

REPORT TITLE: TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT – APPROVAL OF DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

30 JUNE 2017

5 JULY 2017

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Caroline Brook, Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report seeks authorisation to publish the draft Traveller Development Plan Document (Traveller DPD) for consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (England)(Local Plan) Regulations 2012.

Following the update report to Members in February 2017, (CAB2904(LP) refers), the Council has clarified the availability and suitability of a number of sites assessed, as part of an initial site assessment undertaken last year.

With the adoption of Local Plan Part 2 on 5 April 2017, the Council's requirement for gypsy and traveller and travelling showpersons' provision to 2031 is now established under Policy DM4.

An initial 'options' consultation was undertaken during March – May, the results of which have informed the proposed strategy to meet the requirements of Policy DM4. Appended to this report is a summary of the options consultation responses together with the draft Traveller DPD and Sustainability Appraisal. The proposed arrangements for the consultation on the draft Traveller DPD are set out in the report. It will be necessary to report back with the responses to a future meeting of this Committee, before proceeding to the next stage in the plan making process.

That the Committee recommend to Cabinet :

1. That consultation on the draft Traveller Development Plan Document as set out at Appendix C be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Built Environment, to undertake minor updating and drafting amendments as required to the draft Traveller DPD, prior to publication for consultation and to agree the final consultation arrangements.
3. That the requirement for additional resources to ensure the effective implementation of the proposed DPD be noted and detailed proposals brought forward for consideration to a future meeting.
4. That it be noted that no land and buildings currently owned by Winchester City Council are available for further consideration for traveller site purposes, as all are required for operational purposes.
5. That the Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration) be instructed to advise further on the option of acquiring land for the purpose of providing a site for traveller occupation within the District.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1 COUNCIL STRATEGY OUTCOME

- 1.1 This development plan document (DPD) will complete the suite of plans under the Winchester Development Framework. It will contribute to achieving the Council Strategy outcomes which focus on providing specialist housing. It is necessary for this DPD to have regard to the Council Strategy, which is a legal requirement in the plan making process.

### 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The resources for the preparation of this DPD have been approved as part of the budget process. Studies commissioned in 2016 were undertaken as part of a joint project with neighbouring authorities: the total cost of these studies was approximately £20,000 and has been met from existing budgets.
- 2.2 More recently, specific consultancy advice has been sought to advise on the content of the draft DPD, which has included the appointment of Hampshire County Council Gypsy Liaison Officer and a specialist consultancy, ORS. Fees are expected to be approximately £10,000 and can be covered by the existing budget for this DPD.
- 2.3 Consultants Enfusion have been appointed (PHD 730 refers) to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment, at a cost of £10,000. The SA/SEA has informed the draft Traveller DPD and it is one of the documents to be published as part of the consultation process. It is set out at Appendix B to this report.
- 2.4 Proposed consultation arrangements as set out at paras 10.35 – 10.36 will be covered by the existing budget for this DPD.
- 2.5 The DPD process includes a public examination, which will require the appointment of a programme officer, hire of venue and payment of the planning inspector's fees. Estimates of £50,000 for this have been included in existing budgets and timing of this is anticipated to be during the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.6 The ability of the Council to ensure the delivery of its proposed strategy is one of the key tests against which the DPD will be examined in due course. An important aspect of the proposed strategy is to ensure that allocated sites are used for the correct type and number of users. To achieve this, it is likely that additional resources specifically assigned to this task will be required. These are not required now, but evidence of the Council's willingness to make this commitment would be helpful as the process advances. Detailed proposals can be brought forward to a future meeting.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Preparation of a DPD is required to comply with various processes and procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (England)(Local Plan) Regulations 2012 and NPPF, and Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, together with environmental regulations. Failure to comply with the various elements of legislative procedure could result in the DPD being found 'unsound' in due course.
- 3.2 In addition to regulations establishing plan making procedures, the Government published in August 2015 specific planning advice in relation to travellers – "Planning Policy for Traveller Sites", which sets out matters to be taken into account in policy making and planning decisions.

### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Strategic Planning team is leading the preparation of this DPD, taking advice from other specialists within the Council as required. An informal officer working group has been established incorporating officers from Housing, Environmental Health, Health and Wellbeing and Development Management. This group has shared experiences of communicating with the traveller community which have been utilised in the recent 'options' consultation and will be carried forward with the consultation on the draft DPD.
- 4.2 Other officers have provided advice as necessary with regard to the content and details included in the draft DPD.
- 4.3 Publication of this DPD is likely to result in planning applications being submitted to the Council. These, together with any necessary enforcement processes, will be dealt with by the Development Management Team.

### 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Preparation of this DPD has required an assessment of all available land, including that owned by the City Council. The Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration) has confirmed that the Council does not currently control any land or premises that is suitable or available for traveller sites. The acquisition of land for this purpose and subsequent management of a site is possible and could be considered as an option if the need arose. There are considerable complexities and costs around such an approach and in the first instance it is suggested that the Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration) be asked to advise on the issues and implications which would arise from pursuing this option as well as the likely availability of suitable land.

### 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Following publication of the commencement notice in October 2016, to which some 90 responses were received and considered by this Committee in February 2017, (CAB2904(LP) refers), the Council undertook an 'options' consultation to determine a way forward. Given the limited number of choices

of sites available to plan for the identified requirements in Policy DM4, which sets out the need for 15 gypsy and traveller pitches and 24 showpersons' plots in the period 2016 – 2031 (for households meeting the Government's definition of 'travellers'), the consultation focussed on realistic options and sought views as to the matters to be taken into account when considering potential sites.

- 6.2 The 'options' consultation was published on 21 March and closed on 8 May 2017. This was widely publicised through the LDF e-newsletter, Parish Connect, communication with all statutory and general consultees listed on the local plan database, plus those that had previously responded to the commencement notice. A flyer was produced and sent to all Parish Councils with a request to place this on public notice boards to promote the options consultation. Social media was utilised with regular updates on Facebook and Twitter and travellers and travelling organisations were directly targeted.
- 6.3 A summary of the responses and analysis of the comments received to this consultation is appended to this report (Appendix A) and considered further below.
- 6.4 Proposed publication under Regulation 18 (draft DPD stage) also requires consultation with all statutory and general consultees, plus all others on the local plan database for a specified 6 week period. Given the commencement of the summer holidays, it is proposed that consultation will be extended to cover an 8 week period from 10 July to 4 September 2017.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 This DPD is required to comply with government policy including the 2015 DCLG publication "Planning Policy for Traveller Sites" (PPTS) and NPPF which set out the requirements for sustainable development. The SA/SEA published alongside the draft DPD includes specific environmental assessment of all the sites and draft policies.

## 8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 All development plan documents are assessed in accordance with the Council's Equality Policy. The draft Traveller DPD will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment and modified as necessary to reflect any recommendations arising.
- 8.2 On a broader note, the Government's revised definition of travellers (incorporated in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 and used during the accommodation assessment process undertaken by ORS) has recently been challenged nationally by a member of the travelling community. This matter is currently being considered by the High Court and the timescale is unknown as to when a decision can be anticipated. The definition remains as set out in the 2015 Policy, unless the High Court challenge is successful. Whilst this generates an element of risk to the Council, it is considered necessary to proceed with publication of a draft DPD, to set out the Council's approach to meeting the accommodation needs identified.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<i>Property</i> Uncertainty over the use of WCC land holdings.	Assessment of WCC land-holdings' potential to provide traveller sites.	No existing WCC land/premises was found to be suitable or available for traveller use.  Instruct the Council's Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration) to explore the potential to purchase land for such purposes.
<i>Community Support</i> Elements of the draft DPD are potentially controversial	Allow sufficient time for meaningful consultation – the proposed consultation on the draft DPD has been extended by 2 weeks in recognition of the pending summer holidays. DPD's are required to comply with several stages of publication and an independent examination.	Communication to date has used existing techniques. The recent options consultation extensively utilised social media.
<i>Timescales</i> Timescales established in approved LDS (October 2016) not met	There has been some slippage on the published timescales due to the options consultation and resources within the strategic planning team. The LDS refers to publication under Reg 19 during November 2017.	Publication of the draft DPD will focus on the draft policies; this will hopefully channel responses to the content of the draft DPD, rather than wider commentary, enabling any slippage to be minimised.
<i>Project capacity</i> Medium risk	Ensure sufficient resources are available to comply with all necessary requirements and the DPD can be found 'sound' in due course.	Utilise skills and expertise from staff within the Council and external consultants as necessary.
<i>Financial / VfM</i> Limited risk	Funding for the preparation of this DPD is already in the budget	Commissioning of research with neighbouring authorities.
<i>Legal</i> DPD not found 'sound' at examination	Ensure all processes are followed and duly documented.	To retain an awareness of external matters.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Pending High Court challenge to the definition of 'travellers'.	The challenge to the definition of 'travellers' is an external matter beyond the Council's control. The ORS report sets out the need requirement for the District in compliance with the definition. If this changes in the future, it will be necessary to update the ORS report and potentially the strategy proposed in the draft DPD. The timings of the hearing of the challenge are unknown, but publishing the draft DPD allows for the strategy proposed by the Council to be considered.	
<i>Innovation</i>	n/a	
<i>Reputation</i>	See community support above	

## 10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

### Background and progress to date

- 10.1 Both Part 1 and Part 2 of the adopted Local Plan include policies in relation to the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers in the Winchester District. Local Plan Part 1 includes a criteria-based Policy CP5 which establishes parameters for the consideration of sites. Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM4 establishes the gypsy and traveller accommodation need for the plan period 2016 – 2031, identified as 'about 15 gypsy/traveller pitches and 24 travelling showpersons' plots' for those meeting the current Government definition of 'travellers' (in the PPTS).
- 10.2 This Traveller DPD therefore focusses on setting out a strategy, to deliver Policy DM4, including policies allocating sites for traveller purposes.
- 10.3 Two key evidence studies were completed in 2016, and reported to the February meeting of this committee (CAB2904(LP) refers) – the Site Assessment Study (Peter Brett Associates, PBA) and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (ORS). These studies can be viewed on the Council's website.

- 10.4 Since publication of the PBA Site Assessment Study, which included land owned by Hampshire County Council, the County Council has confirmed none of its sites are available as these are required to be retained for operational or policy purposes. Neither this report nor the draft DPD therefore refers to these sites and the various comments submitted on them – namely Northington Chipping depot (W038) or land at Chilcomb Lane.
- 10.5 Following the various ‘calls for sites’ which the Council is required to make, no sites which are not already known to the Council have been identified which would assist in meeting the identified needs set out in Policy DM4.

#### Results of ‘Options’ Consultation

- 10.6 During March – May 2017, the Council held a broad ‘options’ consultation. Its purpose was to seek views as to how to deal with the needs requirements. Whilst avoiding reference to specific sites, it sought views based on a pragmatic and flexible approach to identify sites for inclusion in the draft DPD. Para 6.2 above summarises the consultation methods used and the details of this will be included in a Consultation Statement that will be published with the draft DPD in due course.
- 10.7 124 responses were received, with approximately 7% being from the travelling community or their representatives. Appendix A sets out a summary of the responses including analysis of the comments, together with collated lists of additional comments received.
- 10.8 Analysis of the responses shows some support for retaining existing sites when these become vacant, together with intensifying existing sites within their current boundaries subject to specific site assessments. Options to make sites with a temporary consent permanent and to extend existing sites also received some support. There was least support for current unauthorised but occupied sites to be granted permanent consent or to identify and allocate new sites.
- 10.9 Proximity to services and facilities, in particular schools and medical provision was identified as an important requirement for sites; similarly, provision on smaller sites (5 or less pitches) received more support. The consultation also sought views as to what to do with any vacant sites. There was support for these to be retained for other travellers families, although comments were received in relation to unauthorised sites suggesting these should revert to their previous use, whereas authorised sites should be retained and act as a ‘bank’ of revolving sites when needed.
- 10.10 The ‘options’ consultation does not provide a decisive answer as to the preferred method of providing for the requirement, but it provides an indication of key areas to be examined further and expressed in the draft DPD. A large proportion of the comments related to specific sites. These are listed for information in Appendix A. No detailed response is set out, as the consultation did not seek to explore site-specific matters.



### Site Assessments

- 10.11 All existing traveller sites were evaluated by the Peter Brett Associates Site Assessment Study published in July 2016. The Council has also sought advice from its own officers in relation to historic environment, highways and landscape matters, with a focus on local knowledge and experience. This has identified any necessary mitigation of the impact of the sites proposed in the DPD that will be required.
- 10.12 All sites have also been screened through the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment process. This follows existing sustainability procedures and applies Sustainability Appraisal objectives consistently. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is not to rule sites in or out, but to systematically apply a set of strategic objectives, the results of which then identify matters for mitigation if possible/necessary through planning policy. This is to ensure that the DPD delivers sustainable development insofar as is relevant to the nature of the DPD. The Sustainability Appraisal is set out at Appendix B.

### Requirement for traveller sites

- 10.13 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) by consultants ORS, published in October 2016, identified accommodation needs for 19 gypsies and travellers meeting the revised definition and 27 travelling showpeople up to 2036. This figure was adjusted to coincide with Winchester's Local Plan period of 2031 to equate to 15 and 24 respectively. The ORS fieldwork interviewed as many travellers as could be reached across the District to determine the current and future need for accommodation. The survey work also covered that part of the District in the South Downs National Park as it coincided with the Housing Authority area rather than the Local Planning Authority. However, as with other City Council planning policy, the Winchester Traveller DPD does not cover the part of the District within the National Park. The National Park has been forwarded the data that refers to their traveller requirements.
- 10.14 Of the existing travellers and travelling showpersons' sites across the District, the GTAA identifies on each site those households that comply with the revised definition as set out in the PPTS, those that are not travelling and those that fall within 'unknown' (being where households had refused to complete the interview or not present at the time of the fieldwork).
- 10.15 For those categorised as 'unknown', ORS advise making a 10% allowance and adding this number to the 'meet planning definition' category with the remainder (90%) being added to the 'not meeting planning definition' category. Those persons will be considered as part of the wider housing market assessments through the local plan review.
- 10.16 This DPD focuses on the accommodation needs of those that fall within the traveller definition set out in the PPTS (2015). It is acknowledged that on some sites there are non-travellers as part of the family unit and that these

may have typically stopped travelling due to health or old age or having caring responsibilities.

#### Proposed Draft Traveller DPD

- 10.17 Given the evidence base, there are limited options available to the Council to prepare a sound DPD which will meet the requirements of Policy DM4 and the Council's statutory obligations. Sites occupied by travellers are distributed across the District, of which some are well established, some have a temporary planning permission and others are unauthorised or more complex with various land owners/occupants. Only one new site has been submitted for consideration in parallel with a planning application for four pitches and associated day rooms.
- 10.18 Government guidance requires local authorities to have a five year supply of available traveller sites and to identify a supply of specific deliverable sites for years 6-10 - failure to do so weakens the Council's position when presented with speculative planning applications for consideration. Since publication of the needs assessment in late 2016 and Policy DM4, some sites have been allowed on appeal and the Council has granted planning permission for others. Along with the sites that are currently unauthorised or have temporary consent (which the draft DPD proposes to authorise/allocate), the current five year supply position will be as follows:-

Calculation	G&T pitches	TSP plots
a. 5-Year Requirement (ORS Assessment 2016 – 2021)	9	18
b. Supply (vacant sites, sites with planning permission since 1/9/16, DPD sites*)	19	6
c. Annual Requirement (5-year requirement divided by 5)	1.8	3.6
d. Years Supply (b divided by c)	10.6	1.7
e. + 5% or 20% Buffer	10.1/8.8	1.6/1.4

\*DPD sites - not all sites proposed through this DPD are included in this figure which represents the first five years of the plan period only.

#### Proposed Strategy for Traveller Accommodation

- 10.18 The results of the options consultation, together with data from other sources, leads to the conclusion that the supply of sites is likely to be confined to those that are in existence, with only one additional site being submitted through the

call for sites. Identification and allocation of new sites received less support through the options consultation.

- 10.19 The additional site submitted for consideration was land adjacent to Berkeley Farm, Durley Street. This site has been subject to a recent planning application for four pitches plus day rooms. During the process of preparing this DPD, it has been concluded that the Council can now demonstrate a five year supply of suitable and available sites and therefore there is not a need to release further land for development for gypsy and traveller use. Consequently, the planning application has subsequently been refused.
- 10.20 Consultation responses showed some support for a policy of retaining those sites that are permanent and have an authorised planning status. While LPP1 policy CP5 provides general protection for existing authorised sites, the Site Assessment Study (PBA) recommends specifically listing the sites to be safeguarded.
- 10.21 The consultation also supported the retention of vacant sites so that these are available in the future. Only one currently vacant site is known to the Council, namely Travellers Rest, Appledown Lane on the edge of Alresford/Bishops Sutton. A number of comments were received objecting to this site, raising matters such as highways, disturbance and impact on the proposed new development in the vicinity. This site was identified in the Site Assessment Study (PBA) for retention and indeed expansion to two pitches, with the eastern parcel of the site being kept open. Despite the sensitivities of the site, it is suitable for retention for traveller use as it has highway access and is well screened, but that it is not considered suitable for further intensification.
- 10.22 Other sites with temporary planning permission, granted due to the need for traveller sites pending the preparation of this DPD, have been assessed in terms of landscape and highway matters. Some lie within designated settlement gaps and in a recent appeal decision (Barn Farm, The Lakes, Swanmore) the inspector concluded that the site was situated in an area of mix of uses, rather than open countryside, so that whilst it was acknowledged there was a landscape impact this was considered minimal, given the proximity of other uses. The PBA Site Assessment Study recognised that some of the existing sites are more sensitive than others in terms of potential landscape / gap impact.
- 10.23 LPP1 Policy CP18 (settlement gaps) provides that '*only development that does not physically or visually diminish the gap will be allowed*'. Those sites with a temporary consent that lie within settlement gaps are typically situated adjacent to existing uses, rather than in more exposed locations, so whilst in principle these are contrary to Policy CP18, this needs to be considered in light of the lack of alternative provision. The supply of sites is typically restricted to those that are owned and currently occupied by traveller families and indeed those sites with a temporary permission are identified in the ORS study as being in accommodation need, given the uncertain planning status of the site. Therefore, additional alternative sites would need to be identified to replace any existing temporary sites, if these are not allocated or made

permanent, through the DPD. Given the requirements of the PPTS and Policy CP5, these sites have been found to satisfy a number of the considerations in terms of proximity to existing communities and accessibility to local services; being defined by physical features and having vehicular access.

- 10.22 Allocating these sites for permanent occupation by gypsies/travellers or travelling showpersons who are still travelling and satisfy the PPTS definition, would make a substantial contribution to meeting the requirements of Policy DM4. Therefore, Policy TR 2 of the draft DPD lists those sites where this will be applied, together with any site-specific requirements to mitigate matters raised through the various site assessments. On some of the sites, some occupants do not fall within the current definition of travellers, albeit they are part of the family unit. The policy does not propose to differentiate these as the intention is to ensure that the whole site is provided for traveller occupation long term. It will be necessary to condition any subsequent planning permissions to specific occupants if necessary. Furthermore, this approach supports the advice in the ORS report to make a 10% allowance for those categorised as 'unknown'.
- 10.24 Some of the households occupying permanent sites have an identified future need for more pitches/plots as set out in the ORS report, due to the changing nature of the household composition on the site. The draft DPD will therefore include a policy against which proposals in the future for additional pitches/plots within the existing boundary of sites can be considered.
- 10.25 Within the District, there are three existing sites where the planning status is complex. The first at Carousel Park is subject to an ongoing enforcement appeal. This site has consent for 9 travelling showpersons' plots, and accordingly this site is listed under the proposed safeguarding policy (Policy TR1) and has a specific policy to retain it in travelling showpersons' use (Policy TR3), as it makes an important contribution to the meeting the identified needs of travelling showpeople in Policy DM4.
- 10.26 Another travelling showpersons site is situated at The Nurseries, Shedfield. Some plots now have permanent consent, whereas others are unauthorised following the expiry of a temporary consent a few years ago. The Site Assessment Study (PBA) suggests these sites are suitable for permanent planning permission subject to ecology, archaeology and landscape mitigation. The draft Policy TR 4 therefore sets out the requirement for this site as a whole, to ensure that it is laid out in an effective manner and that any mitigation requirements are met. This approach will contribute 3 authorised travelling showpersons' plots to the total requirement of 24.
- 10.27 There is a group of sites to the south of the District at North Boarhunt, known as The Piggeries, the Old Piggery, and the Withy Bed. A number of comments were received in relation to this site in response to the options consultation, referring to size of site, condition of the site, etc. The existing planning situation is complex, with some components of the site benefitting from planning permission / temporary consent and others not. The Council has recently received a planning application for part of the site, which seeks the

regularisation of a large part of the site for 26 residential caravans for gypsies and travellers, 6 transit pitches and associated access, foul water disposal and landscaping. There is also a brick building on the site as the result of a barn conversion, which the application proposes is to be used for site manager's accommodation.

- 10.28 Part of this site was originally established for travelling showpersons (8 plots) and this is identified in the PBA Study to be safeguarded, although it is recognised that this particular part of the site is not capable of intensification or expansion. Other parts of the wider site are in use by gypsies and travellers and non-travellers. Taking the findings of both the PBA study and ORS report, there are 4 pitches on land referred to as The Piggeries and 3 pitches on land referred to as the Old Piggeries and 2 on land referred to as the Withy Bed, although only a small proportion fall within the revised definition of 'travellers'. There are, however, significantly more caravans on the site at present. The draft DPD therefore includes a proposed policy which sets out the numbers of pitches or plots to be retained or regularised, whilst requiring necessary landscaping, access improvements, play space provision and foul and surface water drainage etc. However, given the lack of travelling showpersons' plots in the District, the emphasis will be on the provision of this type of plot rather than gypsy pitches.
- 10.29 The proposed strategy expressed above and in the draft DPD will contribute to meeting the requirements of Policy DM4. The summary table below illustrates that the gypsy and traveller need of 15 pitches will be delivered through the DPD. However, there would still be a shortfall of 3 travelling showpersons' plots.

	G&T pitches	TSP plots
a. Requirement Policy DM4 (2016 – 2031)	15	24
b. Sites with planning permission (since 1/9/16)	6	3
c. Vacant sites to be retained	1	0
d. Temporary sites to be regularised	12	0
e. DPD site allocations	Approx 3	Approx 18
Total supply (b+c+d+e)	22	21
Surplus/shortfall	+7	-3

- 10.30 The table above suggests there is a small 'surplus' of gypsy and traveller pitches. Although there is no need to allocate new sites to meet the number of pitches needed, the assessment of temporary sites has not identified sufficient differences between them to justify authorising some but not others. In practice, this provides some flexibility to provide for those assessed as

falling in the 'unknown' or 'non-travelling' categories, should any be able to show they meet the definition of travellers in due course, and for the possible outcome of enforcement action.

- 10.31 However, it has not been possible to identify sufficient existing or potential sites for travelling showpersons to meet the identified need. No other sites have been promoted for travelling showperson use which could be allocated, although it may be that some could emerge during consultation on the draft DPD.
- 10.32 Therefore, the draft DPD includes 3 site specific allocations which are aimed at retaining and providing travelling showperson's plots: The Nurseries, Carousel Park, and North Boarhunt. Authorising the unauthorised sites at The Nurseries will provide 4 additional authorised plots. At Carousel Park there is a consent for 9 travelling showpersons plots but the Council believes several are not being used for this purpose, although the number of plots that may be gained is difficult to determine given the impending enforcement action (an estimated gain of 3 TSP plots is assumed). At North Boarhunt there are a mix of uses and a comprehensive policy is proposed to regularise the situation, allowing some gypsy and traveller plots but with the emphasis on increasing the supply of travelling showpersons accommodation. Again it is difficult to give a firm capacity estimate, but a gain of 12 showpersons' plots is estimated.
- 10.33 If all of the above provision for travelling showpersons accommodation can be achieved, at the capacities estimated, there would still be a shortfall remaining. Therefore, the draft DPD includes a policy considering additional plots on existing sites subject to the requirements of draft Policy TR6. The PPTS requirement to make adequate supply in the first 5 years, plus provision for years 6-11 and 'where possible' years 11-15. Given the lack of potential sites promoted, it is not considered that the draft DPD could do any more to provide sufficient showpersons accommodation at this stage.
- 10.34 The Council has also sought to resolve this matter through the 'duty to cooperate' with neighbouring local authorities. Winchester appears to be the first authority to plan for the requirement set out in the ORS needs assessment. Officers have held informal duty to cooperate meetings. However, no new opportunities to accommodate the unmet need in the Winchester District have been identified. It will therefore be necessary, through the consultation on the draft DPD, to formally request this of neighbouring authorities and to also request of all other public bodies if they have any land that could be considered for such purposes. Officers have specifically requested the City Council Estates team to consider if there is any Council-owned land or premises that may be available for such purposes and have been advised that this is not the case. Similarly, Hampshire County Council land was assessed through the PBA study and the County have subsequently advised that their land and premises are to be retained for policy or operational requirements.

### Next steps

- 10.35 It is the intention that the draft DPD is published for consultation on 10 July 2017 for 8 weeks to cover the summer holidays (2 weeks longer than the statutory requirement), closing on 4 September 2017. The draft DPD, together with the evidence studies, sustainability appraisal and consultation statement, will be available on the Council's website together with an on-line questionnaire. Social media will be extensively used to promote the draft DPD, given the success which such use achieved in the engagement with the travelling community through the options consultation,.
- 10.36 Following the close of the proposed consultation period, officers will assess the responses. A report will then be presented to the Committee summarising the representations and proposing amendments to the draft DPD in light of comments received and any additional evidence. A further period of consultation will then be arranged under Regulation 19. The approved Local Development Scheme indicates that this is scheduled for November 2017; there may be some potential slippage with this, but this will depend on the volume and nature of representations.

### 11 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 11.1 Publication of this draft DPD for consultation will put the Council in a stronger position to consider any current planning applications for traveller use, as it demonstrates a deliverable strategy and provides some certainty to both the traveller and settled communities. A delay in publication would generate greater uncertainty and possibly result in more planning appeals, where the decision is out of the Council's control.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

#### Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB2904(LP) Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople site Allocations Development Plan Document Update. 27 February 2017

CAB2837(LP) Gypsy and Traveller Needs/Site Allocations Development Plan Document. 5 October 2016

#### Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix A : Summary of Representations to Initial 'Options' Consultation.

Appendix B : Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (Paper copies available for Cabinet Committee Members only. Copies also available online via the following link: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/meetings/details/1752> )

Appendix C : Draft Traveller Development Plan Document for Consultation