

**REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY – PLANNING FOR GYPSY & TRAVELLER
ACCOMMODATION (DRAFT POLICY)
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel
(Service Support))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8th April 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) considered a joint report by the Heads of Planning and Housing Services outlining the Council's suggested response to the draft policy by the East of England Regional Assembly on the numbers of gypsy & traveller pitches to be accommodated by each local planning authority as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2. THE PANEL'S COMMENTS

- 2.1 Having discussed the report, the Panel endorsed the recommendations as a practical and sensible approach to the draft. However, the Panel does have concerns about the potential for some authorities to object to the proposed allocation because they wish to make no or inadequate provision for gypsies and travellers. Any consequential re-distribution of pitches could adversely impact on Huntingdonshire's current proposed allocation.
- 2.2 The Panel was informed that the preparation of a Development Plan Document (DPD) to determine sites for gypsies and travellers in the District was unlikely to be finalised until some time in 2009 as part of the Local Development Framework. However the Panel was conscious of the potential difficulty in dealing with unauthorised encampments and determining planning applications in the interim and would suggest that the DPD should be developed as soon as practicable within the LDF timescale.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the comments of the Panel as part of its deliberations on the matter.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) held on 8th April 2008.

Regional Spatial Strategy Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation - Draft Policy. Joint Report by the Heads of Planning and Housing Services.

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