

Winchester District Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document

‘Traveller DPD’

Examination September 2018

Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate

Winchester City Council’s Response

WCC Matter 2



Winchester City Council
**Winchester District Gypsy and Traveller and
Travelling Showpeople DPD**

WCC Response to Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions

<u>Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate</u>

Question 1 – Overall, has the DPD been prepared in accordance with relevant legal requirements, including the 'Duty to Cooperate' imposed by Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)? Has the duty to co-operate been met? What has been the nature of the co-operation and on what issues? How is the planning work of the various planning authorities co-ordinated?

WCC Response:

1. The Council has prepared two Duty to Co-operate Statements, the first published with the draft DPD in July 2017 and the second in January 2018 with the publication version.

[http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/12002/DTC-Statement-Traveller-DPD-June-2017docx%20\(11\).pdf](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/12002/DTC-Statement-Traveller-DPD-June-2017docx%20(11).pdf)

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/13918/DTC%20Statement%20Traveller%20DPD%20Reg%202019.pdf>

2. From the outset of preparation of the DPD the Council has worked in partnership with neighbouring authorities through the commissioning of the evidence base, both in terms of initial site assessment and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
3. Joint commissioning of these two key pieces of evidence required for the preparation of traveller development plan documents will ensure a consistent approach across a broader area than purely the Winchester District.

4. Winchester is the first local authority to actually prepare a specific Traveller DPD, others are incorporating the data collated into local plan preparation.
5. The Council is of the view that it has complied with its Duty to Co-operate requirements, through undertaking a shared approach to evidence and having on-going exchanges between the local authorities. These have ranged from informal officer discussions on suggested approaches to policy expression to more formal requests under the Duty to determine whether any sites were available specifically to deal with the unmet need in Winchester for Travelling Showpersons plots. Details of which are set out in the Council's Duty to Co-operate Statements.
6. The small scale nature of the sites considered for traveller use and the fact that these are all in existence, has meant that the key infrastructure providers and other organisations listed under the Duty in the legislation/regulations, have made little comment on the DPD, apart from the need to clarify policy expression in some instances.
7. Statements of Common Ground have been agreed and submitted between the Council and :-

East Hampshire District Council :
http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/15952/SCG_WCC_EHDC_Redacted.pdf

South Downs National Park :
http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/15951/WCC_SDNPA_SCG%20signed%20version%20March%202018.pdf with regard to SDNP, whilst the National Park covers a substantial portion of the Winchester District, they have recently submitted a whole park local plan for examination which includes provision for travellers.
8. The Council continues to hold regular officer meetings* to discuss planning policy issues and to be updated on other local authorities progress with DPD preparation in relation to travellers and other matters.

*Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Planning Officers Group – (PUSH is a partnership of Hampshire County Council; the unitary authorities of; Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight; and district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester)

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers Group – this includes all Hampshire local authorities, including Hampshire County Council and is attended by senior officers from both planning policy and development management.

Development Plans Group – this is an officer led group of those focussing on development plan preparation.