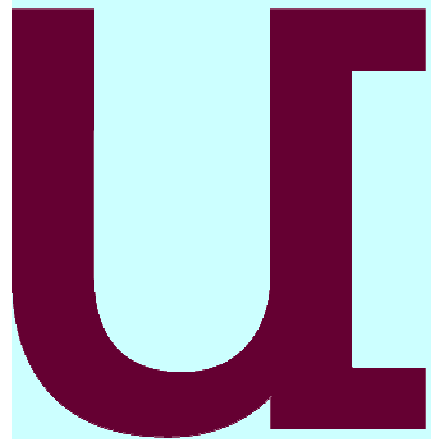
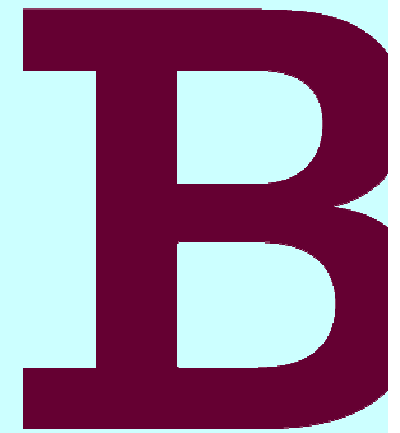


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The RSS Revision
Phase 3 Consultation
Process



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Outline

- Very brief background to the Revision task
- Explain how the work has been structured and how that leads into the Consultation questions
- Explain how the Options have been developed and their implications
- Describe the approach to the Consultation with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- Next steps and further reading

The objective

- The overall objective is to help you:
 - understand what has been done
 - understand the underlying principles
 - explain this to colleagues, elected members, Gypsies and Travellers and members of the public as necessary
- A step on the way to an informed Consultation to get feedback to develop the best policies possible for the Region

Background to the Revision task

- Circular 01/2006 (Gypsies and Travellers:
*‘The RSS revision should identify the number of pitches required (**but not their location**) for each local planning authority in the light of the GTAAs and a strategic view of needs across the region.’ (para 23)*
- Circular 04/2007 repeats this for plots for Travelling Showpeople

Structure of approach

- Considered three elements of requirements:
 - residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers 2007-2017
 - transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers 2007-2017
 - plots for Travelling Showpeople 2007-2012
- For each:
 - estimated regional requirements for additional pitches/plots
 - developed Options for their allocation between LPAs

Structure of approach continued

- 2007 taken as start date because that year was most frequently used as the base in sub-regional GTAAs
- A 10 year planning period for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision is the outcome of balancing robust needs estimates with a realistic implementation period
- A 5 year planning period for Travelling Showpeople plot provision reflects the greater difficulty of making robust estimates of requirements

Consultation questions

- The Consultation questions are therefore basically geared to numbers and allocation Options for residential and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople

Residential pitch requirements: regional total

- Regional total 2007-2017 = 939 pitches
- Source: 6 sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTAAs) carried out by LAs
- Minor adjustments needed to fill gaps and ensure consistent time frames
- Consultation will ask whether you agree with this figure, other evidence etc

Residential pitch requirements: allocation Options

- Three Options:
 - Option 1 – ‘need where it arises’
 - Option 2 – planning criteria
 - Option 3 – re-distribution for a more even spread

Option 1

- Source : sub-regional GTAAs with minor adjustments where necessary for completeness and consistency
- Precedent in South West
- Tends to reflect current pattern of provision, i.e. new provision is required in areas where provision has already been made
- Implications, e.g.:
 - help maintain current social and support links in Gypsy and Traveller communities
 - would not greatly increase areas of choice

Option 2

- Source : GTAAs + mapping exercise of planning constraints (e.g. flood risk, Green Belt, built-up areas) and opportunities (e.g. access to schools etc)
- 75% of requirements allocated on 'need where it arises', 25% according to the area's share of the regional opportunity footprint on unconstrained land
- Precedent in South East England

Option 2 continued

- The 'need where it arises' element reflects current Gypsy and Traveller communities; the opportunity/constraints element takes account of development potential
- Implications, e.g.:
 - some re-distribution of requirements especially into the rural west of the Region where there is more unconstrained land

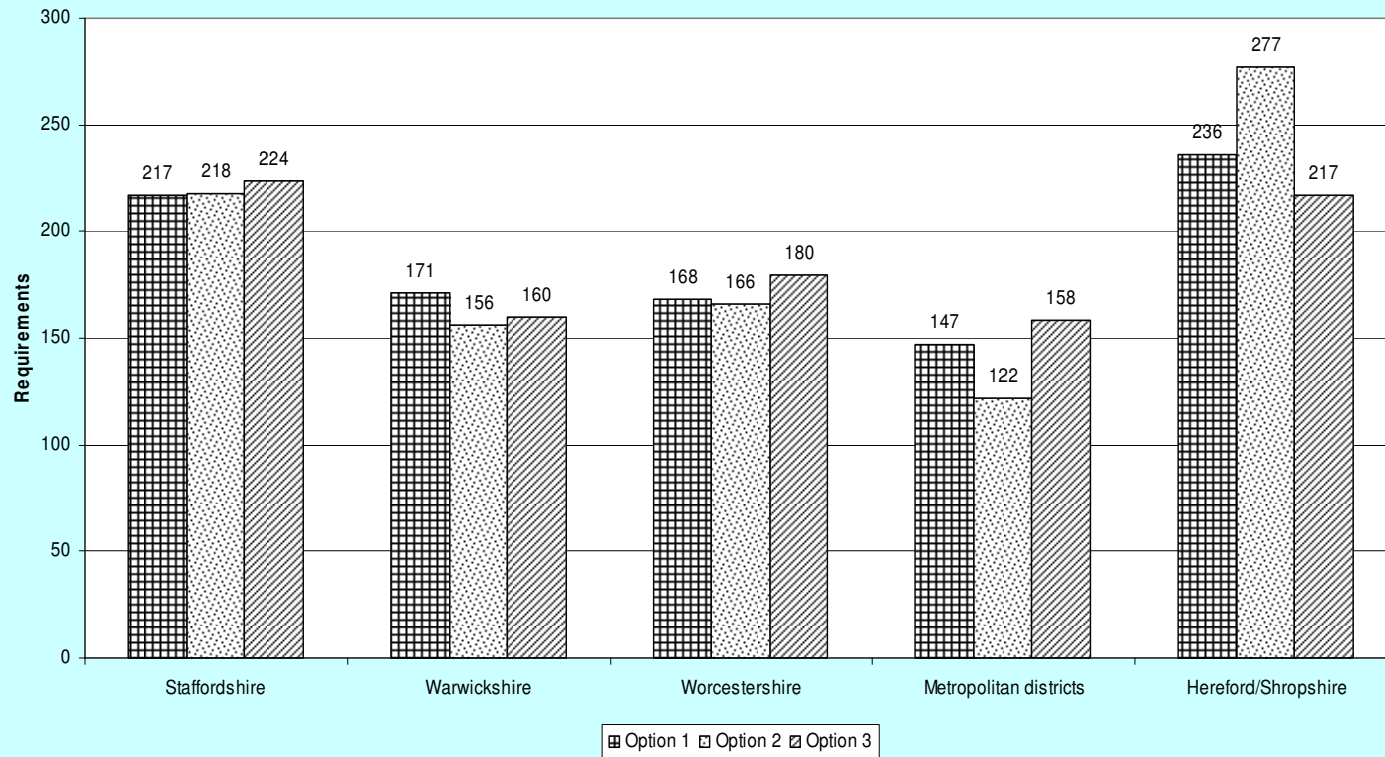
Option 3

- Source : an arithmetical re-distribution of pitch requirements according to consistent rules
- Minimum allocation of 14 pitches (a sustainable number avoiding undue isolation of families); pitches re-distributed from other areas to meet the minimum pro rata to the 'need where it arises' number – i.e. the higher the requirement, the greater the diversion
- Precedent in East of England

Option 3 continued

- Has the effect of reducing requirements in Shropshire/Herefordshire/Telford & Wrekin + Warwickshire and increasing requirements slightly elsewhere
- The effect at LPA level is more marked
- Implications, e.g.:
 - widens areas of choice for Gypsies and Travellers
 - provision more equitable, less concentrated in some areas

Figure 1 : Broad Geographical Pattern : Options 1, 2 and 3



Consultation questions

- Is there another Option which should be considered?
- Which of the Options do you prefer and why?

Transit pitch provision for Gypsies and Travellers

- Regional total 2007-2017 = 244 pitches (of all kinds including formal transit sites and stopping places)
- Source: 6 sub-regional GTAAs carried out by local authorities
- Minor adjustments needed to fill gaps and ensure consistent time frames
- Consultation will ask whether this number of pitches will meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers

Transit pitches - distribution

- Single geographical distribution
- Source : GTAAs with minor amendments
- All but 2 LPAs will get an allocation of transit pitches (and all urged to make provision)
- Aim to provide a comprehensive network to facilitate mobility
- Consultation will ask whether this will meet needs

Travelling Showpeople : numbers

- Regional total 2007-2012 : 118 plots
- Source : 6 sub-regional GTAAs carried out by local authorities
- Minor adjustments for consistency
- Involvement of the Showmen's Guild
- Consultation will ask whether this number of plots will meet the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople

Travelling Showpeople : allocation Options

- Allocation to 'county' level only (Shropshire/ Herefordshire/Telford & Wrekin; Staffordshire/ Stoke; Warwickshire; Worcestershire; Conurbation)
- Two options:
 - Option 1 : 'need where it arises'
 - Option 2 : re-distribution for a wider spread

Option 1

- ❑ Source : 6 sub-regional GTAAs
- ❑ Minor amendments for consistency and to take account of a site re-location
- ❑ Tends to reflect current patterns of provision
- ❑ Over half of additional plot requirements are in the West Midlands Conurbation

Option 2

- Source : GTAAs + advice from the Midlands Section of the Showmen's Guild + an arithmetical re-distribution at county level
- Reduces requirements in Conurbation and increases in Shropshire/Herefordshire/Telford & Wrekin and Warwickshire
- Potentially increases choice of locations for Travelling Showpeople

Consultation with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- Very important that the views of the Travelling communities are expressed
- Special approach being developed
- Consultation with Travelling Showpeople will take place with the assistance of the Showmen's Guild

Consultation continued

- Advance publicity in Travellers Times
- Special explanatory leaflet
- Aim to simplify questions to help response
- Regional 'leads' to signpost Gypsies and Travellers and explain how they can give their views

Consultation continued

- Up to 8 half-day sessions (focus group + one-to-ones) to explain the Options and record views. Plans advanced for:
 - Worcestershire
 - Warwickshire
 - Stoke
 - Telford
 - Herefordshire
- Encourage 'snowballing' and further response through word of mouth

Next steps

- Following the close of the Public Consultation period the Preferred Option will be prepared for submission to Government
- *Formal consultation*
- *Examination in Public*
- *Panel Report and Secretary of State's proposed changes*
- *Further consultation period*
- *Publication of the approved Regional Spatial Strategy*

Further reading

- Phase 3 Consultation Document – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Chapter:

[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Meetings and Agendas/Board of Directors/25 March 2009.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Meetings_and_Agendas/Board_of_Directors/25_March_2009.aspx)

- Housing Technical Appendix:

[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning and Regional Spatial Strategy/RSS Revision/RSS Revision Phase 3.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/RSS_Revision/RSS_Revision_Phase_3.aspx)