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LDP-EBD-BP6.1

Background Paper 6 - Gypsy and Traveller Site Search

Addendum - Update October 2020

Clarification of Need

The Background Paper explains how the Council's 2016 Gypsy Traveller Site Assessment (GTAA) was approved by Welsh Government. The Background Paper also refers to the findings of a subsequent update of the GTAA in 2018. Welsh Government have subsequently advised that the 2018 update of the GTAA is not able to be approved by Welsh Government as it was only a partial update and not a full GTAA. However, Welsh Government have confirmed that the 2016 GTAA is relevant and applicable for the Plan period and will suffice for plan preparation, as it remains the approved GTAA for Flintshire (see attached e-mail exchange below from Kate Rose, Gypsy and Traveller Policy Manager, Communities Division, Welsh Government'. The identified need for the County for residential pitches therefore remains at -5 pitches for the 5 year period and 19 pitches for the Plan period.

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Andy Roberts

From: Kate.Rose@gov.wales
Sent: 06 March 2020 15:40
To: Andy Roberts
Cc: Hannah.Fisher@gov.wales; John.Davies35@gov.wales; Adrian Walters; Katie H Jones; michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk
Subject: RE: Update of approved Flintshire GTAA

Dear Andy,

Having reviewed the extant approved GTAA ([online link](#)) I can confirm that in sections 5.48 and 5.49 the "plan period" calculations do refer explicitly to 2030. The current GTAA remains extant until a new GTAA is approved. I have consulted with colleagues in the Welsh Government Planning branch and I can confirm that the extant approved GTAA will suffice for LDP preparation.

We agree that it is unfortunate that use of the extant approved GTAA means that the additional need set out in the update you provided will not form part of the LDP. However, we understand that the LDP will not prohibit site development to meet any additional need evidenced in a future GTAA.

With kind regards
Kate

From: Andy Roberts <andy.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 February 2020 18:27
To: Rose, Kate (ESNR-ERA-Rural Payments Wales) <Kate.Rose@gov.wales>
Cc: Fisher, Hannah (EPS - Communities) <Hannah.Fisher@gov.wales>; Davies, John (EPS - Equality & Prosperity) <John.Davies35@gov.wales>; Adrian Walters <adrian.walters@flintshire.gov.uk>; Katie H Jones <katie.h.jones@flintshire.gov.uk>; 'Michael Bullock' <michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Update of approved Flintshire GTAA

Dear Kate

Thank you for your email regarding the Flintshire GTAA.

Given the last contact was July 2019 a lot has happened in the interim including the publication and consultation of the Deposit Flintshire LDP where in commenting on the GTAA, your development plan team colleagues have raised the issue of resolving the status of the GTAA update.

Whilst I have reviewed John's initial comments from last July they didn't really explain the basis for concerns or explain how the update didn't comply with guidance. Equally no formal request for clarification was subsequently sent despite being referenced in John's email.

It is clear that having allowed so much time to elapse before contacting us now, you have not allowed sufficient time for the Council to carry out a further full GTAA that will allow us to keep to our LDP delivery Agreement with Welsh Government. Neither do we have the resource given we had already committed to work by Arc4 our consultants who carried out the original GTAA and the 2018 update.

Given that John was essentially saying our 2018 update was not compliant, what would be the point of you now scrutinising the submitted GTAA if it is likely to fail? Equally you have not said what would be required to make it compliant. Also if you will not look at it until after April that will further disadvantage the Council in its ability to

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meet its obligation to Welsh Government in terms of the LDP Delivery Agreement and how the GTAA will support the LDP as evidence at examination later this year. To that extent you are placing us in a knowingly invidious position.

It would be good if you could simply confirm as soon as possible that the agreed GTAA is still current until 2021 when it is my understanding that it would require full review. On that basis it would serve as the evidence base for the LDP examination, notwithstanding that it shows a lesser need than that identified in the Update, which seems perverse to me.

I'm happy to discuss this further with you.

Regards Andy

Andy Roberts
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From: Kate.Rose@gov.wales [<mailto:Kate.Rose@gov.wales>]
Sent: 26 February 2020 12:21
To: Andy Roberts <andy.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Hannah.Fisher@gov.wales; John.Davies35@gov.wales; Adrian Walters <adrian.walters@flintshire.gov.uk>; Katie H Jones <katie.h.jones@flintshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Update of approved Flintshire GTAA

Dear Andy,

I'm just writing to provide you with a quick update on the process of scrutinising your submitted GTAA, as I appreciate that you will need to manage your own timescales. As you are aware, we are currently undertaking the annual progress and compliance review of all extent, approved GTAAs - an exercise which commenced late due to the previous staff resourcing situation and which should be complete by 1 April. We will therefore be prioritising the scrutiny of new GTAAs from 1 April. At this stage it's not possible to give an indication of how long scrutiny will take to complete, not least because additional Assessments are being submitted on an ongoing basis, however you can expect to hear from us in due course in the next financial year.

Mindful of the comments provided by John below, of which I am not aware of a response to, could you confirm you wish us to undertake formal scrutiny of the document submitted last year against the full requirements outlined in our guidance?

Regards,
Kate

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Kate Rose

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