

**COUNCIL – 25 OCTOBER 2011**

**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)**

**RE: SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Members of the progress of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Council agrees to formally withdraw all Gypsy and Traveller proposed allocations.

2.2 That Council agrees that any future plans to allocate sites will be informed by the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment which is currently being procured

**3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 Members will be aware that the Consultation Report to the Site Allocations Development Plan Document has now been published. Given the scale of objections, particularly in respect of Gypsies and Travellers it is suggested that all such allocations be formally withdrawn, in order that the issues raised by communities can be fully assessed from a fresh perspective, uncluttered by draft allocations, based on an earlier assessment undertaken nearly five years ago and subsequently the subject of some challenge.

3.2 It is the intention to progress the Housing Site Allocations Document independently of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Document, pending the outcome of the review and recent consultation exercise by the Coalition Government of the Circulars advising on policy relating to provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The revised advice will enable us to take a view as to timetabling an allocation document for Gypsy and Traveller sites and the form that will need to take.

3.3 It should be noted that the lack of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Document in the current national policy climate may result in unacceptable sites being brought forward; hence the need to complete this work as a matter of priority

3.4 Members should also note that as a result of a legal undertaking recently signed by the landowner, the allocation THO10, a gypsy and traveller allocation in Thornton, has been formally withdrawn by the landowner. This is the basis for the recommendation for its removal by the Council from its own proposed allocation and the catalyst for the proposal that all the sites proposed in 2009 be similarly withdrawn.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (CB)**

None arising directly from this report.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

Members should be aware that the withdrawal of the Gypsy and Traveller allocations currently within the Site Allocations Development Plan Document will result in all sites in the borough being considered equally in respect of applications for traveler

sites. No application site shall be considered preferable to any other until such time that the new Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Document is brought forward.

**6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

This would contribute towards all the aims of the Corporate Plan

**7. CONSULTATION**

None

**8. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

<b>Management of significant (Net Red) Risks</b>		
<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Mitigating actions</b>	<b>Owner</b>
The lack of a Site Allocation DPD would hamper the authority in providing a 5 year housing supply and result in development coming forward in an ad-hoc basis.	Adopt a Housing Site Allocations DPD	Simon Wood/ Sally Smith
The lack of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Document in the current national policy climate may result in unacceptable sites being brought forward	Determine applications having regard to the development plan and all other material planning considerations.	Simon Wood/ Tracy Miller

**9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Site Allocations DPD will allocate sites and formulate development control policies within rural areas.

**10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Draft Site Allocations Document

Contact Officer: Simon Wood extn 5692

Executive Member: Councillor Stuart Bray