

**DCLG's  
Consultation  
'Planning &  
Travellers'**

**DLP BRIEFING NOTE 184**

Prepared by  
**DLP Planning Ltd**

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## **DLP Planning Consultants**

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## **Planning and Travellers Consultation**

In September 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published a consultation on proposed changes to planning policy and guidance relating to gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.

Current policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) which were both published in March 2012. The DCLG wants the planning system to treat both non-travellers and travellers fairly and equally, particularly when a site lies in a protected area, such as the Green Belt and has therefore proposed changes to policy.

### **Making the planning system fair for everyone**

The DCLG wish to change the current planning definition of both “gypsies and travellers” and “travelling showpeople” within PPTS and the Housing Act to remove travellers who have settled permanently from the definition. This would mean that only those who travel or have ceased temporarily would be considered as a “traveller” for planning purposes.


The consultation also proposes that intentional unauthorised occupation should be regarded by decision takers as a material consideration that weighs against the grant of permission.

### **Protecting sensitive areas and the Green Belt**

The proposals also seek to ensure that decision makers give the right protection to protected areas by changing Planning Policy for Traveller Sites to include sections from the National Planning Policy Framework. Significant proposed changes to Planning Policy for Traveller Sites includes:

- Paragraph 23 is proposed to be altered to give further clarification to the level of protection afforded to the open countryside by stating that “local planning authority’s should very strictly limit new traveller site development in open countryside”;
- Paragraph 25 currently allows need to be a significant material consideration in the granting of temporary planning permission, in instances where a Council cannot show they have an up-to-date supply of deliverable traveller sites to meet their needs over the next five years. The proposed change would mean the lack of an up-to-date five year supply of deliverable sites would be a material consideration rather than a significant material consideration;
- Amendments to Paragraph 25 are also proposed to clarify that the material consideration of need would not apply to Green Belt land and certain other sensitive areas such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty AONB.

If proposals become policy it is likely that similar principles could be applied to other development types such as housing and this could be potentially significant for proposals where 5 years supply or enforcement issues are critical.



DLP Planning Ltd have considerable knowledge of planning matters. Senior staff within the Practice are well versed with the planning process and policy changes, which allows us to deliver the best results for our clients. We have excellent working relationships with the Local Planning Authorities, making the process clearer and smoother for our clients. If you require any further advice regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact one of the offices listed below. Senior staff within the practice would be very happy to assist you with regards to your enquiry.

If you require more information or would like to discuss the issues mentioned in further detail please contact:

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