

Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) Policy re: Gypsy Transit Provision

The Planning Inspector has requested the following information:

It would be appreciated if the Council could prepare a short Note as requested setting out alternative options for making provision for transit needs in Rossendale (e.g. if the Sharneyford site option were not deemed to be acceptable). As discussed this may potentially involve several strands, for example, the adoption of a negotiated stopping policy (this would be a Council policy, not something determined by the Local Plan) and/or inclusion of a criteria-based policy in the Plan aimed at windfall transit sites or negotiated stopping sites.

The response from Rossendale BC is as follows:

If the Sharneyford site was not deemed to be acceptable, the Council would seek to make alternative provision to meet transit needs by:

- 1) The Full Council determining that a Council policy is adopted which the principle of negotiated stopping, in order to address the identified need for Gypsy Transit provision in the Borough. This would benefit (i) the Local Authority by reducing the amount of resources spent on moving Travellers on and (ii) Traveling groups by decreasing the number of evictions they experience. The Council would work with relevant parties to identify parcels of land that are unused, in good condition and appropriate for stopping.

- 2) The inclusion of a policy in the Emerging Plan which details the relevant planning criteria, in order to meet the identified need at windfall sites (*sites which become available for development unexpectedly and are therefore not included as allocated land in the Emerging Development Plan*) or sites identified for negotiated stopping. In terms of windfall sites, the relevant planning criteria within the policy would encompass access, infrastructure, environmental and site management issues. With regard to negotiated stopping, as explained above, the Council would seek to identify suitable sites for authorised stopping and implement the measures to successfully manage such temporary stopping places. Therefore, the planning policy would contain criteria relating to site management issues such as agreeing time periods for occupation, site hygiene and provision of refuse and sanitary facilities.