

Comments from Environment & Community Panel on 9th April 2024 to cabinet on 11th April 2024.

EC93: **CABINET REPORT - GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PREFERRED SITES**
- 30 MINUTES

Officers presented the report which explained that authority was needed to proceed with a further period of consultation on those proposed (allocated) sites for Gypsy and Traveller use. Evidence and feedback had been considered to identify the most appropriate locations to accommodate the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller provision.

The Chair thanked officers for their report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Crofts made reference to the titles of the wards in the report which were not accurate. He commented on his previous experience as Chair of Upwell Parish Council and Small Lode which was one mile long and with a number of sites concentrated in one area. He asked if the allocated sites were the tolerated sites, then what is the situation with planning permission.

The Senior Planning Officer responded that unauthorised or tolerated sites that did not have planning permission will be formalised where a direct need from the sites has arisen.

Councillor Crofts stated that the NPPF stated that there shouldn't be a high number of sites in one area and should not cause concern to other residents, he asked why there was such a high allocation in Small Lode.

The Senior Planning Officer advised that the number of sites proposed sites had been reduced in the Outwell/ Upwell area following consultation feedback.

Councillor Crofts stated families concerned were the same family and therefore would not be available for the open market. That Senior Planning Officer stated there was a direct need for those existing families on existing sites and the Council is seeking to make provision for these families.

Councillor Bearshaw asked made reference to unauthorised sites and questioned why they were now being permitted. The Assistant Director answered that material circumstances must be considered and planning circumstances into account before enforcement. The Senior Planning Officer added that once the local plan was updated this would make it easier to take action on unauthorised sites.

Councillor Lintern asked for confirmation that once The Local Plan had been adopted that any sites which were set up illegally would be enforced.

Assistant Director explained that it would be easier to enforce unauthorised sites not in the local plan.

RESOLVED: The Environment and Community Panel supports the recommendations to Cabinet, as set out below;

1. Endorses the revised Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Proposed Sites and Policy document, the Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Document, the associated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment for consultation.
2. Delegated Authority be granted to Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration and Assistant Director- Environment & Planning, to include minor amendments as required to consultation.