



**Eastbourne Plan (Submission Core  
Strategy Development Plan  
Document)**

**Submission Document CS52(B)**

**Additional evidence regarding  
Gypsy and Traveller site  
investigation work**

Date: May, 2012

## **To provide additional evidence of work carried out to seek to identify a site to meet the need for Gypsy and traveller accommodation**

1. Parker Dann Town Planning Consultants were commissioned by Eastbourne Borough Council in March 2008 to carry out an assessment of potential sites for meeting gypsy and traveller accommodation needs, and to find a suitable site in Eastbourne within public ownership. The consultants submitted their initial draft findings in June 2008 which included a site assessment methodology which could be used to score 14 potential sites which had emerged from an initial sieve analysis which excluded land subject to significant flood risk, land covered by SSSI designation, and formal open space areas, from the process. The 14 sites were then subject to more detailed assessment. The 'draft (Interim) Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment' is attached as Appendix 1. The site methodology part of this document was attached as Appendix 1 of the Council's Matters Statement 4.
2. Particularly relevant parts of the assessment are in section 5 which explains the three sets of criteria – environmental, social and economic, which were used to test the suitability of sites. Paragraph 5.4 refers to the 14 sites which emerged from initial sieving, and were subject to more detailed assessment, Paragraph 5.8 explains the scoring process which was used to assess the sites, and paragraph 5.49 explains how the scoring was used to produce a shortlist of sites. This paragraph also explains that a site score of 35 was taken as minimum for a site to be shortlisted; being set some way below the available maximum of 69 due to the paucity of sites. Appendix 2 is the list of sites and how they were scored. It can be seen that only one reached the minimum of 35 points.
3. Although the work of Parker Dann reached a point of assessing potential sites and their suitability which was then intended to form the basis for the Council reaching a conclusion on a preferred site, this work was not taken through to a final decision on either the shortlist or the highest scoring site. The highest

scoring site lies within the AONB and thus leads to issues of conflict with the Councils aims of protecting and enhancing important greenspaces and wildlife habitats, and is also likely to be highly controversial locally. It is now located in the area of the South Downs National Park and therefore outside the scope of the Core Strategy, falling within the planning powers of the SDNPA, which is currently embarking on preparing the evidence base for its own Core Strategy. This planned to include a new GTAA, which could be carried out jointly with the LAs whose areas now fall within the Park boundary. This site remains the only publicly owned site where a theoretical potential exists, but it has never been put in the public domain.