



Dover District Local Plan

**Planning and Development
Council Offices
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Dover
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Inspectors Birkenshaw and Coyne
(By Email only, via Programme Officer)

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Date: 24th July 2023

Dear Inspectors Birkenshaw and Coyne

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – Gypsy and Traveller need for pitches.

Dover District Council recently provided evidence to an Enforcement Notice Appeal and corresponding planning appeal: *APP/X2220/C/22/3313856* and *APP/X2220/W/22/3305480* for a retrospective Gypsy and Traveller site at Rose Farm, Westmarsh Drove, Westmarsh, Kent, CT3 2DD.

It came to our attention that the Council has misinterpreted the cultural need for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the 2018 Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (GTAA), which has resulted in the submitted Plan identifying a need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches which is higher than the evidence concludes. The attached update note (Appendix 1) explains the Council's updated position in this regard and includes an update to the supply position to the end of the latest monitoring period (31st March 2023).

As a result of this, the Council considers that modifications should be made to Policies SP3, H3 and H4, to ensure the Plan is justified by the evidence. Proposed modifications to the policies (SP3, H3 and H4) are attached (Appendix 2), setting out the correct position based on the actual cultural need.

If the Inspectors do not consider the changes are needed to make the plan sound, the update note also provides an updated supply position and evidence that the higher level of need identified in Submitted Plan can be met during the plan period through the identified intensifications, extant consents and windfall permissions.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Taylor MRTPI
Planning Policy and Projects Manager