy & Traveller DPD is adopted.**

It is suggested that the wording for para 5.6.3 should be replaced with the following:

~~5.6.3—Prior to the adoption of the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites will be determined in accordance with national planning policy for Traveller Sites~~ Until such a time as the Gypsy and Traveller DPD is finalised, decisions on gypsy and traveller sites will be determined in accordance with national policy and with reference to policies INT 1 and SUS 2.

## Suggested changes to the Plan

### 5.6 SITES FOR GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE

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- 5.6.1 The Housing Act 2004 requires Councils to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and to provide accommodation based on the findings of that assessment. Local authorities in Dorset are working together to produce a joint Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document, which will identify sites throughout Dorset to meet the needs of these groups.
- 5.6.2 The Councils are committed to working in partnership with Gypsies and Travellers and with their representative groups, and with local residents, to seek solutions to issues concerning Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. In determining applications, issues of adequate levels of privacy and residential amenity for the occupiers, impact on the amenities of adjacent occupiers, and any detrimental impact upon the natural environment will be taken into account under the relevant policies. Proposals for sites for Travelling Showpeople will also need to provide adequate space for residential, maintenance and storage uses and be well related to the public highway network to accommodate the safe passage of large vehicles and pedestrians and located so as to minimise the impact of on-site business activities on neighbouring properties.
- ~~5.6.3~~ ~~Prior to the adoption of the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document, planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites will be determined in accordance with national planning policy for Traveller sites. Until such a time as the Gypsy and Traveller DPD is finalised, decisions on gypsy and traveller sites will be determined in accordance with national policy and with reference to policies INT 1 and SUS 2.~~