

Council 15 February 2024 Written Questions and Answers

5. Cllr Elliot Tong

To Councillor Wade the Executive Councillor for Communities

What steps has the council taken to investigate the adoption of a Leeds style negotiated stopping places <https://www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk/> for the GRT communities?

Response:

Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils have commissioned Arc4 to carry out an assessment of accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Show people and caravan & houseboat dwellers. Work started around March 2023. We are expecting a draft report shortly, with a final report in the spring. We will need to assess the draft to understand whether there is further work to be done.

Officers have been looking at how a negotiated stopping approach might work locally and have also been working with Planning colleagues on how permanent sites might be brought forward through the planning process.

A Steering Group is in place with a remit to identify potential accommodation sites, and to work together to find solutions where it is found that there is a lack of legal sites and stopping places. The Steering Group includes an elected Member from each of Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Councils.

Work through these groups has been put on hold temporarily but will start again once the results of the assessment are known, subject to what need is identified.