

Northumberland County Council

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Your ID: 332903
Our Ref: GTTSLP & CFS
Enquiries to: Planning Policy Team
Telephone: 0345 600 6400
Email: PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk

Date: 13 October 2022

Dear Mrs Sarah Eden

Northumberland Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan

I am writing to update you regarding the Northumberland Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan (GTTSLP) which the Council is committed to preparing, and to inform you of a 'Call for Sites' which the Council is undertaking as part of this preparation.

Following an independent examination, the Northumberland Local Plan (NLP) was adopted on 31 March 2022. While the Inspector declared the NLP 'sound', and recommended its adoption, she concluded that the Council's evidence of the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers was not sufficiently robust and up-to-date. To address this, she required the Council to commit to undertaking a new Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTTSANA) and to then submit for examination a separate GTTSLP within 18 months of the date of adoption of the NLP, which provides for the needs identified.

A new GTTSANA has been prepared, which recommends that the Council makes provision for a number of transit sites to meet the identified needs of gypsies and travellers, and that reserve sites are identified to meet the need for additional permanent pitches, should this materialise.

In order to inform the allocation of sites in the GTTSLP to meet the identified accommodation needs, the Council is undertaking a 'call for sites'. This is your opportunity to put forward for consideration, any land that you think might have potential to help meet the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers, particularly for transit sites in the priority areas identified by the GTTSANA.

For further information about the GTTSLP and Call for sites, please visit the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan, where a proforma can be downloaded, if you wish to submit a site for consideration. Completed proformas should be returned to the Council by Friday 11 November 2022 to:

- Email: planningstrategy@northumberland.gov.uk, or
- Post: Planning Policy, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF.

Sites identified through this process, together with other possible sites the Council is already aware of, will be considered through a comprehensive site assessment and selection exercise. This will enable the Council to allocate the most appropriate sites to satisfy the identified needs, which it will set out in a draft GTTSLP which will be subject to consultation.

Yours faithfully

Rob Murfin
Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services
Northumberland County Council