

<b>COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Consultation on the Gypsy & Traveller Site(s) Local Plan	
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director of Resources and Regeneration	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date:24 February 2016

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report seeks the Council's formal resolution to agree public consultation on the Gypsy & Traveller Site(s) Local Plan (GTLP).

### **2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Planning Service is undertaking a first round of public consultation on the production of a new Gypsy and Traveller Site(s) Local Plan (GTLP).
- 2.2 There are statutory requirements which specify the process for adopting a Local Plan. These involve an initial round of consultation to notify the public and specified bodies about the Council's intention to prepare a plan, identify the main issues to be addressed in the plan and invite representations on these issues.
- 2.3 This round of consultation seeks to meet the requirements for initial consultation by consulting relevant parties about the methodology the council will apply to find a site or sites for travellers. As part of the development plan process the Council's Constitution requires the consultation document be approved by Full Council.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Council is recommended to:
- 3.2 Approve the consultation on the preparation of Gypsy & Traveller Site(s) Local Plan (including the scoping and search parameters, site selection criteria and timetable for identifying a site (or sites) as set out in the Regulation 18 Consultation Report (Appendix 1) together with the consultation on the associated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Appendix 2) and
- 3.3 Delegate all necessary authority to the Executive Director of Resources and Regeneration to make any minor alterations to the consultation document prior to the start of the formal consultation.

#### **4. Policy context**

- 4.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework. When adopted the GTLP will become part of the Council's policy framework and will contribute to the implementation of each of the Council's ten priorities.
- 4.2 The GTLP will help give a spatial expression to the Sustainable Community Strategy (Shaping Our Future) (SCS), which was prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership and adopted by the Council in May 2008. The Plan will also play a role in the implementation of the SCS vision '*Together we will make Lewisham the best place to live, work and learn*' and all of the six strategic priorities.

#### **5. Background & Purpose**

- 5.1 The full background, policy context and details of the GTLP Regulation 18 consultation is set out in the report to Mayor and Cabinet dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 which is included as Appendix 3 to this report.
- 5.2 The Housing Act 2004 requires authorities to assess the need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in their areas when they assess their overall housing requirements. In accordance with the Housing Act authorities must develop a strategy which addresses the need arising from the accommodation assessment, through public or private provision.
- 5.3 London Plan Policy 3.8 (Housing choice) calls on boroughs to work with the Mayor of London and local communities to identify the range of needs likely to arise within their areas and to ensure (amongst other things) that the accommodation requirements of gypsies and travellers (including travelling show people) are identified in line with national policy, in coordination with neighbouring boroughs and districts as appropriate.
- 5.4 Lewisham Council Core Strategy Policy 2 envisages that an additional gypsy and traveller site would be identified through the Sites Allocation Local Plan (SALP), which was adopted in June 2013. However, in the event it was not possible to include a site or sites in the SALP and accordingly the Council decided that a site or sites would be identified in a separate Local Plan.
- 5.5 The Council consulted on a previous Regulation 18 consultation document for a GTLP in March 2013, with the intention of preparing a plan by January 2015. However, other pressing priorities meant that things did not progress in accordance with the timescale as originally planned and preparation on a plan was subsequently halted.
- 5.6 The Lewisham Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) (June 2015) found that the provision needed to 2030 in Lewisham is for six additional pitches.
- 5.7 Since the publication of the GTANA, the Government published its revised policy on planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites (August 2015). This includes a

new definition of 'gypsy and travellers' for planning policy purposes which excludes those who have permanently ceased from travelling. To ensure a robust assessment of need, the GTANA is being checked to see if it needs to be revised to take account of the current definition. This review is not likely to be complete until Spring 2016.

- 5.8 The purpose of the GTLP is to allocate a site or sites to meet the identified local accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in the borough.

## **6. Lewisham Council Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan – First Stage Public Consultation**

- 6.1 As indicated above, the Regulations require an early round of consultation with the public and other stakeholders, This initial round of consultation must notify interested people about the intention to produce a GTLP and identify the main issues. Officers propose to meet this statutory requirement by consulting on the proposed scope of the Plan and search parameters and site selection criteria to be used to identify a site or sites to meet the identified need.

## **7. Sustainability Appraisal**

- 7.1 Local plans must by law be informed and supported by an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals. Sustainability Appraisal is an integral part of the plan preparation process and helps the Council assess how the plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 7.2 It is proposed to consult on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Appendix 2) at the same time as consulting on the Regulation 18 Consultation Report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The consultation will be delivered within the agreed Planning Service budget.

## **9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1 The procedures which the Council is required to follow when producing a new local plan derive from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 9.2 This report seeks authority to consult on the Council's proposed intention to create a new Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan,.

## **10. Equalities Implications**

- 10.1 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme for 2012-16 provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and helps ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010. The proposals set out in this report accord with the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme; particularly as they relate to: 'increasing participation and engagement'.

10.2 The process of producing the new GTLP will include an equalities appraisal to identify equalities impacts and implications of emerging policy options.

## 11. Environmental Implications

11.1 There are no direct environmental impacts arising from this report.

## 12. Conclusion

12.1 The Planning Service will be consulting on the first stage of preparing a new GTLP. This early round of consultation is intended to notify the public and other specified bodies about the Council's intention to produce a Plan, identify the scope of the proposed Plan and set out the proposed search parameters and site selection criteria. There are formal regulations that specify what consultation must take place and as a minimum these will be met.

### Background documents

Short Title Document	Date	File Location	File Reference	Contact Officer	Exempt
<a href="#">Planning &amp; Compulsory Purchases Act 2004 (as amended)</a>	2004	Laurence House	Planning Policy	Brian Regan	No
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework</a>	2012	Laurence House	Planning Policy	Brian Regan	No
<a href="#">Planning Policy for Traveller Sites</a>	2015	Laurence House	Planning Policy	Brian Regan	No

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Brian Regan, Planning Policy, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, Catford SE6 4RU – telephone 020 8314 8774.

**Appendix 1: Gypsy and Traveller Site(s) Local Plan: Regulation 18 Consultation Report.**

**Appendix 2: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

**Appendix 3: Report to Mayor and Cabinet 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 on Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan**

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=3864>