

Allerdale Borough Council

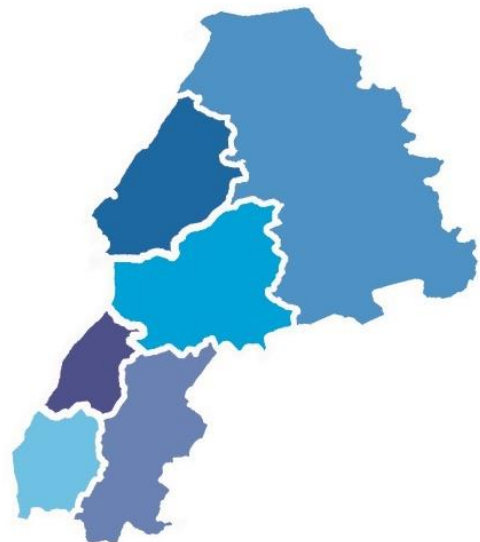


Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations

Examination Matters and Issues

Matter 4 – Gypsies, Travellers and
Travelling Showpeople

April 2019



Issue 4: Whether the proposed approach towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) is justified, effective and consistent with national policy and the ALPP1?

Q62. Does the Local Plan make appropriate provision for GTTS during the Plan Period?

- 4.1 The accommodation need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches was established in the Local Plan (Part 1) and was based on the Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2013) (GTAA) (ED18). This identified the need for 10 permanent and 10 transit pitches during the Plan period; the proposed allocation (Policy SA31) makes appropriate provision for this need. The indicative layout set out in Appendix 2 of the Topic Paper (TP5) demonstrates that the proposed site is capable of delivering the required plots including a community building for the site and a communal amenity block for the transit pitches.
- 4.2 The plot targets for Travelling Showpeople in the Local Plan (Part 1) showed a need for 21 plots over the Plan period. During the Site Allocations process, it was recognised that this position required re-examination. The Travelling Show People Need Update 2018 (EB19) reviewed the need for the Plan period and concluded the need had been reduced from 21 to eight plots. Unlike the Gypsy and Traveller provision there are a number of existing yards in the Plan area used for residential occupancy and storage. The approach adopted by the Council is to secure future provision by safeguarding the capacity offered by the existing yards and support, through Policy SA30, proposals to extend or reconfigure the Yards.

Q63. Policy SA31 proposes an allocation of a Gypsy and Traveller site at the former caravan park at Oldside outside the settlement boundary to accommodate the identified needs for permanent and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers during the plan period. How does the allocation comply with Government policy for traveller sites?

- 4.3 There is no authorised site for the Gypsy and Traveller community in the Borough. The proposed allocated site will meet the identified accommodation need for the Gypsy and Traveller community in full. In addition Policy S11 of the Local Plan (Part 1) provides a criteria based policy to guide decision making for additional pitches/sites should proposals come forward during the Plan period.
- 4.4 An important aspect of selecting the site was to ensure that it was in an area where the Gypsy and Traveller community wanted to live, otherwise there is a risk that the site would not be used. From knowledge of illegal encampments and speaking to representatives from those encampments, the proposed site is in an area of Workington favoured by them.
- 4.5 The indicative layout of the site demonstrates that the density, site area and number of plots are appropriate for this location and that a suitable residential

environment can be achieved. The site has been formerly used as a caravan site.

Q64. Is the proposed site (Policy SA31) suitable and available as a Gypsy and Traveller site? In particular, how easily accessible is the site to health services, local education facilities and other community services? Are there any overriding problems with the allocation of the site or particular constraints? If so how are they to be addressed?

- 4.6 The Council is the landowner for the site and the surrounding land, including the access track, therefore the allocated site is available. The site lies adjacent to the Principal Service Centre which offers a good range of services. In particular, the allocated site is located approximately 500 metres from Northside Primary School and 250 metres from the bus stop which serves the town centre. In terms of healthcare, it is envisioned that specific health care sessions would be provided on site at the community building. There is recognition that health services provided on site are more effective in terms of addressing the particular needs of the travelling community.
- 4.7 It is acknowledged that there are constraints on this site but none that present overriding problems. Policy SA31 explicitly addresses the constraints to ensure they form part of the design solution and site preparation and thereby ensure a suitable residential environment for the Travellers. The Council has had informal discussions with Homes England regarding the availability of funding towards the preparation of the site.