

# **RURAL PROOFING OF OPTIONS ON POLICIES FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE**

## **1.1 Introduction**

This paper presents the findings from rural proofing the draft options on policies on Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show People and is a key component for influencing the authors of the draft preferred RSS Spatial Option. In pro-actively assessing the development of the Policy Options for the RSS Phase Three Revision the following has been considered:

- Whether the various options are likely to have a potential different impact in rural areas/people or uncertainty from that elsewhere, because of the particular characteristics of rural areas; and
- Where necessary, exploring what adjustments or compensations might be made to reflect rural needs and circumstances and produce the desired outcomes in rural areas or avoid/mitigate any undesirable impacts. Where appropriate rural proofing may also highlight opportunities to maximise positive impacts in rural areas

The options and explanatory text have been appraised against the Commission for Rural Communities Guidance [published May 2009] and is designed to be used alongside other appraisal systems including the Sustainability Appraisal process.

Please note that the checklist is designed to complement and not substitute consultation with rural communities, businesses and organisations. It is meant to be applied from the early stages of policy making although it may also be used during implementation and evaluation.

## **1.2 Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

Phase Three seeks to review existing RSS policy for Gypsy & Traveller sites and the development of new RSS policy for the provision of travelling Showpeople.

The Options being considered are:

1. Need Where It Arises, based on Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments
2. Planning Criteria basis; based on a review of the environmental constraints and opportunities of each district
3. Re-distribution of existing provision, with a range of potential scenarios currently being investigated

## **1.3 Analysis**

In reviewing how rural issues relate to the policy options on Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, i.e. setting out the questions to be explored by the Rural Proofing process, the three options have been considered. The table overleaf highlights which issues are likely to be relevant.

**Table: Rural Proofing**

RP Topic	Will the option/proposal.....	O1	O2	O3	Comments
<b>Availability &amp; Provision</b>					
RP1: Availability of services	Affect the availability of public and private services?	√	√	√	<p>Where new pitches are allocated there may well be additional strain placed on existing service provision.</p> <p>It may be possible to suggest that there be some assessment of allocations in terms of links to services and where necessary give encouragement for additional funding allocation to maintain service standards</p> <p>Improve transport/accessibility to compensate for the additional requirements of the gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople if required</p>
RP2: Service Delivery	Be delivered through existing service outlets and how will you ensure rural residents can access services in areas where outlets are few and far between?	√	√	√	It may well be necessary to extend the scope and reach of mobile and outreach services to cater for their needs and careful assessment of the impacts on rural communities will be required.
RP3: Private sector involvement	Be delivered by the private sector or through a public-private partnership? Does the private sector in rural areas have the capacity to deliver?	√	√	√	Within each district new sites/land supply may well be supplied by the private sector or public-private partnership

<b>Delivery Costs</b>					
RP4: Cost of delivery	Be more expensive to deliver in rural areas where people are more widely dispersed or economies of scale harder to achieve?	√	√	√	It may be necessary to allow for higher unit delivery/development costs in funding formulae, taking into account the sparsity factor.
RP5: Local delivery	Rely on local institutions for delivery? Will the policy be as effective in rural areas?	√	√	√	Defined and delivered at District level.  It may be necessary to provide specific support for capacity building and it will be clearly important to see policies embedded in county and district LDDs
<b>Accessibility &amp; Infrastructure</b>					
RP6: Travel Needs	Affect travel needs or the ease and cost of travel? Will the impact be different in sparsely populated or remote rural areas, where typically journey times are longer, public transport is poor, and travel options are limited or expensive, especially for low income groups?	√	√	√	Not perhaps directly relevant but additional pitches and therefore numbers of people may place additional strain on already stretched or sparse service provision in rural areas.  Whilst many of these people place great emphasis on their independent way of life and self-sufficiency there may be the need to explore alternative transport solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reduce the need to travel by using mobile services, local delivery or telephone/internet;</li> <li>○ ease travel by co-ordinating or improving transport links</li> <li>○ alleviate the costs of travel by subsidising services or individuals</li> </ul>

<p>RP7: Infrastructure</p>	<p>Rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery? How will the policy work in rural areas, where the existing infrastructure is typically weaker (e.g. roads, electricity grid), some infrastructure doesn't exist (e.g. cable TV, mains gas) and upgrading of infrastructure may be difficult or expensive?</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>There may be a need here to consider and encourage the development of additional or improved infrastructure to support the pitch provision particularly in Districts where infrastructure is already weak or under stress.</p>
<p>RP8: Administrative Areas</p>	<p>Delivery of the policy be challenging at the edges of administrative areas?</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Encourage reciprocal sharing of service provision across administrative borders where this makes sense.</p> <p>Local and regional administrative boundaries - Note: additional needs of and impacts upon rural communities either side of the Welsh Border: Border Proofing Welsh and English policies and delivery to ensure minimal impact.</p>
<p>RP9: New buildings or development sites</p>	<p>Depend on new buildings or development sites? Where will these be located in rural areas, given that there are few brownfield sites and fewer locations where housing or other development will be acceptable?</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Clearly important to see policies embedded in county and district LDDs mapped and defined ensuring any development will contribute to local character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Pitches should be of the highest standards in terms of sustainable resource-efficient design and maintenance – ensuring prudent, efficient use of locally sourced materials where possible</p>

<b>Communications</b>					
RP10: Communication	Rely on communicating information to individuals and communities? How will they access information in rural areas, where there are fewer (formal) places to obtain advice and information?	√	√	√	<p>A clear communications policy encouraging the support from rural communities is essential. Failure to properly manage the communications process will have impact upon the stability and sustainability of rural communities.</p> <p>Equally it will be important to ensure equitable access to information in rural areas for those seeking pitches. Use of existing networks, specialist advisers, post offices and village halls linking up with other providers is advocated.</p>
<b>Economies</b>					
RP11: Impact on rural businesses	Impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed? Will it have a different effect on smaller businesses (which employ a greater proportion of the workforce in rural areas) or those sectors which are typically more significant in rural areas - farming and construction?	√	√	√	<p>Provided that the communications policy is effective, there should be a positive effect on rural businesses – many being able to offer temporary/seasonal employment opportunities</p>

<p>RP12: Impact on land-based industries</p>	<p>Have a particular impact on land-based industries and therefore on rural economies and environments? How will the policy affect the agricultural sector and the mining, extraction and water industries, which have a particular importance in many rural areas? Will there be a knock-on effect on the environment (given that 70% of the land is farmed)? Conversely, if the policy affects the environment, what are the implications for businesses based on natural resources such as tourism, leisure, renewable energy and food production?</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Likely to have a positive impact. However, the assessment of effects will be limited if options are only defined at District level.</p> <p>Identify 'win-win' solutions which deliver economic and environmental benefits. Where there are opportunities for employment allow for and encourage a diverse range of rural enterprises</p>
<p>RP13: Impact upon those on low income</p>	<p>Affect those on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment? For those who work in rural areas, wages tend to be lower on average and a higher proportion of the workforce is engaged in part-time or seasonal employment.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Likely to be relevant, particularly if the number of gypsies and travellers are (or perceived to be displacing the local workforce. Do encourage investment in raising rural communities' skills, improved local childcare and improved transport to work opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Disadvantage</b></p>					
<p>RP14: Disadvantaged Groups</p>	<p>To be targeted at the disadvantaged? How will it target disadvantage in rural areas, which is not usually concentrated in neighbourhoods? Do the indicators to be used for identifying need measure deprivation issues that are particular rural features (e.g. access to services, access to job opportunities, low earnings and housing affordability)?</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Very relevant.</p> <p>Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities, including jobs and learning.</p>