Gypsies and Travellers

Note for Examination

September 2011.

- No representations have been received on this matter.


Allocation for Hyndburn of 10 permanent pitches and 5 transit pitches.

Core Strategy is consistent with the approach being advocated by evidence in the North West Plan Partial Review. The site at Sankey House Farm has been identified and makes provision for that number of pitches.

The position will be reviewed in 2016 in the light of the prevailing national policy.

One of the problems and frustrations that Hyndburn had with planning for Gypsies and Travellers was GTAA’s and the methodology they employed. This is recognised by the North West Plan Partial review on page 5, albeit in a footnote.

“Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs are identified in GTAA’s on a “need where it is seen to arise” basis. However, the results of these apportionments should not necessarily be assumed to imply that those needs should actually be met to the identified degree in these specific locations. This distribution reflects the current uneven distribution of pitch distribution and the Gypsy and Traveller population across the region.

Because of the historical inequalities in pitch provision, Gypsies and Travellers have constrained choices as to where and how they would choose to live if they had real choice. Over time, this has inevitably meant that Gypsies and Travellers have generally moved to areas they see as offering the best life chances; for example, an authority which provides a site; an authority which is perceived as having more private authorised sites than others; or, an authority that is attractive in some other way (slower enforcement, transport links, friends and family resident, etc). Therefore, there is a tendancy, when the need for additional accommodation is assessed in GTAA’s, for the needs assessment to further compound these inequalities in provision. For example, authorities which already provide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation (publicly or privately) are assessed as having greater need for additional pitch provision than authorities with little or no pitch provision. This is compounded further the longer term the assessment is made.”

Hyndburn supported the approach taken by 4NW in the North West Plan Partial Review and submitted representations to the examination and attended the examination. This is recognised in the Report of the Panel.
The Report of the Panel

Although the report of the panel has no weight as a “development plan document” it is evident that when the report was prepared the Panel were aware of the likely abolition of regional government and regional planning, the preface (page v) stating “in the event that the regional planning process is dismantled, it is hoped that the evidence tested in this report will reinforce the importance of continued planning to provide adequately for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation.

A significant amount of work went into preparing the regional policy and the Council believe that this should have some weight as “technical evidence”.

- The Panel recognised the imbalance of distribution with 60% of all pitch provision at 2007 being provided by just 7 authorities (para 3.8).
- 35% of authorities make no provision (para 3.8).
- GTAA’s are recognised as a starting point rather than “the answer”. (para 3.8)
- The need to increase equity and choice was identified as main driver supported by the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- Paragraphs 3.31 to 3.35 sets out the panels view of the pitch distribution proposed in the Lancashire sub region and Ribble Valley.

Transit provision is addressed in part 4 of the report and at paragraph’s 4.14 and 4.15 the view of the Panel on the distribution of transit pitches for the Lancashire Sub Region is set out.

The Core Strategy identifies a site that will provide the needs identified by the Panel Report.