



PRCC.04 14/15

Committee: Prosperous Communities

Date 3 June 2014

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**Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment – Challenge and Improvement Task Panel Feedback**

Report by:

Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan

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Purpose / Summary:

This report has been prepared by the Challenge and Improvement Task Panel to provide elected members with feedback. The Task Panel were asked to review the Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment brief, methodology and robustness of the need figure for the number of new pitches identified for West Lindsey in the Assessment.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That, based on the findings of the Task Panel, members of the Prosperous Communities Committee accept the findings of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and that the "need" figure for the number of new pitches identified is robust.
2. That members recommend to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team that, in line with the findings of the GTAA, when identifying sites for allocation, the extension of existing sites is considered a priority as part of meeting the housing needs of the gypsy and traveller community.
3. That members require officers to enter into detailed discussions with neighbouring authorities to ensure that as much as possible is done to

share the provision of pitches across district/council boundaries where necessary and to bring a further report when progress has been made as part of the Local Plan process.

## IMPLICATIONS

### Legal:

There are no legal implications in regards to accepting the needs figure in regards to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation provision.

### Financial : FIN 10/15

There are no financial implications

### Staffing :

There are no staffing issues as a result of this report.

### Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

The Council has a duty to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller groups and this evidence base is a statutory requirement, which will need to be considered when determining planning application and in the selection of any future sites.

### Risk Assessment :

Understanding the needs of our Gypsy and Traveller communities is a legislative requirement and a component of the Local Plan Allocations Document. The Planning Inspector is expecting conclusion of the document as part of the Core Strategy/Local Plan evidence base.

The Core Strategy/Local Plan will be at risk if the evidence base is not completed and the subsequent site allocations made within the defined period.

### Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

N/A

### Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Paper G [Prosperous Communities Committee Reports - 4 February 2014 | West Lindsey](#)

### Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

## Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

### 1. Introduction

1.1. This review was requested by Prosperous Community Committee on 4 February 2014. The Committee requested that a C & I Task Panel be established to review the brief, methodology and robustness of the "need" figure for the number of new pitches identified for West Lindsey in the Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2013 (GTAA). This task panel was then asked to report back to the Prosperous Communities Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

### 2. The Task Panel

2.1. The task panel met on the 2nd of April and the 9th of April to consider the issues raised, relating to the Central Lincolnshire GTAA by the Prosperous Communities Committee. The task panel was attended by Councillor Curtis, Councillor Howitt-Cowan, Councillor Dobbie and Councillor Strange. Officers in attendance were Suzanne Fysh (Head of Development and Neighbourhoods) and Andy Gray (Housing and Communities Team Manager)

2.2. The task panel was provided with information relating to the original consultancy brief, the DCLG guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments and the Central Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

2.3. The task panel was asked to report back to Prosperous Communities Committee with its recommendations which are shown below.

2.4. The panel was assured that the GTAA followed the DCLG appraisal methodology and formed a robust assessment of need for gypsy and traveller accommodation in the District.

### 3. Recommendations

3.1. That, based on the findings of the Task Panel, members of the Prosperous Communities Committee accept the findings of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and that the "need" figure for the number of new pitches identified is robust

3.2. That members recommend to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team that, in line with the findings of the GTAA, when identifying sites for allocation, the extension of existing sites is considered a priority as part of meeting the housing needs of the gypsy and traveller community.

3.3. That members require officers to enter into detailed discussions with neighbouring authorities to ensure that as much as possible is done to share the provision of pitches across district/council boundaries where necessary.