

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Consultation

What consultation?

The South East England Regional Assembly is holding a public consultation on options for allocating new Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches across the region. The consultation runs for 12 weeks from 1 September to 21 November 2008.

What is a pitch?

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites are made up of a number of individual caravan pitches. There is no national definition for what size a pitch should be. On average, usage is approximately 1.7 caravans per pitch. Government guidelines say there should not normally be more than 20 pitches to a site. Smaller sites of 6-12 pitches are the most commonplace, often accommodating one extended family.

How many pitches are needed?

The consultation is seeking views on the proposed number of pitches to be distributed across the South East. Council advice, based on technical assessments, suggests that an extra 1,064 pitches are needed for Gypsies and Travellers in the region by 2016, with up to another 276 pitches needed for Travelling Showpeople.

What are the options for distribution?

We also want views on four options for how these new pitches should be spread across the region:

Option A

New spaces should ALL be provided as close as possible to where Gypsies and Travellers currently live. This may mean some council areas have no spaces.

Option B

New spaces should ALL be in the same general areas where Gypsies and Travellers currently live. Neighbouring councils would share the duty for providing new spaces but some council areas would have none.

Option C

HALF the new spaces should be in the same general areas where Gypsies and Travellers currently live. The other half would be spread across the region to make sure that all areas provide some spaces.

Option D

MOST new spaces should be in the same general areas where Gypsies and Travellers currently live. A quarter would be spread across the region to make sure that all areas provide some spaces.

What happens next?

The public consultation will inform the Assembly's decision on a broad allocation of pitches across the region. The specific location for new sites and pitches will be decided by local authorities through their local development frameworks.

The Assembly decision will form recommendations to Government in April 2009 on the number and spread of new pitches. Government will then run a consultation on these recommendations.

Government consultation will be followed by hearings led by independent inspectors allowing regional organisations to give their views on the Assembly's recommendations.

The inspectors then make recommendations to Government on any changes they feel are needed to the Assembly's proposals. This will be followed by further Government consultation on any proposed modifications ministers feel are needed after the inspectors' recommendations are reviewed.

A final report is expected from Government in summer 2010.

For more information visit: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/consultations

Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Options

The table below shows how Gypsy and Traveller pitches could be allocated across the region through each option:

County grouping and Authority	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
	Need as arises	Local sustainability	50% pooled	25% pooled
Berkshire	78	78	78	78
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	113	113	122	117
East Sussex	47	47	59	53
Hampshire, Isle of Wight	100	100	205	153
Kent	320	320	241	281
Oxfordshire	42	42	88	65
Surrey	163	163	118	140
West Sussex	201	201	153	177
SOUTH EAST	1,064	1,064	1,064	1,064

Travelling Showpeople Pitch Options

The table below shows how Travelling Showpeople pitches could be allocated across the region through each option:

County grouping and Authority	Option A*	Option B	Option C	Option D
	Need as arises		50% pooled plus share of 42	25% pooled plus share of 42
Berkshire	4	N/A	14	11
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	21	N/A	31	28
East Sussex	0	N/A	11	7
Hampshire, Isle of Wight	129	N/A	107	124
Kent	10	N/A	30	23
Oxfordshire	7	N/A	24	18
Surrey	58	N/A	40	51
West Sussex	5	N/A	19	14
SOUTH EAST	234		276	276

* Excludes 42 Travelling Showpeople families not currently counted by any county