

*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

**Consultation by Three Rivers District Council on their Draft Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Development Document (preferred options) (January 2014)**

*Contact Officer: Graham Winwright (01494 732269)*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. That the Cabinet delegate authority to the Head of Sustainable Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development to submit representations on behalf of the Council to Three Rivers District Council on their Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople LDD.**
- 2. That the Head of Sustainable Development in formulating the Council's representations takes into account this report and any views expressed by Cabinet.**

**Relationship to Council Objectives**

*Three Rivers District Council's Draft Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Development Document (preferred options) could raise important strategic planning matters relevant for Chiltern District in meeting its planned accommodation needs for travellers and as such will be important for the Council to engage under the Duty to Co-operate. The need to engage with other authorities is part of the recommended policy approach for travellers set out in the Pre-submission Delivery DPD, which is also on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting (Policy DH5 – Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation). Such engagement is important to the success of meeting traveller accommodation needs in the most appropriate way. The Delivery DPD closely relates to Council objectives:*

*Objective 2 - Safe, healthy and cohesive communities*

*Objective 3 - Conserve the environment and promote sustainability*

**Implications**

- (i) This is a Key decision which is not included in the Forward Plan as this matter came to the Council's attention after the Forward Plan was published.*
- (ii) This matter is within the Policy and Budgetary Framework.*

**Financial Implications**

*Commenting on the plans and policies of other authorities is part of the function of the planning service*

### **Risk Management Implications**

*If the Council did not engage in this process then the success of the Delivery DPD Policy DH5 could be undermined and Three Rivers LDD prepared without taking into account cross-border issues between the two council areas. Failure to meet the Duty to Co-operate could lead to a local plan being found unsound impacting both on this Council's Delivery DPD and also Three Rivers LDD.*

### **Equalities Implications**

*The Pre-Submission Delivery DPD has been the subject of an equalities impact assessment and the need to engage with other authorities will assist the Council in implementing the Delivery DPD. This is of particular relevance to travellers in seeking to help address accommodation needs.*

### **Sustainability Implications**

*This is similar to equalities issues, with the Pre-Submission Delivery DPD being prepared alongside a Sustainability Assessment. Three Rivers will need to consider sustainability implications for their LDD and this Council can consider sustainability matters that may have a cross-border implication as part of its representations.*

## **Report**

- 1 Three Rivers District Council's consultation on the Draft Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Development Document (preferred options) is taking place from 24<sup>th</sup> January to the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The consultation document and supporting evidence can be found via the following link to Three Rivers District Councils website, <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/Default.aspx/Web/GypsyandTravellerDevelopmentPlanDocument>
- 2 Officers have delegated authority in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member to respond to consultations when the closing date prevents it from being reported to Cabinet. This is the case for this consultation however this report has been brought to Cabinet as a late item in view of the consultations importance to the recommended approach for planning to meet Gypsy, Traveller and travelling showpeoples accommodation needs in Chiltern and to provide Cabinet the opportunity to provide an officer steer. At the time of writing this report officers had insufficient time to consider the consultation and prepare a considered report to Cabinet.
- 3 Three Rivers District Council had an earlier related public consultation in March 2013 for which the Council's officer response is attached as Appendix 1. There has been no discussion or correspondence with

Three Rivers officers following this Council's representation. The content of the letter in Appendix 1 is expected to be followed up as part of representations on this consultation.

- 4 Since March 2013 this Council has completed its call for traveller sites, undertaken two public participation consultations involving traveller sites options and policy approach, completed the Buckinghamshire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeoples Accommodation Needs Assessment and formulated its policy approach in the recommended Delivery DPD. A key part of the Delivery DPD's approach to traveller accommodation is to explore opportunities for meeting accommodation needs in nearby areas. If the Delivery DPD pre-submission document is approved by Cabinet then this again will be a key consideration in this Council's representations to Three Rivers.
- 5 Given the potential implications of the consultation on this Council's approach to meeting traveller accommodation needs arising in Chiltern District, Cabinet is asked to specifically delegate authority to enable duly made representations to be submitted within the consultation period and if appropriate provide an officer steer on the consultation response.

***Background papers:***

Three Rivers District Council Draft Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Development Document (preferred options) (January 2014)  
Background papers for the Agenda item on the Delivery DPD

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# CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEAD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - PETER BECKFORD DipTP, MRTPI

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Our Ref:



March 2013  
Claire May, Principal Planning Officer

Three Rivers Council  
Three Rivers House  
Northway  
Rickmansworth  
Herts, WD3 1RL

Dear Ms May,

## **DRAFT GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT (LDD)**

Thank you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and for giving the Council the opportunity to comment on Three Rivers Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople LDD. This response is an officer response.

I have no specific comment to make on the proposed site situated east of Tolpits Lane, Rickmansworth. However it is understood that this site has been proposed on the basis of a traveller needs assessment concluding that Three Rivers has an estimated outstanding need for 8 additional pitches and 20 plots between now and 2027. My understanding is that this needs assessment had limited understanding or regard to Buckinghamshire and in particular Chiltern District Council's traveller accommodation needs.

This Council has recently had a Call for Sites for traveller sites, is about to complete an up to-date needs assessment and to undertake a traveller site option appraisal process. It is possible that due to the constrained nature of the Chiltern District (e.g. Green Belt, AONB, flood risk areas, competing land uses) that the Council may not be able to fully meet its traveller accommodation needs. Therefore the Council under the Duty to Co-operate is likely to want to discuss options for meeting any unmet traveller needs in adjacent areas such as in Three Rivers as part of your planned approach. Therefore I would be grateful if provision could be made within your LDD to enable future agreements to take place if required and appropriate either specific to the Tolpits Lane site or others.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Winwright  
Temporary Planning Policy Manager