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Our ref:
Your ref:
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Planning & New Communities
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Dear Gloria

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Examination: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

I refer to your letter of 24 April 2017 providing further comments from the Inspector in relation to her letter of 30 March and the Council's response of 10 April.

The Council notes the Inspector's further comments in relation to provision of sites for caravan dwellers and moorings for houseboats. We wish to assist the moving forward of the examination and the Inspector's letter is helpful in identifying some of the issues that she considers need to be addressed. Rather than extend the discussion through exchange of correspondence, we consider that it would be more effective to explore the issues raised through discussion at a forthcoming examination hearing, at which interested parties are able to participate fully and can be informed by the preparation of statements responding to matters and issues identified by the Inspector in advance, in the usual way.

The Council also notes the Inspector's comments about consultation on the Council's proposed modifications, put forward in response to the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2016 (GTAA), ahead of the hearing. Whilst the Council would never normally undertake consultation during the pre-election period, the Council is content to undertake a targeted consultation with those individuals and organisations that made representations to the Gypsy and Traveller policies in the Proposed Submission Local Plan consultation 2013, together with any other relevant interested parties. It is intended to send out letters this week and offering 28 days for parties to respond. It is considered, given the limited and focused nature of the matter to be consulted upon and having regard to the stage that the examination has reached, that a 28 day response period is reasonable and proportionate and that no prejudice should follow from such an approach.

The Council is also in contact with Mr Michael Hargreaves with a view to preparing a statement of common/uncommon ground (SCG) in relation to the GTANA, and are open to undertaking a similar process with other relevant organisations and parties that made objections to the Gypsy and Traveller policies H/19 to H/22. The Council considers that it may be most appropriate to complete the SCG in parallel with the preparation of statements once the Inspector's Matters and Issues for the hearing have been published.

I hope the Inspector considers this an appropriate way forward. We would be grateful for confirmation, as soon as possible, as to whether the Inspector is content with the approach set out above.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Hunt

Caroline Hunt
Planning Policy Manager