Inspector’s Question

**LP33 does not allocate sites for gypsies, travellers or travelling showpeople (GTTS). Has the Council produced a topic paper/document explaining its approach to meeting the identified need for GTTS accommodation, particularly in light of the Inspector’s report and modifications for the Site Allocations Local Plan 2016? If so can the Council direct me to where I might find this information please?**

Hackney’s Response

Hackney is committed to meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers. This response highlights key evidence and details the Council’s on-going actions to plan for and deliver new pitches in the borough, since the adoption of the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) in 2016.

There are five permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites comprising 27 pitches within the London Borough of Hackney. All of these are owned and managed by Hackney Council. Three of the sites (22 pitches) are situated in the area covered by Hackney as the Planning Authority. The other two sites (with five pitches) fall within the area for which the London Legacy Development Corporation currently have planning powers.

Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (SD ED033) demonstrates that for the period 2016-2033 there is a need for 8 pitches based on the Government’s definition. The need for the first five years of the plan period is 6 pitches with a further need for 2 pitches between 2028-2033.

**Bartrip Street Site Allocation**

The identified need (SD ED033) can be met through the Bartrip Street site allocation (LP33 paragraph 7.35 SD01). The Bartrip Street site is located within the London Borough of Hackney and is within the LLDC’s planning area. Following extensive cross working with Hackney’s planning team, it is currently allocated in the LLDC adopted Local Plan and the LLDC’s new Local Plan (SD058) (currently at examination) to provide around 9 pitches. An agreement has been reached between LLDC and Hackney, confirming that Hackney would have the nomination rights to the new pitches.

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1 The LLDC is a Mayoral development corporation, established in 2012 to replace the Olympic Park Legacy Company. It has the power to prepare plans and determine planning applications in its administrative area which includes Hackney Wick. It also covers parts of the London boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. When the LLDC is dissolved, the powers will return to the host authorities.

2 Annex 1 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (CLG) August 2015
The site is publicly owned by Transport for London and discussions with the landowner have been on-going since 2016 to ensure that the site continues to be recognised as a vital site in meeting the needs of gypsy and travellers instead of being put forward for conventional housing. Within Hackney, there is strong Officer and Member commitment to delivering this site allocation and regular meetings have been held with partners including TfL, LLDC, GLA Housing and GLA Housing and London Gypsy and Traveller Unit (Duty to Cooperate Statement (SD07)).

Paragraph 1.6.9 of the Statement of Common Ground between Hackney and the LLDC (ED055) re-affirms Hackney’s commitment to delivery:

“Gypsies and Travellers – agreed regular monitoring and review of need and provision through the Planning Policy Forum and specific cooperation with Hackney Council to progress [with] delivery of the Local Plan Bartrip Street site allocation (SA1.7). The development of the site will contribute to meeting identified need arising from Hackney for gypsy and traveller accommodation.”

Further evidence of Hackney’s commitment to the delivery of the Bartrip Street site, can be found in the correspondence between Hackney Council’s Cabinet Member for Housing Services and the Mayor of London (ED056).

Based on the new Draft London Plan’s proposed regional approach and more inclusive definition of gypsy and travellers, the Council will work with the GLA to explore ways to meet the needs of gypsy and travellers. This will include looking at options for provision through general needs housing for those seeking permanent housing. The Council will also explore further options through the Council’s new approach to area based planning guided by the Place Policy chapter of LP33 (SD 01) and through the consideration of ways to optimise the use of the five Council-owned existing sites safeguarded under policy LP33 policy 23 Part B.

The GLA in response to LP33 has confirmed their support for the delivery of Bartrip Street to contribute towards meeting the needs of both Hackney and the LLDC (ED059).

**Conclusion**

The most recent evidence on need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation concludes that 6 pitches are required in the first five years of the plan period. This need, alongside the five year need arising from LLDC area, can be met in full through the Bartrip Street Site Allocation which falls within the London Borough of Hackney albeit within the LLDC planning area.

The Council’s priority is to work with partners to ensure that the Bartrip Street site progresses to delivery. In addition to this Hackney will continue to explore options to meet the more inclusive and wider definition of gypsy and travellers following the outcome of the London Plan examination and publication of the new London Plan.

**Ends**