

Matter 9 – Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show-People

9.1 Have those needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show-People been properly assessed?

1 The HBF does not wish to respond to this question at this time.

9.2 Does the Plan provide adequately for the needs of Gypsies and Travellers?

2 The HBF does not wish to respond to this question at this time.

9.3 Will Policy H5 be effective in meeting those needs?

3 The HBF has concerns in relation to part (b) of this policy, particularly in relation to the need for Strategic Allocations to meet the needs of those Gypsies and Travellers households that do not meet the planning definition set out in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. This requirement does not appear to have a basis in national policy or guidance and may lead to viability issues and increase the time taken to deliver these strategic sites. The HBF also has concerns that the policy will not be effective in meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers.

4 The HBF considers that further clarity is needed in relation to why provision is needed for those household no longer meeting the definition and why this would be a different type of provision to those that do meet the definition; whether a pitch on a strategic allocation is an appropriate location for these households particularly at the numbers proposed and how this relates to the types of provision or site that is needed by these households; what will happen to these pitches if no gypsy or traveller wishes to utilise them; and the management of these pitches. The HBF is also not clear why this policy has been amended within the composite modifications to strengthen the need for onsite provision unless proven unviable, which appears to reduce the flexibility of the policy and put further restrictions of both the homebuilders and the gypsy and traveller community. Sites that do not meet the needs of the Gypsy and Travelling community are unlikely to be taken up and may lead to issues on the strategic housing allocations.

9.4 Does the Plan provide adequately for the needs of Travelling Show-People?

5 The HBF does not wish to respond to this question at this time.

9.5 Will Policy H6 be effective in meeting those needs?

6 The HBF does not wish to respond to this question at this time.