

Telford & Wrekin Local Plan: Examination in Public

Response to Inspector's questions of 6 February 2017

Policy HO9 – Gypsy and Traveller developments

EiP Reference: K16a

Gypsy & Traveller Developments

Can the Council please explain the justification for criterion (i) of Local Plan policy HO9? This does not appear in the criteria set out in paragraph 13 of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). Moreover, as para 11 of the PPTS makes clear, the relevant criteria are intended to apply where there is no identified need.

Can the Council also explain the justification for criterion (iii) of that policy? Do elements of this policy replicate more specific requirements in the other criteria? Also, it is unclear what 'dominate' means in this context.'

1. The Council considers that criterion (i) is appropriate to retain over the lifetime of the plan in the event that gypsy and traveller accommodation needs change or one of the existing sites close. Thus, the policy anticipates the theoretical possibility that there may be a need for more than 32 permanent pitches and at least 11 transit pitches in time to come or that another site would need to be found.
2. The Council drafted criterion (iii) mindful of the advice in the PPTS (para 10 (b)) that, in its plan-making function, it should relate the number of pitches to the specific size and location of a site and the surrounding population's size and density. The Council reads government advice as saying that gypsy and traveller sites should relate well to the surrounding community. This was why the Council proposed at Regulation 19 that a gypsy and traveller site should "*not dominate local settled communities by way of its size, population, density*".
3. However, on reflection, the Council accepts that this criterion should be amended (see below) to improve its readability, avoid repetition with other criteria and reduce potential ambiguities of interpretation:

(iii) The proposal does not **have a significantly adverse** ~~dominate local settled communities by way of its size, population, density and impact on local infrastructure.~~

Vincent Maher

MRTPI