

Jean Radley
Programme Officer
Eastbourne Core Strategy
1 Grove Road
Eastbourne
BN21 4TW

FAO Mrs S J Turner
Inspector

1 August 2012

Dear Jean

Response to Inspector's Letter dated 30th July 2012 – Traveller Sites

In response to the Inspectors request as to how the Council wish to proceed on the issue of Policy D6, I am writing to put forward additional evidence to support the Councils current position regarding the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. This is to elaborate on the stated intention to review the gypsy and traveller site needs as set out in paragraph 4.6.1 of the Core Strategy. The Council hopes that this will show a serious intention to address this issue, and firm evidence that the need will be met by others.

A group has recently been set up by the South Downs National Park Authority to progress a GTAA for the East Sussex section of the National Park. (The first meeting of the group was held on 10 July). The GTAA will be carried out jointly with the local authorities in East Sussex with land within the Park (Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden) and also an adjoining local authority (Hastings) to comply with the duty to co-operate. A draft brief has been prepared and once this is agreed, a GTAA will be commissioned jointly to cover the period beyond 2016, which is the end date of the previous GTAA completed in 2005. The GTAA will look at the need for both permanent and transit provision.

Also enclosed is a revised Appendix 2 to document CS52(B), which now includes site plans for the 8 short listed sites. Although this is sensitive information, it is being submitted in support of the Councils evidence that all the sites assessed as being potentially suitable by Parker Dann, lay within the AONB, and that they now all fall within the area covered by the South Downs National Park Authority. These sites will now form part of the site identification process by the SDNPA once needs have been established in the GTAA.

The Council accepts that the Core Strategy does not currently identify specific sites to meet the immediate G & T needs, however we believe that the preparation of the SDNPA GTAA for East Sussex seems to provide the best way forward in terms of providing an up to date assessment of need in the short and longer term, and the evidence to support future site provision. Due to the low level of need identified in Eastbourne in the 2005 GTAA, it is likely to be more efficient for identified needs over the lifetime of the Core Strategy to be consolidated on one site rather than dealt with separately. We recognise that this GTAA is in the early stages but would like to propose this path as the best way of meeting the Inspectors concerns. It will provide the firm evidence that is suggested as Option 1, in the letter of 30th July, that the need will be met by others – in this case the SDNPA.

If this was accepted by the Inspector, we suggest that there is a minor word change to the third sentence of paragraph 4.6.1 , which would then read: "A further review of needs (Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment) will be undertaken jointly with the South Downs National Park to identify need beyond 2016".

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Tupling".

**Valerie Tupling
Planning Policy Manager (job share)
Eastbourne Borough Council**