



Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework

**'Planning to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller
communities'**

Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document

Evidence Base Document 1

Summary of Technical Consultation on Methodology

February 2015

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON DRAFT METHODOLOGY FOR USE IN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMODATION ASSESSMENTS

As a precursor to the preparation of new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, Nottinghamshire Authorities with the input of Romany Gypsy Educational Resources have prepared a draft methodology. A technical consultation was carried out on this between the 5th and 20th July 2013.

The consultation was focused on key stakeholders, local community representatives, known interested parties and agents but also made available to anyone with an interest through the internet.

A total of seven responses were received, all from invited consultees, and their comments have been summarised as follows:

QUESTION	RESPONSE SUMMARY
1: Do you agree with the approach of undertaking separate accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show people?	There was unanimous agreement on this issue.
2: Are the methodologies clear? Do you feel they will provide a suitable way of identifying the permanent accommodation requirements for Gypsies and Travellers and/or Travelling Showpeople?	A third of respondents found the methodologies complex and as a result difficult to use. The remainder were either silent or supported the methodologies themselves or as part of the overall approach in some cases acknowledging
3: Do you think the methodologies offer a 'robust' way of collecting information for identifying Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople accommodation requirements at a local level?	The majority of respondents were either in general agreement or made no adverse comments on this issue. One respondent specifically commented that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The methodology needed further tailoring to the needs of Travelling Showpeople. • They were concerned that outstanding pitch requirements would not be carried forward into future assessments. • Applications for new private sites should form evidence of need.
4: Are the data sources being used appropriate for obtaining the information required to calculate Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople accommodation requirements? If not, are there any other sources of information we should consider?	Most respondents were either silent or endorsed the sources as part of support for the overall process. One respondent advocated using all available sources but placing most value on direct consultation with the G&T community.
5: What will be the most effective way of engaging with members of the Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	All of those who specifically answered this question advocated direct verbal consultation. In doing this the following suggestions were also

<p>communities to gather information of their accommodation requirements?</p>	<p>made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being inclusive within the G&T community generally and specifically considering the needs of different age and gender groups. • Allowing sufficient time to achieve the above. • Encouraging members of the community to carry out consultation themselves. • Utilising links with frontline service providers. • Provide feedback.
<p>6: What is your understanding of need for site based accommodation against preference for site based accommodation?</p>	<p>Of the two specific responses to this question the consensus is that the need to travel (and therefore the need for sites to facilitate this) is an integral part of Gypsies and Travellers ethnic identities. When there is no ability to travel, for whatever reason, there may still be a preference for site based accommodation. There are distinctions within site based accommodation such as transit sites for up to 6 months accommodation and stopping places</p>
<p>7: If you have previously been involved in consultation with other Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation assessments, are there any examples of good practice that we should consider in undertaking this assessment?</p>	<p>Specific examples quoted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCLG guidance. • Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland G&T Needs Assessment 2006-2016.
<p>8: Are you interested in being involved in the next consultation stage of this project?</p>	<p>All respondents wished to be included.</p>
<p>Other comments</p>	<p>Two respondents requested consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of stopping places. • Site specific issues such as parking for multiple vehicles, access to grazing site tenure. • Any assessment has a role to play in stamping out longstanding prejudice and informing future policy and decision making. <p>One respondent did not answer the questions posed by this consultation but expressed an interest in participating in future stages of consultation.</p>

Further Action

Whilst the consultation yielded some useful information for use in future stages, it did not identify the need for any changes to the methodology. It is accepted that the methodology is necessarily

complicated and comments relating to this are noted and best addressed through explanatory text in the consultation document. It is also recognised that further work is required specifically with Showpeople to ensure that their needs are reflected.