



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Local Development Framework
Sustainability Appraisal

Further Addendum to Scoping Report

June 2009

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Local Development Framework **Sustainability Appraisal**

Further Addendum to Scoping Report

June 2009

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A. Introduction

1. *Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD)*

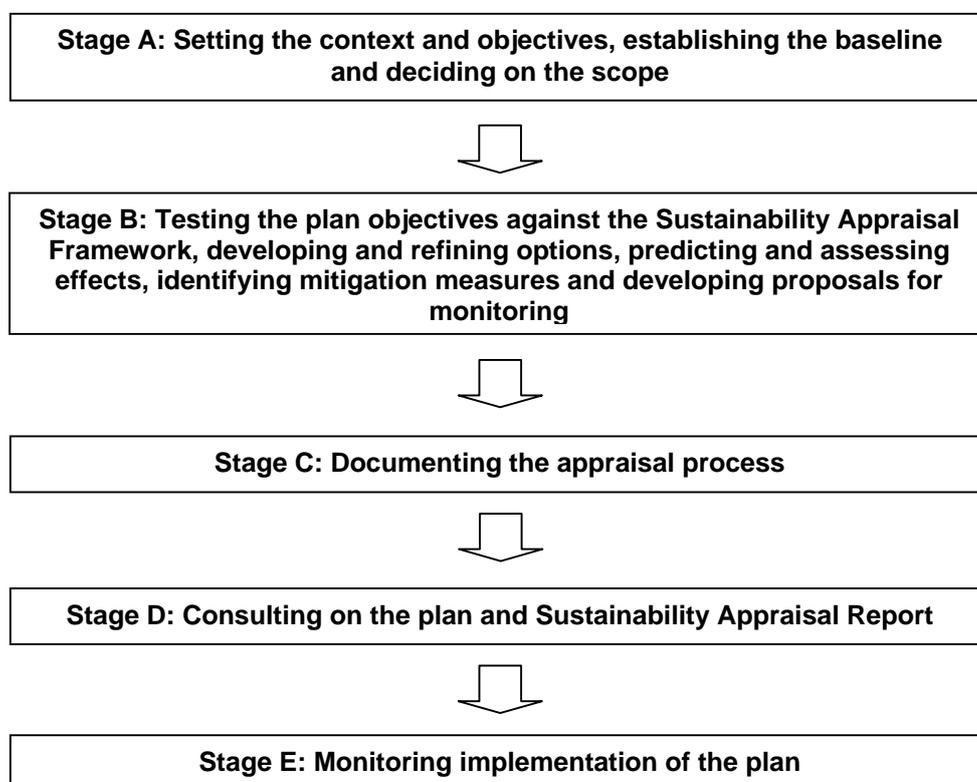
1.1. The Council is in the process of preparing a Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD). Public consultation was carried out in October - November 2006 on the ***Gypsy & Traveller DPD Issues and Options 1: General Approach***, which set out options to allow the development of a framework for the way that the Council will consider Gypsy and Traveller related planning issues. The next stage in the production of the DPD will be a further round of public consultation on potential site allocations, in the form of ***Gypsy & Traveller DPD Issues and Options 2: Site Options & Policies***.

2. *Sustainability Appraisal*

2.1. The Council's initial Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was published in January 2006, and included scoping information for the six DPDs submitted to the Secretary of State at that time. An Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was published in September 2006, to include additional scoping information relevant to the Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD).

2.2. Government guidance on undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal for Local Development Documents (LDDs) advocates a five-stage process, as set out in figure 1.

Figure 1: Five-stage approach to Sustainability Appraisal



Source: ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities [<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/142520.pdf>]

3. *This Report*

- 3.1. Since the publication of the Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006), additional national, regional and local plans, policies and guidance relevant to the provision of Gypsy & Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots has been published, approved or adopted. It is therefore necessary to produce a further addendum to the Scoping Report to review these documents and identify any possible implications for the preparation of the Gypsy & Traveller DPD and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. This report documents the findings of stage A of the sustainability appraisal process, set out in figure 1.

B. *Updating Stage A*

4. *Task A1: Identifying other relevant plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives*

- 4.1. The requirement to undertake a context review is set out in annex 1 of the SEA Directive which requires that the 'Environmental Report' should include: an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme; information on the relationship with other plans and programmes; and relevant environmental protection objectives.
- 4.2. An initial review of plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives was carried out as part of the Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (January 2006). A further review was carried out as part of the Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006).
- 4.3. Figure 2 lists the relevant plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives reviewed in this Addendum. For a full list of documents reviewed, you will need to refer also to those included in the Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006) plus those included in the Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (January 2006). The Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006) includes the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004 as a relevant document, and in particular refers to Policy HG23 (Gypsies & Travelling Showpeople). This policy was not 'saved' in September 2007, and therefore is no longer part of the development plan. The other 'saved' Local Plan 2004 policies are site-specific and will be superseded by the Site Specific Policies DPD (currently being examined by independent planning inspectors).
- 4.4. No additional sustainability issues have been identified by this review of additional plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives, and therefore it is not necessary to amend or add to the sustainability objectives already agreed.

Figure 2: List of relevant plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives reviewed and implications for the DPD and Sustainability Appraisal

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
National				
<p>CLG Circular 04/2007 Planning for Travelling Showpeople</p>	<p>In summary:</p> <p>(a) To increase the number of Travelling Showpeople’s sites in suitable locations with planning permission, both addressing current under provision and to maintain an appropriate level in future as set out in Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.</p> <p>(b) To recognise, protect and facilitate the traditional way of life while creating sustainable, respectful and inclusive communities.</p> <p>(c) To underline the importance of addressing needs at a regional and sub-regional level, and for authorities to develop</p>	<p>The circular provides detail on what development plans should contain. The following issues are of particular importance to the Gypsy & Traveller DPD (paragraph numbers in brackets):</p> <p>(24) The number of plots set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy must be translated into site-specific allocations in a DPD.</p> <p>(25 & 26) The Core Strategy should set out criteria for the location of sites which will be used to guide allocations in the relevant DPD. The criteria must be fair, reasonable, achievable and effective in delivering sites and should not place undue constraints on the development of sites for Travelling Showpeople.</p> <p>(28) The DPD needs to explain how the land required will be made available and the timescales for provision.</p> <p>(34) Planning authorities should discuss</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal must consider whether the need (i.e. number of plots) identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy can be adequately met through the policies and site allocations included in the DPD, and how these fit with the sustainability objectives.</p> <p>The avoidance of designated sites will be highlighted as a requirement, but the use of brownfield or derelict sites will be encouraged as this may help to enhance the sustainability of the site through environmental improvements and by increasing openness.</p> <p>Key issues when assessing the sustainability of the identified sites will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the proposed site(s) on existing 	<p>Land and Water Resources; Biodiversity; Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology; Healthy Communities; Inclusive Communities; Economic Activity</p>

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>strategies to ensure that needs are dealt with fairly and effectively.</p> <p>(d) To ensure DPDs include fair and achievable policies and to ensure that identified need is dealt with fairly and effectively.</p> <p>(e) To identify and make provision for resultant land and accommodation requirements.</p> <p>(f) To help avoid Travelling Showpeople becoming homeless through eviction from unauthorised sites (without alternatives to move to).</p>	<p>needs with Travelling Showpeople, representative bodies and local support groups early in the preparation of the DPD.</p> <p>(43, 44 & 54) Current restrictions on the development in specially protect areas such as Green Belts and nationally recognised designations (as set out in other circulars, PPGs and PPSs) are not contradicted or amended by this circular. Sites should not be located in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains.</p> <p>(29) There are a number of ways that planning authorities can identify sites and make land available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities have discretion to dispose of land for less than best consideration where it will help secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area (see ODPM Circular 06/2003). • Authorities should make full use of registers of unused and under-used land owned by public bodies as an aid to identifying suitable locations. • Authorities should also consider 	<p>communities, both in terms of scale and pressure on existing local infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to existing local facilities such as health services, schools and shops. • The ability of the site(s) to protect and facilitate a respectful, inclusive and integrated co-existence between the residents of the site and the local community. • Regard for highways considerations, including access to / from the site as well as the provision of parking, turning and servicing on the site. • The potential for noise and other disturbance to the residents of the site, including from the movement of vehicles. <p>The issues raised are already addressed by the existing sustainability objectives.</p>	

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
		<p>whether it would be appropriate to exercise their compulsory purchase powers to acquire an appropriate site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation between neighbouring authorities can provide more flexibility in identifying sites. <p>(45) Sites should respect the scale of and not dominate the nearest settled community, and should avoid placing undue pressure on local infrastructure.</p> <p>(45) Sites on the outskirts of built up areas may be appropriate. Sites in rural or semi rural areas may be acceptable for some forms of Travelling Showpeople sites. Sites away from existing settlements or outside areas allocated in DPDs should be strictly controlled.</p> <p>(45 & 55) When locating sites, planning authorities should have regard to the same broad principles as for housing developments (set out in PPS3), including accessibility to existing local community facilities, infrastructure and services. Planning authorities should be realistic about the availability / likely availability of using alternatives to the car for accessing local services.</p>		

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
		<p>(55) All sites considered should be subject to Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>(46 & Annex C) Sites should not be located on significantly contaminated land, however the reuse of previously developed land or derelict land can have positive impacts on the environment and openness.</p> <p>(56 & Annex C) In considering sites, planning authorities should have regard to highways considerations, including access to / from the site as well as the provision of parking, turning and servicing on the site. The potential for noise and other disturbance (including from the movement of vehicles) should be considered.</p>		
<p>CLG Designing Gypsy & Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide (May 2008)</p>	<p>In summary:</p> <p>To provide guidance on the key elements necessary to design a successful Gypsy & Traveller site. The guidance defines the key elements to be considered for each of the following types of site: permanent sites, transit sites, and emergency stopping places.</p>	<p>When considering permanent Gypsy & Traveller sites, the following issues should be considered:</p> <p>The location of Gypsy & Traveller sites is a key element in maximising their success, therefore sites should be located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With easy access to local services; • In a safe location, away from refuse site, industrial sites and other 	<p>Key issues when assessing the sustainability of the identified sites will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to existing local facilities such as health services, schools, shops and recreation areas for children. • The location of the site(s) in relation to the settled community and the possible development of community 	<p>Land and Water Resources; Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology; Healthy Communities; Inclusive Communities; Economic Activity</p>

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
		<p>hazardous places that could have a detrimental effect on the health, well-being and safety of residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is visual and acoustic privacy, and the site is sympathetic to the environment; • Near to housing for the settled community; and • Where there is access to mains water, electricity supply, drainage and sanitation. <p>Sites must not be located on contaminated land, unless the land has been properly decontaminated.</p> <p>Sites should be relatively flat, and should not be located on exposed sloping sites or on land where there is a high flood risk.</p> <p>Sites should be of various sizes, layouts and pitch numbers that take account of the physical characteristics of the site and the needs of the residents living on them. The design of sites should also take account of the need to manoeuvre caravans on, off and around the site. Early and regular consultation with prospective residents is crucial in achieving the right design.</p>	<p>cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regard for highways considerations, including access to / from the site for residents, emergency services and waste disposal vehicles, as well as the provision of parking, turning and servicing on the site. • The location of the site(s) in relation to industrial sites and other hazardous places that could have a detrimental effect on the health, well-being and safety of residents. • The relationship of the site(s) with the surrounding environment. • Accessibility to services such as mains water, electricity, drainage and sanitation. <p>The issues raised are already addressed by the existing sustainability objectives.</p>	

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
		<p>Sites should have appropriate access for emergency vehicles and waste disposal vehicles, and should include sufficient car parking.</p> <p>Sites should include a recreation area for all children if there is not suitable provision within walking distance on a safe route or using easily accessible public transport. It is recommended that sites should also include a communal building if the site is isolated from existing local facilities by distance or lack of public transport, or if the site is large enough to contain a diverse range of residents rather than one extended family.</p> <p>Where it is necessary for commercial activity to take place on site or for animals to be located on site, it is important that there is sufficient space within the site to allow the residential and non-residential areas to be clearly separated.</p> <p>When considering temporary stopping places for Gypsies & Travellers, the following issues should be considered:</p> <p>Temporary stopping places should be</p>		

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
		located with safe and convenient access to road networks and so as to cause minimum disruption to the surrounding communities.		
Regional				
<p>Proposed Changes to the draft Policy on Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation in the East of England (March 2009)</p>	<p>In summary:</p> <p>To address the urgent shortage of permanent and transit accommodation for Gypsies & Travellers, which has an impact on their health, education, employment and other opportunities.</p> <p>To set out in draft policy H3 the level of provision of Gypsy & Traveller pitches required in the region to meet the needs of those currently resident on pitches without planning permission, natural growth, and movement between pitches and other forms of accommodation.</p> <p>To balance the provision of Gypsy & Traveller pitches between locations where most Gypsy & Travellers currently</p>	<p>Draft policies provide detail on what information development plans should contain with regard to the provision of Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites:</p> <p>Local authorities should make provision through DPDs for the number of net additional residential pitches for Gypsies & Travellers as set out in draft policy H3.</p> <p>Local authorities should work together to establish a network of transit pitches, distributed as set out in draft policy H3.</p> <p>Policies should recognise the diversity of the Gypsy & Traveller communities, for instance new Gypsy & Travellers may require a different form of site development.</p> <p>Local authorities should make provision through DPDs for the number of net additional plots for Travelling Showpeople</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal must consider whether the need (i.e. number of plots/pitches) identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy can be adequately met through the policies and site allocations included in the DPD, and how these fit with the sustainability objectives.</p> <p>The issues raised are already addressed by the existing sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>Land and Water Resources; Biodiversity; Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology; Healthy Communities; Inclusive Communities; Economic Activity</p>

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>live and new locations, therefore broadening the choice available as well as ensuring all areas contribute towards the required provision.</p> <p>To set out in draft policy H4 the level of provision of Travelling Showpeople required in the region to meet their accommodation needs.</p>	<p>as set out in draft policy H4.</p> <p>Local authorities should work in county groupings with local Travelling Showpeople and the Showmen’s Guild of Great Britain to identify sites.</p> <p>Local authorities should consider the need for rural exception sites and alterations to the Green Belt boundary, where necessary, to meet the required provision.</p> <p>Identified sites should be in locations attractive to Gypsy & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople as well as avoiding areas at risk of flooding, and where there would be adverse effects on areas of wildlife and landscape importance.</p>		
Sub-Regional				
Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Market Assessment (May 2008)	<p>In summary:</p> <p>To develop a long term view of housing need and demand to inform planning policies.</p> <p>To develop a sound approach to planning for the mix of sizes and types of households in the market area.</p>	<p>The DPD must respond to and consider the following issues:</p> <p>The pressing need for more Gypsy & Traveller sites of all kinds – public, private, transit and long-stay.</p> <p>The wishes of Gypsy & Travellers: they would prefer small, self-owned, long stay sites for family groups, preferably on the</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal must consider whether the issues identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment have been addressed through the policies and site allocations included in the DPD, and how these fit with the sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>Healthy Communities; Inclusive Communities; Economic Activity</p>

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>To identify a required level of affordable housing, and based on housing need, to identify the sizes and types of affordable housing required.</p> <p>To make decisions on issues such as social housing allocation priorities and private sector renewal options.</p> <p>To build an area of understanding of the different housing markets in a geographic area.</p> <p>To strengthen the links between housing demand and land availability.</p>	<p>edge of villages and near established Gypsy & Traveller communities.</p> <p>The need for 110-130 additional pitches in South Cambridgeshire between 2005 and 2010, concentrated on permanent sites.</p> <p>The investigation of suitable land in Council ownership for use as either transit sites or permanent sites, and the encouragement of suitable sites provided by social housing providers.</p> <p>Family networks and informal reciprocal arrangements are influential in accommodation arrangements and preferences, as well as being important for encouraging and sustaining economic activity.</p> <p>The high level of serious health problems, educational disadvantage, racism, feelings of isolation, drug abuse and loss of identity of the Gypsy & Traveller population.</p>	<p>The issues raised are already addressed by the existing sustainability objectives.</p>	
District				
South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	The Core Strategy forms part of the development plan for South Cambridgeshire, and has	The policies and site allocations included in the DPD should be in conformity with the strategic vision, objectives and	The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the policies and site allocations included in the DPD,	Land and Water Resources; Biodiversity;

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
(January 2007)	<p>superseded elements of the Local Plan 2004.</p> <p>The following are a summary of the relevant plan objectives:</p> <p>(Strategic Vision) The LDF will have an emphasis on providing quality homes for all, including affordable housing, to meet local needs and to ensure the creation of sustainable and balanced communities.</p> <p>(Objective ST/b) To locate development where access to employment, shopping, education, recreation and other services is available by public transport, walking and cycling, and therefore reduces the need to travel by car.</p> <p>(Objective ST/e) To ensure that the scale and location of development in each village is in keeping with its size, character and function.</p> <p>(Objective ST/i) To ensure that</p>	<p>policies set out in the Core Strategy, unless there is reasoned justification for exceptions.</p>	<p>and how these fit with the sustainability objectives.</p> <p>The issues raised are already addressed by the existing sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology; Healthy Communities; Inclusive Communities; Economic Activity</p>

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>any new development provides appropriate provision for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>(Objective ST/j) To ensure that the district's built and natural heritage is protected and that new development protects and enhances assets of local urban design, cultural and conservation importance, and landscape character.</p> <p>(Objective ST/k) To locate development where it will ensure the maximum use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of countryside and agricultural land.</p>			
<p>South Cambridgeshire Development Control Policies DPD (July 2007)</p>	<p>The Development Control Policies DPD forms part of the development plan for South Cambridgeshire, and has superseded elements of the Local Plan 2004.</p> <p>The following are a summary of the relevant plan objectives:</p>	<p>The policies and site allocations included in the DPD should be in conformity with the objectives and policies set out in the Development Control Policies DPD, unless there is reasoned justification for exceptions.</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the policies and site allocations included in the DPD, and how these fit with the sustainability objectives.</p> <p>The issues raised are already addressed by the existing sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>Land and Water Resources; Biodiversity; Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology; Healthy Communities; Inclusive Communities;</p>

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>(Objective DP/c) To ensure that new development, activities and uses of land uphold and promote the principles of sustainable development.</p> <p>(Objective DP/d) To ensure that new development protects and enhances the character of the district through careful integration with the existing built form.</p> <p>(Objective DP/f) To ensure that all new development makes appropriate provision of services and infrastructure to meet its needs.</p> <p>(Objective HG/a) To ensure the provision of a range of housing types and sizes to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community.</p> <p>(Objectives NE/b & NE/c) To protect and enhance / improve the character and appearance of landscapes natural heritage and biodiversity.</p>			Economic Activity

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the Development Plan Document (DPD)	Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal	Links to the SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>(Objective NE/j) To protect high quality agricultural land.</p> <p>(Objective TR/b & TR/d) To reduce the need to travel and to increase the use of sustainable modes of travel by ensuring new development takes place in locations with good accessibility to facilities and services.</p>			

5. Task A2: Collecting Baseline Data

- 5.1. The requirement to provide baseline context data is set out in annex 1 of the SEA Directive and in the ODPM guidance on Sustainability Appraisals (November 2005). The Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (January 2006) sets out baseline data for a series of key indicators covering a broad range of topics, which was sufficient for DPDs with a wide scope. The Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006) sets of specific baseline data related to Gypsy & Travellers, generally taken from the Cambridge Sub Region Traveller Needs Assessment (May 2006).
- 5.2. Specific information on the Gypsy & Traveller community, such as their population and data on their health and education, is difficult to obtain and is therefore difficult to update. Some additional baseline information is available, such as information collected in the six-monthly caravan counts and from planning permissions. This information is also included and updated in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.
- 5.3. Figures 3 and 4 show the number of authorised and unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller caravans and plots and the number of authorised Travelling Showpeople plots within the district. Figure 5 shows the number of pitches and plots given permission since January 2006. The updated data still shows that South Cambridgeshire has a high ratio of private authorised Gypsy & Traveller pitches to Council owned Gypsy & Traveller pitches. A number of pitches have now received temporary planning permission, reducing the number of caravans recorded on unauthorised sites with no planning permission.

Figure 3: Unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller Caravans in South Cambridgeshire

	Number of Caravans			
	July 2007	January 2008	July 2008	January 2009
Unauthorised private sites with no planning permission	79	75	34	29
Sites with temporary planning permission	72	83	139	122
Unauthorised tolerated sites	2	8	3	1
Illegal encampments	2	2	3	0

Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council Caravan Counts

Figure 4: Pitch and Plot Provision in South Cambridgeshire at 31 March 2009

	Pitches / Plots	
	Private	Local Authority / Housing Association
Gypsy & Traveller Pitches - permanent	188	29
Gypsy & Traveller Pitches - transit	0	1
Travelling Showpeople Plots - permanent	21	0
<i>Gypsy & Traveller Pitches - permanent, unimplemented</i>	26	0
<i>Gypsy & Traveller Pitches - permanent, temporary planning permission</i>	72	0

Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council – Planning and New Communities

Figure 5: Gypsy & Traveller Pitches and Travelling Showpeople Plots Granted Planning Permission or Allowed on Appeal between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2009

	1 Jan 2006 – 31 March 2009
Gypsy & Traveller Pitches - permanent	39 *
Gypsy & Traveller Pitches - transit	0
Travelling Showpeople Plots - permanent	0

* Planning permission for 26 pitches on Chesterton Fen Road, Milton has not yet been implemented.

Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council – Planning and New Communities

C. Conclusion

6. The Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

- 6.1. It is considered that the sustainability objectives previously agreed and set out in the Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (January 2006) and the Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006) will adequately cover the scope of the Gypsy & Traveller DPD.



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