Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group

Statement of Common Ground
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Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group  
September 2018

1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

This statement of common ground has been prepared jointly between the parties consisting of Chesterfield Borough Council (‘the Council’) and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG).

The Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground is to set out the main points of agreement between both parties with regard to the submitted Chesterfield Borough Council Local Plan December 2018 (‘the Plan’). DGLG do not seek to pursue these points during the examination of the Plan. The statement also highlights any outstanding uncommon ground between the parties. The statement is intended to assist the Inspectors during the examination of the Plan.

The purpose of this statement is also to set out the agreed arrangements for on-going cooperation and liaison on Local Plan provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites within Chesterfield Borough, and identifying agreed key matters and issues that should be the focus of cooperation and liaison.

2. Background

The Council and DGLG have been working positively together throughout the preparation of the Plan in respect to Gypsy and Traveller issues. Both parties were involved in the preparation of the Joint Derby, Derbyshire, Peak District National Park Authority and East Staffordshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014. In addition, both parties are part of the Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group (DTIWG), which meets regularly. It was agreed at the DTIWG that there should be a full review / refresh of the GTAA to be commissioned in 2019/2020 on behalf of partners, when the first five year tranche of pitch requirements from 2014 to 2019 set out in the GTAA had expired.

The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups made formal representations to the Plan at Publication Draft stage. NFGLG supported the Council’s approach in reviewing council owned land in the search for sites to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and agreed that the suggested site area was reasonable. NFGLG also commented that ideally sites should be small (up to 5 pitches), but urged the Council to be flexible in site selection.
DGLG provided comments relating to the overall approach to Gypsy and Traveller provision as well as separate comments on the appropriateness of individual sites during the consultation on potential Gypsy and Traveller sites in February 2018. A representation was also made on Policy LP6 ‘Traveller Accommodation’ in the Pre-submission Local Plan consultation in February 2019.

3. Agreed matters between the Council and DGLG

It is agreed that the Council has made a significant positive effort to engage with representatives of the Local Gypsy and Traveller community through the preparation of the Plan. This includes the Council encouraging site submissions via three calls for sites.

It is also agreed that the Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of sites, and that following the granting of planning permission for an additional three pitches in the borough, the full needs are being met and there is no requirement to include in the Local Plan. If further needs arise in the future either as a result of planning applications or if the evidence is updated, the criteria based Policy LP6 ‘Traveller Accommodation’ allows for suitable windfall sites to come forward.

The Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group (DTIWG) resolved that the costs of establishing a transit site or sites in the study area was prohibitive. Both parties will continue to work on the issue of transit provision through DТИWG.

4. Outstanding Issues

It is important to note that across the wider Northern Derbyshire Gypsy and Traveller Housing Market Area (GTHMA) (Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, and North East Derbyshire District Council), the emerging Local Plans do not identify sufficient specific sites to meet the need for pitches as set out in the GTAA. Following the granting of planning permission for three additional pitches, there is one surplus pitch within the borough. The site in question is a small, family site and the additional pitch is intended to provide flexibility for the occupying family. The GTAA review may identify a requirement for additional pitches within Chesterfield Borough beyond 2019. The additional pitch is therefore, considered to provide a degree of flexibility in meeting any longer term needs within the borough.

A Statement of Common Ground between the GTHMA authorities includes a number of specific actions that the LPAs will take to try to resolve the shortfall in provision within the GTHMA. These actions and matters of common ground across the GTHMA have yet to be agreed with DGLG.
There are two outstanding issues regarding the DGLG Representation on the Pre-submission Local Plan that will need to be dealt with through the Local Plan examination:

*Concerns about the drafting of Policy LP6 which suggests that sites allocated for other purposes will be unacceptable. Some sites allocated for other purposes (eg residential or employment) may prove suitable and necessary if other sites do not come forward to meet the identified need.*

The council is of the view that the Policy is sufficiently flexible, particularly considering that identified need has been met through the granting of planning permissions. Housing site allocations are required for that purpose in order to meet identified needs. Employment land may be developed for other uses subject to the criteria in Policy LP7.

*Oppose the inclusion of the final criterion. It is, of course necessary to have regard to all relevant policies when determining applications so this criterion is unnecessary. It does not generally appear in other policies.*

The council is of the view that criteria (i) provides clarity, with similar wording used in other policies such as the first paragraph of Policy LP4.

5. **On-going Cooperation and Liaison**

Both parties are committed to continuing to work together via the regular DTWIG meetings (and individual meetings where appropriate), to identify potential new permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites.

DGLG will continue to be a consultee on the Local Plan.

The Council will seek to liaise with DGLG and the other LPAs within the GTHMA to find agreement on issues at this broader level.
# APPENDIX A SIGNATORIES OF THE PARTIES

## AUTHORITY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
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<th>Name: Alan Morey</th>
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<td>Position: Portfolio Holder Economic Growth</td>
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<td>Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group</td>
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