

**DRAFT PPS – PLANNING FOR TRAVELLER SITES
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 14th June 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Planning Services containing a recommended response to the Government's 'Planning for Traveller Sites' consultation. This report summarises the Panel's discussions.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has reviewed the proposed responses to the questions posed in the consultation document. In doing so, Members have discussed whether the same test of sustainability should be applied to travellers' sites and other housing sites. While they recognize public interest in applying planning requirements consistently, it may be the case that travellers regard sustainability differently owing to the fact that, by definition, they are inclined to travel, for example, for work purposes. In addition, Members have commented on the need for a more appropriate site operating model to be used. In particular, they are of the view that the new model should take into account how they address the issue of "separation" from the perspectives of both travellers and communities. Members have also supported the idea that sites should be limited in their size. It has been suggested that the Deputy Leader should make reference to these matters in any separate submission he may make to the Government.
- 2.2 Members have discussed a range of other issues relating to the provision of sites for travelers. As a result they have expressed an interest in receiving a report on the methodology that will be employed to determine travellers' needs and demand for sites. They have also accepted a suggestion that they should discuss the methodology with the County Council's research Officer who will be responsible for conducting the assessment.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

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