



Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Consultation: DSD design Guide for Travellers' Sites

Date: 20 June 2013

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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council has been asked to respond to DSD's Design Guide for Travellers' Sites. This guide covers Serviced Sites, Transit Sites and Emergency Halting Sites.
1.2	<p>The guide provides advice on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site Location / Selection - Relationship to Surrounding Land Use - Health and Safety Considerations - Size and layout of the Site - Site Boundaries - Size of Pitch - Layout of Pitches - Orientation of Pitches - Access for Emergency Vehicles - Children's Play Area - Car parking - Site Security - Landscaping - Hard Standing - Amenity Building - Communal Facilities (where provided) - Lighting - Postal Arrangements - There are no specific questions for the consultation. - Waste Disposal, Scrap and Storage - Space for Work and Animals - Scope to Provide Essential Services - Water supply - Electricity supply - Connection points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gas supply

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil fired central heating - Drainage - Sewerage - There is specific guidance on consultation about sites.
1.5	There are no specific questions for this consultation, we have just been asked to comment on the document.
1.6	The Full proposal is attached in Appendix 1 and available online: http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations/design-guide-for-travellers-consultation.htm
1.7	We were made aware of the consultation on 4 May 2013 and comments are required to be returned by the 19 July 2013.
1.8	The consultations document was distributed to Officers across Council and their responses have been included in the provisional draft response attached as Appendix 2.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Most of the proposals seem sensible and in line with Council's current approach.
2.2	<p>However there are some aspects of the draft proposal that could be improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The guidance lacks detail compared to the DOE original guidance. - The document contains some factual errors relating to Council's statutory duties in previous years. - Some guidance is overly prescriptive and does not allow sufficient flexibility, which make suitable locations unworkable. - Some references to the role of Council are not made clear. In some cases there is an implication of statutory responsibility for Councils where none actually exists. - Some of the health and safety guidance seems unnecessary onerous. - Some of the definitions could be improved.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications attached to this report. There may be longer term implications if the Council decides to adopt some of the recommendations.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations implications attached to this report. However, the guidance should produce a positive impact for Travellers.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the draft Belfast City Council (BCC) response to the consultation and raise any additional issues, relating to the consultation document, that they would like to be included.

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 "DSD design Guide for Travellers' Sites." Appendix 2 "Consultation: Draft Response DSD design Guide for Travellers' Sites."	