DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL DARLINGTON LDF CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

Proposed Minor Changes: CS13 Accommodating Travelling Groups

27th January 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 This note sets out further proposed minor amendments, to provide clarification in relation to the development of both allocations and windfall sites.

2. Response to issue regarding the inclusion of windfall sites within the policy

It is the intention of CS13 to provide overarching guidance and criteria for the allocation of new sites to provide for an identified need. It is also the intention that any planning applications that are submitted for windfall sites are also determined against the criteria set out in the policy. This was provided for in paragraph 6.4.3 of the reasoned justification text. However, further to discussions between the Inspector, representors and the Council, it was agreed that clarification would be helpful, within the policy itself, so that there was no suggestion that the policy excluded windfall sites. The Council is in agreement with this and considers it to be a minor change that would not require further consultation. On this basis, minor changes to the wording of the policy are suggested below.

3. The minor changes proposed

3.1 It is proposed that the first paragraph of the policy should be amended to read:

'Provision will be made for travelling groups at the existing sites of Honeypot Lane, Neasham Road and other small sites within the Borough. Where required, additional sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, will be allocated in accordance with the following criteria, which will also be the basis for determination of windfall sites, ensuring that sites:'

3.2 To reiterate this clarification in reasoned justification, it is proposed that the first sentence of paragraph 6.4.3 should be amended to read:

'This policy identifies the locational criteria for the provision of pitches for the Gypsy and Travelling Show people communities that will be used to guide the allocation of sites to meet identified needs in the Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document (DPD) and will be applied in considering planning applications for the development of windfall sites'.

3.3 Also suggested, in the written statement from Ward Hadaway (CD023) was that the final sentence of the policy starting 'Preference will be given firstly to locations within and then...' should start with 'In allocating sites'. The Council does not agree to this change as the policy applies to windfalls as it does to allocations.

END