Statement of Consultation

Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation DPD

June 2016
Expected Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Consultation via the Detailed Sites and Policies DPD</td>
<td>Jan/Feb 2015 and Oct/Nov 2015</td>
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<td>Cabinet approval to consult</td>
<td>Thursday March 17th 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Regulation 18’ Consultation (Issues &amp; Options)</td>
<td>Late April to Early June 2016</td>
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<td>(6 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Regulation 19’ Consultation (Proposed Submission)</td>
<td>July-Aug 2016</td>
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<td>(6 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Council approval to submit to The Planning Inspectorate</td>
<td>Early Autumn 2016</td>
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Feedback to-date

During recent consultation on our *Detailed Sites and Policies DPD*, representations were received in relation to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. Comments received from the London Gypsy & Traveller Unit (LGTU) and Tracie Giles (representing the residents of Parkway Crescent) can be found in full within DSPDPD submission documents at [www.newham.gov/dpd](http://www.newham.gov/dpd) - issues are summarised as:

- Gypsy-traveller needs are significant and require cross-boundary collaboration to be dealt with effectively, including through specific consideration in the Local Plan.
- Contact must be made with the local Gypsy & Traveller community in order to adequately (and objectively) assess need.
- The Local Plan must be based on up-to-date evidence and comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites.

Engagement via evidence-production

Production of the *Newham Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2016)* (conducted independently by Opinion Research Services on behalf of the Council) involved extensive liaison with the LGTU who were commissioned to engage with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.
The methodology of the research is set out at pages 14 to 16 of the document and summarised in the introduction at paragraph 1.2. Pertinent points include:

- A total of 15 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers living on Newham’s authorised public site.
- Following work with the LGTU it was possible to complete an interview with 1 Traveller household living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- A total of 13 telephone interviews were completed with Officers from the London Borough of Newham, Officers from neighbouring Boroughs, housing associations, and organisations representing members of the Travelling Community.
- Research was undertaken in October and November 2015.

**Regulation 18 (Issues and Options) Consultation**

A formal 6 week + 2 day (factoring in extra days in lieu of Bank Holidays falling in the period) consultation was undertaken between 21\textsuperscript{st} April and 6\textsuperscript{th} June 2016. All stakeholders on the database were notified, and a notice appeared in both the Newham Recorder and Newham Mag drawing the wider public’s attention to it. Four representations providing comment were received; from Thames Water, Historic England, a resident of the Council’s Parkway Crescent site, and the LGTU.

Historic England’s comments were primarily in regard to the IIA (dealt with in that document separately) though one comment about the importance of considering heritage assets in site allocations was made. As no sites are allocated by this DPD, the advice does not give rise to any changes. Moreover, heritage assets would be considered through the policy criteria as scoped and other Local Plan policy.

Thames Water’s representations related to the need to consider water and wastewater infrastructure in all development. These concerns are considered to be addressed by other policies within the Local Plan, together with the criterion relating to infrastructure; as such no amendments are required.
The submissions by the LGTU and Parkway Crescent resident raised a number of points concerning challenges to the nomadic lifestyle, ‘cultural’ need and need derived from existing site residents coming of age, and the requirement for an associated site allocation. Suggestions were also made in relation to the capacity of the present site to accommodate further pitches, including comments about the current configuration of the site.

Having reviewed its evidence base and legal obligations carefully however, including further discussions with neighbouring authorities and site managers, the Council is confident that the direction of travel set out in the Issues and Options document and reflected in the Proposed Submission Plan is the most reasonable alternative, when read in conjunction with the existing Local Plan policies. The document (and IIA) has been written in such a way as to clarify the Council’s obligations and position in relation to ‘non-planning’ Gypsy- Traveller need, (i.e. from Gypsy- Travellers who do not meet the definition set out in National Policy) sub-regional needs, evidence base requirements and review commitments. The relevance of other policies in the Local Plan is also highlighted, providing appropriate sign-posting to other detailed considerations and other housing policies under which specialist accommodation could be considered.

**Duty to Co-Operate Consultation**

Neighbouring authorities were engaged with through the evidence base process, through the formal notification of consultation procedure, and in subsequent discussions and correspondence. All of these routes have confirmed that neighbouring authorities either:

- do not currently have an identified need under the PPTS 2015 definition or need under this definition is minimal and likely to be met within their boundaries; or
- have not assessed need under this definition but previous assessments of need are likely to be significantly revised downwards and anyway provision is being made.

As such, none require Duty to Co-operate procedures to be invoked to meet unmet need. However, the policy clearly allows for evidence on this to be reviewed and for such need, were it to be evident following up
to date needs assessments, to be a material consideration in consideration of any planning application.

**Consultation Procedures**

For each six week public consultation, documents - along with advice on how to comment - will be available online at:

[www.newham.gov.uk/planningconsultations](http://www.newham.gov.uk/planningconsultations)

The consultation will be publicised via email to all contacts on our Stakeholder Database (note that interested parties can be added to the database at any time by emailing localplan@newham.gov.uk) as per the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Consultations will also be advertised in appropriate media outlets.

In accordance with regulation 35 of *The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012*, consultation documents will be made available to view on request at East Ham Customer Service Centre and at Newham Dockside during normal office hours (10am till 4pm, Monday to Friday) - those wishing to view copies at Dockside should contact 020 337 32439 in advance.