

## Annex D: Consultation Arrangements Update

The secretariat is developing a multi-tiered approach to consultation, through guidance from the members steering group, liaison with chief executives and planners, as well as with input from the officer working group.

The consultation process will test the four pitch distribution options and allow further evidence to be gathered, to make sure new pitches are allocated where they are actually needed and wanted. Consultation is NOT a re-run of the GTAA needs assessments, but it is likely that additional evidence will also be provided which may help us decide if the total number of pitches identified is broadly right.

### Regional Level

The Assembly is working on the following materials that will be made available to local authorities free of charge in hardcopy as well as online:

- Consultation documents (in hard and electronic copy)
- Consultation questionnaire (in hard and electronic copy)
- DVD outlining consultation process, giving public views and illustrating the problems caused by lack of pitches
- Q&A factsheets
- Resource pack for authorities (sample editorial for council magazine, advert, photos, logos etc)

We will provide website information that authorities can link to, and we will send out one or more regional level press release(s) to raise awareness of the consultation process.

We will also work be working with Gypsy and Traveller community groups to help us consult with gypsies and travellers themselves. We may include an audio CD explaining consultation process and options.

A number of areas are yet to be determined, as our final decision will depend to some extent on the range of local consultation that authorities are able to offer (see below). Depending on this feedback, we will consider:

- Small number of Assembly-hosted stakeholder/ member workshops (TBC)
- Small number of Assembly-hosted public meetings (say 3-4 events TBC )
- Possibly public opinion polling.

### Local Support Needed

There is emerging support for a two-tier approach. There is a basic level of support that we would expect **all** councils to commit to. We would then work with a smaller number of authorities prepared to take a more active role, to deliver an acceptable range of local events. Funding support funding would be targeted to these authorities.

Basic commitment from all authorities:

- Commitment to an editorial in council newsletter/magazine;
- Consultation information on council website;
- Public inspection copies of consultation documents;
- Promote awareness of consultation through own contacts with Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
- Ensure the Local Strategic Partnership is aware of the consultation and facilitate LSP discussion.

For authorities agreeing to more active involvement (with funding support):

- Local events – format to be agreed between authorities and the Assembly but PPS11 compliant (eg public meetings or exhibitions). We are aiming for 20-25 events across the region, organised by advice groupings.
- Promotion of local events including invitations to key target audiences and local press releases.