

(b)(i) Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Provision

“(1) That this Council expresses its outrage at the effect of the Government’s decision to direct the Authority, against its wishes, to prepare a Gypsy & Traveller DPD at this time because as a result:

(a) the Council has been unable to assess all local housing needs (including those of the Gypsy & Traveller community) as a single exercise resulting in the provision of accommodation for that community being highlighted prematurely and proving to be unnecessarily divisive;

(b) the consultation process has led to strong concerns being expressed to the Council by local residents and landowners about property blight, fear of crime, loss of amenity, reduction in land values and compulsory purchase of sites as a result of the Direction and by the Gypsy & Traveller community about social cohesion;

(2) That the Council records that, over the lifetime of this Council, there have been few occasions when the Authority has voluntarily exercised compulsory powers of acquisition to achieve its objectives and confirms that the Council remains extremely reluctant to exercise compulsory purchase powers in the future for the purpose of implementing the proposed DPD or for any other purpose;

(3) That the Government make a clear statement as to how it views the exercise of compulsory purchase powers in the current circumstances, bearing in mind:

- that all but two of the sites identified in the consultation document are in private ownership; and
- the need for the Council to comply with its duty under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to promote good relations and equality of opportunity between persons of different racial groups when performing its functions; and

(4) That the Government commission urgently definitive research on the concerns of residents as expressed in the current consultation process so that the Council can engage effectively with the community in the future.”

Mover: Councillor Mrs D. Collins

Seconder: Councillor C. Whitbread