

# North West Plan Partial Review

## Gypsy and Traveller Dialogue Meeting Notes

Date           4<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
 Sub Region   Cumbria  
 Venue         the Shakespeare Centre, Kendal

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### Agenda for the day

Welcome and context  
 The allocations (How and Why)  
 The numbers  
 Next steps  
 Feedback

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### The Allocations

	GTAA	Interim Draft		1 <sup>st</sup> Draft	
		Permanent	Transit	Permanent	Transit
Eden		20	10		
Carlisle		45	10		
Allerdale		20	5		
Copeland		0	5		
Barrow in Furness		10	5		
South Lakeland		10	5		

### Points noted about the context

- Gypsies and Irish Travellers are protected under Race Relations legislation from discrimination
- An 'ideal site' is 10 to 15 pitches

### Points noted about the process

- LA's can influence the figure – this is the purpose of the consultation stage.

### Issues Raised

- What definition has been used for Gypsies and Travellers?
- How have the cultural differences between the different communities been addressed in the review?
- Is there scope for the re-allocation of figures between District Councils?

- Has any research been carried out to map the travelling patterns of these communities?
- How are the unsettled communities reflected in the figures?
- What is the evidence base for the change in the figures and what local information was used?
- The figures for Barrow do not appear to refer to the existing site with 17 pitches.
- The allocation of 10 for Carlisle would be too low if the existing private site is not fully occupied.
- What is the difference in provision between permanent and transit sites?
- Should the LA's be identifying specific sites or adopting a general policy on suitable sites? Is there any guidance available to help LA's identify appropriate sites?
- How can the LA's marry the figures to their Development Plans which can be planning ahead as far as 2027?
- Can any more guidance be given on plot sizes?

## Responses

*The review adopts the definition for Gypsies and Travellers referred to in footnote 1: persons of nomadic habit of life who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling together as such.*

*The cultural differences between the travelling communities are a matter for the LA's to consider when identifying sites. The importance of on-going dialogue with the travelling communities (via Anne Taylor, details below) is crucial to its success. Equally important is on-going dialogue between LA's.*

*If the LA's would like to see a re-allocation of pitches then a joint response would be appropriate.*

*The evidence base for the allocations stems from the GTAA. This was followed by consultation with the Gypsies & Travellers in 2008 which raised concerns about potential under-accounting e.g. unidentified sites for legal reasons and inaccurate answers regarding extended households etc. To reflect this under-accounting, the figures were uplifted by 70% and then moderated following the consultation process. In cases where there was no current authorised provision some have been allocated provision on the basis of equitable distribution and some have remained without any allocation. Any further published evidence e.g. on unsettled communities or travelling patterns would be welcomed by 4NW.*

*If the Barrow site is not reflected in the figures this should be raised in a response. Similarly, if there is evidence of under-use of the Carlisle site this also needs to be passed back to 4NW in a response. The reason that this site was omitted from the figures was because it was closed at the time when the research was carried out.*

*Tolerated stopping places (TSP's) are not included in the figures and are not treated as formal transit sites which are needed throughout the year. TSP's have*

*no facilities, whereas transit sites will have some e.g. hard standing and water. Planning permission is necessary for transit sites. Transit sites help to keep down the costs of pursuing eviction proceedings from unauthorised sites. It was suggested that Cumbrian Authorities might work together in agreeing suitable transit sites. On a permanent site each pitch will have its own facilities.*

*In all cases a general policy on the provision of sites is needed and in some cases (where the allocation is small) specific sites can be identified e.g. core strategy or SPD. In identifying sites refer to best practice in the circular and network with the local communities. LA's can use the rural exception sites policy with conditions to control use. Sites can be phased in over a period of time to accommodate the 3% growth. All figures are minimums.*

*The 3% annual compound increase in the level of provision from 2016 onwards allows LA's to marry the allocations with their own Development Plans, whatever their timescale.*

*As accommodation is very mixed it is difficult to advice on appropriate pitch sizes. It is a question of dialogue to establish requirements.*

### The process

- Is there any flexibility in the timescales?  
*These are set by central government – see next steps on web site*
- How can we discuss figures we haven't yet seen?

*The current process is designed to discuss the figures and to get views from all stakeholders. These views will help shape the final figure – so the current figures are the ones to comment on. 4NW needs to hear all your comments.*

### Actions from the meeting

For 4NW and the consultation team

- 4NW to develop technical note to outline what evidence has been used to support the changes in the numbers
- 4NW to include some information on the assumptions used in the process of redistributing the figures
- Revised figures will be produced at the end of the consultation process, based on what people say in this process
- Anne Taylor of the Travellers Project can be contacted by email: [anne@equantic.org.uk](mailto:anne@equantic.org.uk)
- Note of this meeting will be produced by CAG Consultants

For local authorities



- 4NW need formal responses on the figures on what the districts are 'comfortable with' by [27<sup>th</sup> March 2009](#)