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The Guildhall
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10 April 2017

Dear Miss Graham,

Cambridge Local Plan Examination

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

I refer to your letter dated 30 March 2017 to South Cambridgeshire District Council with regard to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016 (GTAA) (RD/Strat/221). Your letter also invites a brief account from Cambridge City Council on this issue.

The Council recognises it has a statutory duty in its capacity as a local housing authority to consider the needs of people residing or resorting to their district with respect to sites for caravans and the mooring of houseboats given recent amendments to the Housing Act 1985 through the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

In Cambridge, there are currently no authorised Gypsy or Traveller sites and no authorised Travelling Showpeople yards. For Cambridge, there were only two Gypsy or Traveller households identified in the recent GTAA, both living on a mobile home park not conditioned for occupancy by Gypsies and Travellers. Neither household has any identified current or future accommodation needs. There were no Travelling Showpeople households identified in Cambridge. As a result of this information, the GTAA did not identify any need for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Cambridge. For those living in caravans, who do not fall within the definition of Gypsies and Travellers, their needs are included within the wider housing need work carried out by the Councils.

Cambridge City Council has a criteria-based policy on Gypsies and Travellers. If any proposals for such development came forward, they would be assessed against the criteria in Policy 49. In the case of caravan dwellers, who do not fall within the definition of Gypsies and Travellers, the Council would consider applications on their merits, taking into account the specific constraints of the development site.

Cambridge City Council also does not intend to submit further modifications in respect of this matter in advance of a hearing.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Gilbert-Wooldridge

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