



The Planning Inspectorate

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: PINS/F2360/429/2
Date: 24 April 2013

Dear Sir / Madam

I refer to the additional information submitted during the hearing sessions in relation to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation (CD4.32).

The Government's Planning policy for traveller sites (PPTS) indicates that authorities should prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of the development plan. The GTAA (CD4.8) is dated 2007 and cannot therefore be said to provide an up-to-date understanding of needs. Whilst the GTAA indicated that there was no need for pitches at that time in South Ribble, it did set out the need for additional pitches at the sub-regional level. The report recommended that local authorities within the sub-region should work across administrative boundaries to meet the identified need.

I note from CD4.32 that the Council intends to commission a study, possibly in conjunction with other Central Lancashire authorities. But, I have serious concerns in relation to the lack of certainty in the timescales set out in that document and the lack of any formal commitment from the Council to take this work forward, for example in the LDS. In addition, the submitted information suggests that the Council will not be in a position to assess current need for accommodation until spring / summer 2015, some year and a half from now. I consider that the submitted Plan needs to include a firm commitment to carry out the needs assessment in a timely fashion and thereafter to implement any recommendations if the need for sites is identified.

I would welcome the Council's views within the next 10 days on the most appropriate way to ensure that the Plan complies with the Framework having regard to the above points. This could take the form, for example, of a suggested modification to the text of the Plan.

Yours faithfully

Susan Heywood

Senior Housing and Planning Inspector