

Bristol Development Framework

Core Strategy



Adopted June 2011



Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.19.1 The aim of this policy is to set out the council's approach to meeting the established unmet need for accommodation for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Bristol for the period up to 2011. The policy also provides guidance on the location of sites.
- 4.19.2 The provision of adequate site provision resulting from this approach will address objectives 1, 2 and 4 of the Core Strategy and respond to issue 1.

Context

- 4.19.3 Legislation requires local authorities to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers, including Travelling Showpeople. Bristol City Council in conjunction with Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils, commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for the West of England sub-region. The purpose of the assessment was to calculate in detail additional pitch requirements for the period 2006-2011 and provide indicative figures for the following five years.
- 4.19.4 For the period to 2011, the assessment identified a requirement for Bristol of 24 residential pitches for Gypsies & Travellers and 8 plots for Travelling Showpeople. It also identified the need for 20 transit pitches for Bristol but concluded that owing to the existing provision on the transit site at Kings Weston Lane that there was no additional requirement. However, facilities on site require refurbishment or replacement. Conditions there can be unpleasant owing to the existing sewage treatment works and proximity to the motorway. The site is also located within a high-risk flood zone. Therefore, the council will identify appropriate replacement transit site provision in addition to the recommended provision for the period to 2011 in the assessment.

Policy BCS19

The following considerations will be taken into account in the determination of locations for Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites:

- Proximity of the site to local services and facilities;
- Access to the primary route network and to public transport;
- Safe pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access onto the site;
- Adequate provision for parking, turning and servicing;
- Adequate provision for storage and maintenance where needed for Travelling Showpeople;
- Inclusion of suitable landscaping treatment;
- Impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding area;
- The acceptability of living conditions for future occupiers of the site.

Sites should not be located within the Green Belt and should not be located within Flood Zone 2 (unless the Exception Test in PPS25 is passed) or Flood Zones 3a or 3b.

Suitable sites will be identified to meet the established need for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for the period to 2011. Needs beyond 2011 have not been assessed but the considerations set out in this policy will also apply to any sites proposed to meet assessed needs arising after 2011.

Explanation

- 4.19.5 Although Travelling Showpeople are excluded from the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers, they are included within the definition of Gypsies and Travellers (for the purposes of undertaking GTAA's) as defined under Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004. Owing to the similarity in locational requirements the same policy approach can be adopted in the Core Strategy. The criteria set out in this policy will be used to guide the identification of suitable sites for inclusion within the Site Allocations & Development Management DPD. It will also be used to assess any applications submitted.
- 4.19.6 In the event of planning permission being granted for non-allocated sites, the council will take this into account in the allocation of new sites. Where permission is granted for a Gypsy & Traveller or Travelling Showpeople site, occupation of the site will be restricted to those persons genuinely falling within the appropriate definitions set out in government circulars 01/2006 and 04/2007.

Policy Delivery

The policy will be delivered through the development management process in accordance with the Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Development Management DPD.

The Site Allocations & Development Management DPD will identify sites to meet the identified need for pitches for the period up to 2011.

A bid was submitted to the Homes & Communities Agency for the 2009/10 Gypsy Traveller Site Grant to fund a range of innovative proposals to meet the need for an additional 24 residential Gypsy & Traveller pitches and 8 Showpeople's pitches by 2011, however it was unsuccessful. A new bid was submitted in April 2010 for funding to develop 16 pitches, however, funding for Gypsy & Traveller sites has been withdrawn. The City Council is exploring the possibility of the delivery of sites (to meet identified need for the period to 2011) on council owned land.

The assessment also provided indicative figures of 6 residential pitches for Gypsies & Travellers and 3 plots for Travelling Showpeople for Bristol for the period 2011-2016.