

North West Plan Partial Review

Travelling Showpeople Dialogue Meeting Notes

Date 12th February 2009
Sub Region Merseyside
Venue Gateway, Liverpool

Agenda for the day

Welcome and context
The allocations (How and Why)
The numbers
Next steps
Feedback

The Allocations

	GTAA	Interim Draft	1 st Draft
Cheshire East	4	10	8
Cheshire West & Chester	4	10	3
Halton	0	0	0
Warrington	9	10	17
St Helens	0	5	8
Knowsley	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0
Sefton	0	5	1
Wirral	0	5	2

Points notes about the context

- An 'ideal site' is 5 pitches
- All sites will be permanent - no transit sites required.
- Importance of separating the issues and needs of Travelling Showpeople and Gypsies and Travellers.

Points noted about the process

- LAs can influence the figure - this is the purpose of the consultation stage.

Issues Raised

The figures

- How were the figures arrived at?
*The figure have been based on the evidence, Options Consultation (summer 2008) which showed greatest support for a more equitable distribution, GTAA's, on line forum responses (November 2008), other consultation responses and 4NW officers' professional judgement. 4NW will produce and circulate a briefing note to outline the process (See **Technical Note on how the Interim Draft Policy Figures for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople (North West Regional Spatial Strategy Partial Review) were derived (February 2009) – available at <http://www.northwestplanpartialreview.org.uk>***
- How much consultation has there been up to this point?
There was concern that the Travelling Showpeople had been overlooked in previous research/number gathering.
- Is the Showman's Guild happy with the figures?
The Travelling Showpeople are happy if the numbers have been arrived at using the results of the Showman's Guild's own survey of its members, as it was used to ascertain where residence is most needed.
- Why do some areas have no provision?
Zero provision will always mean zero need, so if there's no one in the area to survey the result will always be zero. It should also be noted that that where the Travelling Showpeople currently live could be more to do with current site availability rather than preference.
- Have they gone through similar procedures in other parts of the country?
The process in the North West has been more extensive than elsewhere and is seen as 'cutting edge'. The Travelling Showpeople feel that they have had much more involvement here than in other regions of the country.
- Should the housing figures for Cheshire East be amalgamated?
The policy is formulated on current districts as national policy dictates. The re-organisation in Cheshire East (the division of area and housing) could cause problems.



The future

- What types of areas are required for sites?
Precise location is not a priority. Light industrial, eg redundant station yards or gas stations with no use for housing would be more affordable and create less tension with existing residents. Easy access to sites is needed. Criteria based sites could be problematic, this conflicts with the planners' approach – 'mixed' use would be preferable.
- Will there always be a demand for site to be in multiples of 5?
Sites must be made up of 5 plots to be viable, as this represents 5 separate households within an extended family including space for all equipment.
- It could be difficult, at this stage to know if all needs can be met, although suitable land should be available (including greenbelt land).
- Good working relationships are needed between sub-regions.

- Why 3% growth?
This represents 3% of the total, not of individual allocation. This figure reflects the natural growth within the community will enable growth post 2016 and will prevent any future policy vacuum.

Actions from the meeting

For 4NW and the consultation team

- 4NW to write rationale for the allocation of numbers and the reason for the change (See **Technical Note on how the Interim Draft Policy Figures for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople (North West Regional Spatial Strategy Partial Review) were derived (February 2009)** – available at <http://www.northwestplanpartialreview.org.uk/>)
- Everyone will receive the results of The Showman’s Guild survey.
- Contact details for The Showman’s Guild will be made available.
- Site visits can be arranged through The Showman’s Guild in Bury.
- 4NW will get back to LA’s to discuss further the amalgamation of the 3 housing areas of Cheshire East.
- Note of this meeting will be produced by CAG Consultants

For local authorities

- 4NW need formal responses on the figures on what the districts are ‘comfortable with’ by 27th March 2009

