



# Allerdale Borough Council

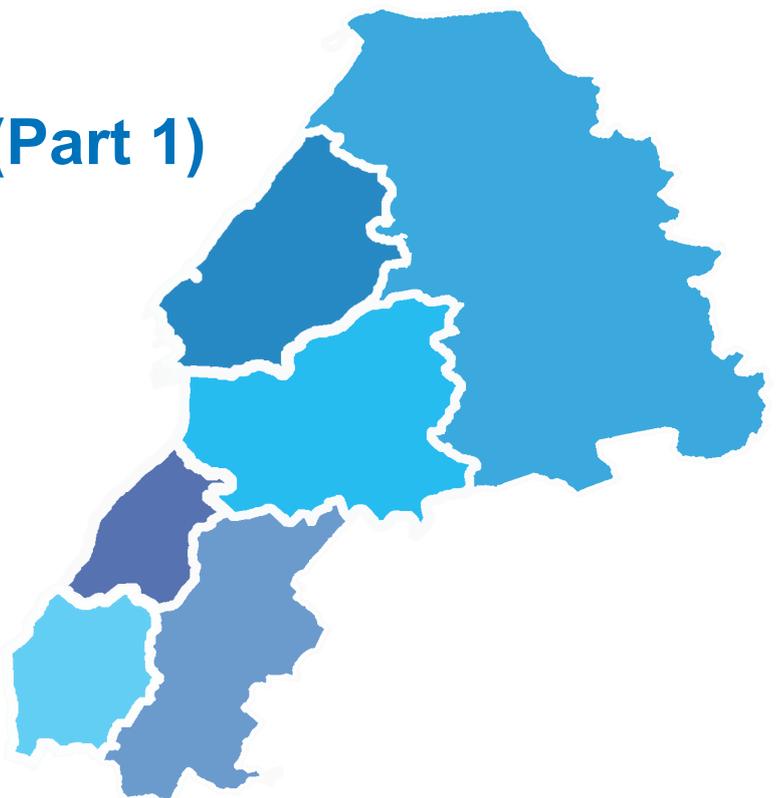


## Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1)

### Position Statement Main Matter 8:

The provision of  
housing for  
Gypsies and Travellers

January 2014



## **Matter 8 - The Provision of Housing for Gypsy and Travellers**

### **Introduction**

1. This Statement has been produced by Allerdale Borough Council to outline its response to the matters raised by the Inspector for the Hearings **[ED3]** into the Submitted Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1) Development Plan Document (DPD) **[CD1]**.
2. These Statements form the main basis for the Council's submission to the Hearings. They relate to the elements of the DPD that have been raised by the Inspector as matters to be discussed. Where appropriate the Statements draw upon and cross-refer to the main sources of information used in the preparation of the DPD such as the outcomes of public consultation, the Sustainability Appraisal, the evidence base and the supporting Topic Papers. Core Document numbers are given where appropriate.

### **Position of the Council regarding Matter 8**

3. The Council considers that together with suggested modifications **[CD3 and CD4]** the Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1) provides proactive and sound approach to meeting the housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers.

### **Evidence**

4. Evidence presented in the Local Plan **[CD1]** relates to the Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment **[EB5]**, which was undertaken for the six Cumbrian District Councils and the National Park Authority in 2008. The study determined that in 2007 there were 112 existing private pitches and 19

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unauthorised pitches within the county. Furthermore, it estimates that between 2008 and 2016 there was a requirement of 89 additional pitches within Cumbria, including a need for 23 permanent pitches, 5 transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers and 11 pitches plots for Travelling Showpeople in Allerdale.

5. While developing Policy S11 'Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites' the Council commissioned a new assessment of the housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers recognising the need for an update to provide robust evidence and to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2013) **[DSE2]** was published in November 2013 shortly after submission of the Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1). As such the emerging and draft assessment informed Policy S11 through re-evaluation of strategy and proposed modifications, however, the evidence was not in the public domain and therefore has yet to be updated in the Plan.
  
6. As with the previous study this work was undertaken on behalf of Cumbria County Council, the six Cumbrian District Councils and the National Park Authority. The study determined that across Cumbria there are a total of ten authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites which have a total of 132 pitches. Additionally, there are two private temporary sites (14 pitches), two private transit sites (37 pitches) and three private unauthorised sites (13 pitches). Across the County there are also three permanent Showperson yards (39 plots) and one unauthorised yard (two plots). This reveals an increase in the overall provision in Cumbria and a similar level of authorised sites.
  
7. At the time of the study in 2013 there were two private unauthorised sites within Allerdale, with a total of eight pitches. In addition, two private Showmen's yards

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were recorded, one authorised providing 24 plots and one unauthorised providing two plots. The assessment concluded that there is a need for 10 permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18 and a shortage of 7 Showperson’s plots over the same period. A need for 11 transit pitches was also identified in Allerdale.

	Permanent Pitches	Transit Pitches	Showperson Plots
Identified five year shortfall 2013/14 to 2017/18	10	10	7
Medium term Shortfall (2018/19 to 2023/24)	0		7
Long term term Shortfall (2018/19 to 2029/30)	0		7
Long term ‘fit’ to Local Plan (2012/13 to 2028/29) 15 years	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>

**Figure 1 Permanent Accommodation Requirements for Gypsy and Traveller, and Snowpersons (Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2013))**

### Policy/allocations

8. Through the NPPF and Planning Policy for Travellers Sites planning authorities are encouraged to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning, and plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. Using evidence to plan positively and manage development using ‘a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of Local Plan and make planning decisions’. The policy also states that:
  - ‘Plan making and decision taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more

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effective.’

- Planning policies need to be fair, realistic and inclusive; and
- Planning policies should increase the number of Traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under-provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.

9. The creation of sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities is a key objective of Council. In order to help meet the accommodation needs of all communities, the Local Plan makes provision for the Gypsy and Traveller community and Travelling Showpeople both in policy and by the evidence based allocation of suitable sites for the plan period.
10. Policy S11 ‘Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites’ **[CD1]** and suggested modifications shown in **CD2** provides a clear framework for the provision of gypsy sites within Allerdale Local Plan Area. It is a criteria based approach and does not identify specific sites. The sites will be allocated in the Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) to appropriately meet the up-to-date identified accommodation needs of Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople outlined in the updated study **[DSE2]**. The policy provides evidence of the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers and sets out a criteria based approach to guide the allocation of sites through the Sites and Policies DPD or the determination of planning applications. The policy specifically refers to maintaining an up-to-date assessment of need and therefore is in accordance with national planning policy; where there is no identified need, criteria-based policies should be included to provide a basis for decisions.
11. Major Modifications **MM50**, **MM51** and **MM52 [CD4]** have been proposed to improve the clarity of Policy S11 in relation to the spatial strategy and assist in the

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implementation and allocation of suitable sites. The Council considers that these changes ensure that the strategy follows national policy and is deliverable.

### **Implementation**

12. The Council will continue to work in partnership with other districts in Cumbria to maintain an up-to-date evidence base that will be used to ensure that the accommodation needs of Gypsy Travellers are met through the development plan. The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2013) **[DSE2]** will be used to set targets and site selection in the Site Allocations DPD. Furthermore the criteria based approach outlined in Policy S11 will be used to assess any proposals of that emerge out with the allocations process.
13. As part of the Affordable Homes Programme, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has allocated a grant to provide 40 pitches throughout Cumbria, including 7 pitches in Allerdale. The Council is currently working with partners to identify and deliver a site to meet a proportion of the identified need for accommodation. This project will be delivered over the short term with a site due to be delivered in 2015.
14. Sites for additional pitches and plots will be identified through the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) that will form Part 2 of the Allerdale Local Plan. The Council is at the first stage in the production of the Site Allocations DPD and is currently consulting on a 'call for sites' and several documents that set the framework for the allocations work.

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**Cross Boundary Implications**

15. The provision of housing for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople, have clear cross boundary implications, however, each authority has confidence that is can meet the identified need where the need arises and within the boundaries of their Plan Area. There are no specific planning constraints across Allerdale that will prevent delivery of accommodation needs within the Local Plan Area.