

Housing Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridge

Presentation to the Equalities
Panel

14th June 2010



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Some Statistics

- English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic minorities under the Race Relations Act 1989
- Around 6,500 - 7,000 Gypsies and Travellers live in Cambridgeshire - many have historic links with the county
- Over 50% of Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire live in houses



Issues for Gypsies and Travellers

- Lower life expectancy than the settled community
- Higher child mortality
- Higher levels of mental health problems - stress and anxiety
- Lower educational achievement at all Key Stages
- Discrimination and harassment
- Importance of good quality settled accommodation



Existing Accommodation

- Some sites in South Cambridgeshire
- No sites in the City
- Have some Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar



Housing Need & Local Plan

Cambridge Sub-Regional Traveller Needs Assessment 2005/2006:

- 15 pitches required in the City - Emergency Stopping Place

Local Plan 2006:

- Permits the development of a temporary stopping place where there is demonstrable need for it (plus other conditions)



East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)

- 15 permanent pitches required by 2011, and 28 by 2021
- Transit provision shared with South Cambs
- But RSS and Targets being abolished



Work to Date

- Traveller Steering Group
- Prior to the RSS we were seeking Transit provision
- Have then been looking at how we might meet regional targets for permanent site provision



Work to Date (contd...)

- Ethnic monitoring of tenants, and applicants on Home-Link register
- Draft Site Assessment and Design Guide as part of evidence base for Local Development Framework
- Joint discussion with South Cambs officers on site requirements and provision, as appropriate, in urban extensions
- Communications plan



County-Wide

- Land search
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Review of Traveller Needs Assessment (also looking at needs of Travelling Show People)
- County-Wide Strategy



What Next Nationally ?

Coalition Government Programme:

- Planning reform, with local authorities and public to have more say on development in their communities
- But: Funding cuts

Conservative Green Paper 'Open Source Planning':

- LAs will still have a role to ensure provision of sites to meet needs in their areas
- Where Councils have made appropriate provision, they will be provided with stronger enforcement powers to tackle unauthorised development and illegal trespass

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What Next for Cambridge?

- Progress on county-wide work
- Review of Traveller Needs Assessment (desktop)
- Lead required from Traveller Steering Group



Any Questions?



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