

Report to Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 12 March 2009

Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Update



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Committee Secretary: M Jenkins (Democratic Services Assistant – 01992 56 4607)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That, the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Update, be noted.

Report:

Following extension of its deadline, the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation closed on 20 February 2009.

The consultation had generated the following broad area of response:

- In total, there were 9,700 responses to the consultation made;
- 8,100 group responses;
- 900 individual responses; and
- 700 responses were made online

Some of these responses are still being checked for duplication. The responses are being put through various processes for analysis. This will generate a report for the Council about the number of responses, and a second report reflecting on where the analysis suggests the Council can go in terms of a strategy, specific extra provision of sites, within the timescale of the Government 's Direction.

Some general themes are clear from the considerable response received. There appear to be few responses that needed returning so acceptable language can be used. Appendix 2 of the document appears to have aided this position.

Some technical responses are still awaited, in particular that from the Environment Agency. However, the work is far from over, and it has been very significant for Officers and Members already, not least because of the experience of processes being new, and because the timescale has brought its own pressures.

The Panel will need to consider a fuller report in due course.