

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 2 September 2008

Subject: **REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ADDITIONAL PITCH ALLOCATIONS  
2006-16**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: Bringing Board Members up to date with the Regional Assembly Autumn 2008 consultation on new pitch allocations for inclusion in the South East Plan, and looking ahead.

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## **Background**

1. (1) All 75 South Eastern local authorities were required to provide planning advice, in groups, to the Regional Assembly by 15 October 2007, indicating the numbers of pitches required across each of their constituent authority areas, and with one distribution which reflected where the need for accommodation arose and another one which took into account a range of planning constraint considerations. The figures submitted for Kent and Medway are shown in the tables in Appendix 1a & 1b. Following the Regional Assembly rejecting the consultation options early in 2008, authorities were invited to reconsider and make any justifiable changes to what they had submitted in October 2007. Kent and Medway authorities reviewed the data, sought to reconcile the methodologies of the four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments and found some areas for improvement, including pitch turnover figures for public sites in some areas which had not been taken into account in the original data.

(2) The revised figures submitted for Kent and Medway on 30 April 2008 are also shown in Appendix 1a and 1b, which additionally shows some progress with site provision between 2006 and 2008.

(3) The Regional Assembly discussed the subject on 16 July 2008 and resolved to consult on four options between early September and late November 2008.

(4) Following the consultation, the Assembly will decide what allocations for each authority they think should be inserted into the South East Plan, and, following the relevant processes, the Secretary of State will approve the Plan during 2009.

## **Autumn 2008 consultation arrangements**

2. (1) Following consultation with District Councils and Medway, it has been agreed that there will be 3 public consultation events across Kent, promoted jointly by SEERA, and Kent and Medway authorities, at which Assembly officers will provide material to explain the options, and on which discussion will take place with interested parties.

(2) Tentatively, the meetings are scheduled for late September to mid-October, provisionally in Gravesham, Maidstone and Canterbury.

(3) Invitations will go to a wide range of organisations and individuals, based in part on the stakeholder consultation meetings which were held in 2007.

### **Progress with provision in Kent (2006-8)**

3. (1) Appendix 1a and 1b shows the progress that has already been made in meeting the further site needs identified, between 2006 and 2008. This is entirely based on private sites which have achieved permanent planning consent, usually on appeal.

(2) However, a number of Kent authorities are pursuing expansions to existing publicly-run sites, either of land area (to accommodate more caravans) or of pitch numbers, and these will all assist in meeting needs.

### **Issues**

4. (1) Closely linked to the South East Plan are the Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) which each planning authority must produce, and which need to allocate land for further site needs, as well as demonstrating how adequate site provision to meet need will be accomplished during the timescales laid down.

(2) It is clear that funding for public sites is only guaranteed, in its present form, until 2010/11, and that LDFs may not be produced by that deadline.

(3) It is therefore clear that the authorities which will access the current funding will be those who recognise current need for public sites, and make plans to provide public sites.

### **The future**

5. (1) It is vital that Kent and Medway authorities work closely together to identify needs for sites, work up proposals for public sites, as well as manage unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments in the interim.

(2) While public sites are most likely to meet the needs of those on unauthorised encampments, local planning authorities considerably strengthen their position in resisting inappropriate unauthorised developments by showing they have addressed the issue of meeting need through public and private site allocations.

(3) In addition, there are the important issues of community cohesion, improving relationships between different communities, and reducing the social tensions that can result from people not having suitable and adequate accommodation over an extended period of time.

(4) Finally, there are the crucial issues of access to services, including health and education provision, and the positive impact that this can have on health and life-expectancy, which have been especially poor for Gypsy and Traveller communities for many years.

## **Recommendations**

6. (1) Members are asked to NOTE the contents and ENDORSE the approach outlined in this report.

Bill Forrester  
Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit  
(01622) 221846

*Background Documents:* None

## Revised Option A : Kent and Medway (GTAA Based)

District/GTAA	Original Option A Additional Pitches Years 1-5 (Oct 07)	Original Option A Additional Pitches Years 1-10 (Oct 07)	Revised Need Assessment Years 1-5 Option A (April 08)	Revised Additional Pitches Years 6-10 Option A (April 08)	Revised Total Additional Pitch Provision 2006- 2016 Option A (April 08)	Change in supply post GTAA	Residual Additional Pitch Provision 2006-2016 Option A (April 08)
Ashford	14	22	12	8	20	2	18
Maidstone	32	51	29	19	48	15	33
Ton & Malling	10	15	9	5	14	0	14
Tunbridge Wells	8	12	7	4	11	0	11
<b>West Kent GTAA</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>76</b>
Sevenoaks	64	89	36	21	57	16	41
<b>Sevenoaks GTAA</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>
Dartford	27	38	22	11	33	5	28
Gravesham	15	19	12	4	16	0	16
Medway	10	14	8	4	12	0	12
Swale	62	80	49	15	64	4	60
<b>North Kent GTAA</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>116</b>
Canterbury	22	32	22	10	32	1	31
Dover	3	6	3	3	6	0	6
Shepway	2	2	2	0	2	0	2
Thanet	4	5	4	1	5	0	5
<b>East Kent GTAA</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Kent &amp; Medway</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>277</b>

## Revised Option B : Kent and Medway : Alternative Distribution reflecting planning and sustainability factors

District/GTAA Area	Original Option B Additional Pitches Years 1-5 (Oct 07)	Original Option B Additional Pitches Years 1-10 (Oct 07)	Revised Option B Years 1-5 (Apr 08)	Revised Option B Years 6-10 (Apr 08)	Revised Option B 2006-2016 (Apr 08)	Change in supply post GTAA's	Residual Additional Pitch Provision 2006-2016 Option B (Apr 08)
Ashford	31	42	23	9	32	2	30
Maidstone	26	44	21	18	39	15	24
Ton & Malling	24	31	14	6	20	0	20
Tunbridge Wells	13	17	11	4	15	0	15
<b>West Kent GTAA</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>
Sevenoaks	8	25	6	16	22	16	6
<b>Sevenoaks GTAA</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>
Dartford	21	32	17	10	27	5	22
Gravesham	9	13	9	4	13	0	13
Medway	33	40	26	6	32	0	32
Swale	25	37	20	11	31	4	27
<b>North Kent GTAA</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>94</b>
Canterbury	28	39	23	10	33	1	32
Dover	23	30	18	6	24	0	24
Shepway	14	16	11	2	13	0	13
Thanet	18	21	16	3	19	0	19
<b>East Kent GTAA</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Kent &amp; Medway</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>277</b>