



WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Planning & Sustainability

Penelope Tollitt – Head of Planning & Sustainability

Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 1BB
Tel: 01494 461000
DX 4411 High Wycombe –1

www.wycombe.gov.uk

Cllr Graham Harris
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development
Chiltern District Council

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Enquiries to: David Dewar
Direct Line: (01494) 421570
Fax No: (01494) 421181
Email: David_Dewar@wycombe.gov.uk
Minicom No: (01494) 413588
Date: 10 February 2014

Dear Graham

EXTRACT OF THE HPOC DELIVERY DPD – DRAFT POLICY DH5

I was very surprised to be briefed by my officers that your intention is that areas outside Chiltern District (therefore potentially including areas within Wycombe District) which are not in the Green Belt or the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) should be given priority over your own District, for the allocation of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation. There has been no detailed dialogue on this approach, and it is hardly in the spirit of the Duty to Co-operate that we have not at least discussed this at our Bucks planning meetings.

I am writing to express an objection in the strongest possible terms. I understand you will be recommending this for approval at your Council's Cabinet meeting of 11th February. Please ensure our strong objection is reported to the Cabinet. WDC has previously made representations to the consultation draft of the document, but at no stage has there been any indication from CDC that it was intending to progress a policy based on prioritising sites outside the District for meeting the need generated in Chiltern District.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear that each local planning authority should meet its objectively-assessed need unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits (Para 14). Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, meanwhile, enables the plan-making process to make an exceptional limited alteration to the Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site (para 15).

There appears to be no evidence presented in the draft policy which indicates that providing Chiltern's requirement for additional traveller accommodation (as identified in the Bucks GTAA, published in August 2013) would have impacts that would "significantly and demonstrably" outweigh the benefits. Moreover, there is no evidence that the traveller population in Chiltern would take up a site in Wycombe District or any other district outside Chiltern even were such sites allocated.



It is clear, therefore, that Chiltern should allocate pitches/plots to meet this need within Chiltern District - including by way of exceptional limited alterations to its Green Belt boundary, if necessary.

I would be grateful if you could give the views of WDC full consideration prior to and at the Cabinet meeting on the 11th February.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Neil Marshall
Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability

Wycombe District Council