Gypsies’ and Travellers’ Accommodation

The Council’s evidence base on accommodation requirements for gypsies and travellers indicates that there is a requirement for 27 additional pitches to be provided within the next 5 years (2018-2023) (Partial Review of the Lancashire GTAA, January 2014).

The 5 Year Requirement 01 April 2018 – 31st March 2023 (including backlog from previous years)
27 additional pitches.

Land Supply for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

There is currently 1 site with outstanding planning permission for gypsy and traveller accommodation at Sandy Lane, Darwen which will provide the equivalent of 2 pitches (4 caravans).

The Council’s preference is for the required additional provision to be made through the creation of one or more privately-owned and operated sites. The Council intends to be proactive in working with landowners and the gypsy and traveller communities to bring forward development to meet this objective. If and when planning permissions are granted through this process, these will contribute towards meeting the required 5-year land supply.

The Council is also considering how best to use its own land resources to contribute towards the 5-year land supply for gypsy and traveller accommodation. In the first instance, this would take the form of an expansion of the existing Council-managed travellers’ site at Ewood in Blackburn. This would take place on land that is owned by the Council, which has the potential to accommodate approximately 20 additional pitches. This approach has been found sound through the adoption of the Local Plan Part 2.

Hence the deliverable land supply for gypsy and traveller accommodation is as follows:

Five Year Supply Conclusions:

- Total Requirement 2018-2023 (including backlog from previous years) = 27 pitches;
- Annualised Requirements 2018-2023 = 5.4 pitches;
- Total Supply 2018-2023 = 22 pitches (2 pitches with planning permission at Sandy Lane + 20 pitches as part of Ewood expansion)

Total years potential land supply (total supply/annualised requirement): 4.1