

NOTE TO THE GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN PARTNERSHIP

EXAMINATION OF THE GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN

1. Thank you for your letter dated 4 January 2022 regarding gypsies and travellers, travelling show people, and residential caravans.
2. The Government's 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' (PPTS) states that in producing a Local Plan, local planning authorities should identify specific sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of supply against their local requirement. It further states that a supply of specific sites, or broad locations for growth, should be identified for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15. As submitted, the Greater Norwich Local Plan does not identify any gypsy or traveller allocations.
3. The Partnership's Matter 6 Hearing Statement indicates that it is currently exploring whether publicly owned land could be brought forward for this purpose. If new site allocations were to be identified through that process, then our view is that these would need to be subject to a dedicated public consultation process in line with the respective Statements of Community Involvement. This consultation could be undertaken during the examination process. However, we consider that this should not commence until after the relevant hearing session on Wednesday 9 February.
4. Any new allocations, the evidence underpinning these, and comments arising from the consultation process would need to be submitted and subjected to dedicated examination hearing sessions later in the year. In this regard, any new allocations, and any reasonable alternatives, would also need to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal and be legally compliant.
5. Subsequently, any modifications necessary for soundness would also need to be incorporated into any main modifications.
6. These comments are offered without prejudice to the discussion that will take place under Matter 6 Issue 3 during the hearing sessions.

Mike Worden and Thomas Hatfield

INSPECTORS
19 January 2022