

Summary of Individual Executive Member Decision taken on 1 December 2008

Individual Decision No: ID1719

Portfolio Member: Councillor Geoff Findlay – Environment and Public Protection

Response to the Regional Assembly's Consultation on the Partial Review of the Draft South East Plan: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople

Resolved that Option B be recommended as West Berkshire Council's preferred option in response to the Regional Assembly's Partial Review of the Draft South East Plan: Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople.

Option B

- (a) This option includes the distribution of the number of pitches assessed for each local planning authority, but takes account of planning, environmental and other identified factors.
- (b) This second option required by the Regional Assembly, led to a Berkshire consultation on stakeholder engagement on the Provision of Caravan Sites for Gypsies & Travellers. This was sent to all Council Members and Parishes in Berkshire for their views. From this, external consultants were appointed to undertake a Berkshire Gypsy & Traveller Pitches Distribution Study.
- (c) The criteria from the study sought to protect and enhance the natural environment, including its biodiversity and landscape character, whilst making the best use of previously developed land. Access to services, education and employment are also key considerations. There is a presumption against inappropriate development in the Metropolitan Green Belt. The total number of new pitches for Berkshire remains the same at 78 pitches, as in Option A. Option B, however, amends the distribution to each unitary authority in Berkshire to take account of these factors. The distribution of the additional pitches was agreed at Berkshire Leaders' meetings.

This decision is not eligible to be 'called-in' as it has been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or associated Task Groups within the preceding six months.

If you have any queries regarding these decisions, please contact:
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