

Leicestershire County Council
Multi Agency Travellers Unit

Charnwood Local Plan Examination in Public

Hearing Statement Relating to
Matter 4, Issue 2, Supplementary Questions 3a and 3b

With reference to the Court of Appeal judgement Smith v SSLUHC & ORS dated 31 October 2022 regarding the interpretation of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) and the application of that policy to Gypsies and Travellers who have ceased to pursue nomadic lifestyles:

a. Are any amendments to, or further assessment of, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (EB/HSG/4) necessary to identify the accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers?

1. In relation to the minimum number of pitches to be delivered, no, the GTAA (EB/HSG/4) is still a robust assessment of need, there may be a requirement to reword some of the detail within the current GTAA to take into account the ruling and the potential effect on future need and any planning applications that may be submitted but as the report considered and documented the need for families that met the planning definition and those that didn't it wouldn't make any difference to the final figures given.
2. It can be difficult to obtain accurate evidence when the numbers in a particular area are very low, it would be wrong to assume that just because there is not a current need that there would not be a future need, given that allocations have already been made within the local plan and permissions and 106 agreements are in place, that unidentified future need is being considered, the s106 agreement states that the land with planning permission will be transferred to Leicestershire County Council who currently manage Leicestershire's three existing socially rented Gypsy and Traveller Sites, one of these with a partnering Registered Social Landlord, this is by far the best way of ensuring that these site will be delivered within the plan period.

b. Should the Plan make any further provision for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers that have ceased travelling permanently and/or pursuing a nomadic lifestyle?

3. No the plan already exceeds the identified minimum need that was identified in the GTAA irrespective of the PPTS definition, the criteria policy for any further sites being brought forward by private developers is reasonable and consistent with many other local authority areas, however, recommendation to periodically monitor uptake of plots and subsequent future need should be considered,

there has already been considerable interest for the socially rented plots identified from the Gypsy and Traveller Community, this interest would be present irrespective of location due to a general lack of socially rented provision nationally so may not be dependent on geographic location, because of this provision (or lack of) in neighbouring areas can have a knock on effect.

January 2023