Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Examination

Note on proposed modifications to SCLP5.17 Gypsies and Travellers

1. This note responds to the Inspector’s post hearings letter dated 31st January 2020 and also the Inspector’s comments within the first review of the table of modifications that has been prepared by the Council to identify amendments to the plan.

2. Following the hearing session on Wednesday 21st August on Matter 2B Provision for Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers, the Council submitted a note to the Inspector proposing modifications to Policy SCLP5.17 Gypsies and Travellers (Note on Provision for Gypsies and Travellers, Document I9).

3. The note referred to an existing need for permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers being met by long established, unauthorised sites. The Inspector’s letter states that these sites could be included in the existing supply as they are meeting present needs. The Council therefore proposes the following further modifications.

4. Modifications are shown in strikethrough for deleted text and in underline for additional text. The proposed further modifications are shown in grey shading. The Council will include these revisions in the schedule of modifications that has been collated as part of the Examination.

Further modification to proposed new paragraph after paragraph 5.90:

“The Accommodation Needs Assessment identified that the need for 10 of the 15 pitches relates to existing developments being unauthorised. National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out the Government’s aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments. In this respect, the Council will engage with the relevant landowners and occupants with a view to establishing a way in which appropriate use of the site can be regularised. On this basis it is identified that over the Plan period there is a need for a further 5 new pitches.”

Further modification to Policy SCLP5.17:

“The Council will support the provision of permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, to meet the needs identified through the 2017 Accommodation Needs Assessment as set out below:
a) Provision of 15 new pitches to meet the needs for permanent accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers;

b) Provision of 2 plots to meet the needs for Travelling Showpeople.