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PLEASE ASK FOR: David Clarke
DIRECT DIAL: 01684 862370
OUR REF: GTAA
DATE: 6 March 2015
E-MAIL: david.clarke@malvernhills.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

The South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council) welcome the opportunity to comment on the revised Shropshire Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

As background, the six Worcestershire District Councils (Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills Districts Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Wychavon District Council), together with Worcestershire County Council undertook a revised GTAA in 2013/14 which was published in November 2014. Prior to the publication of the Worcestershire GTAA the Districts held a Stakeholder Event at which there was representation from Shropshire Council.

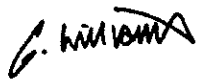
The South Worcestershire Councils consider that the methodology for assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the revised Shropshire GTAA is consistent with DCLG Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (2007) and the Government's proposed changes to national Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (CLG consultation, September 2014).

It is noted that the assessment of accommodation needs in the Shropshire GTAA takes pitch turnover into account. This is consistent with the approach in Strategic Housing Market Assessments (SHMA's) and the Government's proposed changes to national Planning Policy for Traveller Sites which indicates that pitch turnover is a source of information that local planning authorities can use in assessing Traveller accommodation needs. The approach is also consistent with the Worcestershire GTAA.

The Worcestershire GTAA indicated relatively little need for additional pitches / plots in the five years to 2018/19, but this is forecast to increase in the periods 2019/20 – 2023/24 and 2024/25 to 2028/29. The South Worcestershire Councils are currently in the process of preparing a Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and are not currently seeking Shropshire to meet any of our objectively assessed need.

The South Worcestershire Councils are grateful for this opportunity to comment on the revised Shropshire GTAA and recognise it is an important contribution towards the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Williams
Head of Planning, Economy and Housing, Malvern Hills District Council
(on behalf of the South Worcestershire Councils)