

Ms V. Tupling
Planning Policy Manager
Eastbourne Borough Council
1 Grove Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4TW

13 August 2012

Dear Valerie,

RE: GTAA questions from Inspector, Examination of Eastbourne Plan

In the letter (dated 2nd August 2012) from Sue Turner, Planning Inspector for the Eastbourne Plan, she raised three questions regarding the identification of traveller sites within the Borough.

As discussed I set out below the South Downs National Park Authority's response to questions two and three of the letter referred to above.

In response to the Inspector's query as to the timescale of a joint GTAA, I can confirm that an initial meeting of the East Sussex Authorities was arranged by the South Downs National Park Authority, to discuss joint working on an assessment of future need for gypsy and traveller pitches. I attach the minutes from that meeting, for reference. At this early stage there is general agreement to the principle of carrying out a study to assess needs after 2016, working collaboratively across the county, but no dates for the work have been confirmed at this early stage. The exact nature of the work to be undertaken is still to be agreed, with the responsibility of undertaking a GTAA lying with each of the Borough and Districts and Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority area, as both Local Housing Authorities and Local Planning Authorities, and with the South Downs National Park Authority as Local Planning Authority for the National Park.

In response to the Inspector's third question regarding sites identified within the South Downs National Park. I can confirm that this has not been discussed with officers or Members at the South Downs National Park Authority and that there is no agreement regarding accommodating the need for gypsy and traveller accommodation identified for the entire Borough solely within the South Downs National Park.

Having looked at the Inspector's earlier letter of 30th July 2012 and given that the Eastbourne Plan is at post-hearing stage, the third option to "delegate identification of a site / sites to a separate DPD" would seem appropriate. This would allow for the identification of future need and of deliverable sites could be developed in collaboration with your neighbouring authorities through the production of a separate development plan document.

Yours sincerely,



Lara Southam
Planning Policy Officer

Midhurst Office
Rosemary's Parlour North Street
Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9SB

T: 0300 303 1053
E: info@southdowns.gov.uk
www.southdowns.gov.uk