NFDC19: Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople
(Further proposed changes to be tabled at the Hearing session)

2.55 Core Strategy Policy CS16: Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople sets out criteria for determining locations for gypsy, traveller and showpeople sites.

2.56 Since the Core Strategy was prepared the planning framework for gypsy and traveller sites and for sites for travelling showpeople has changed. The partial review of the South East Plan, as referred to in Core Strategy Policy CS16 has been abandoned. Revised Government advice is that provision in Local Development Frameworks should be based on local assessments of need rather than figures handed down through regional plans. New Forest District Council took part in the following local assessments of need:

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (June 2007); and
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (March 2008).

2.57 Based on these assessments, and having regard to the aims and objectives of the Core Strategy, this Plan makes provision for around 8 additional pitches for gypsies and travellers. Whilst there is no specific requirement or target for the Plan Area, this provision more than meets the identified need for the whole of the District (including the National Park) for 5 pitches up to 2016. The need for further long term provision will be considered in due course in the light of the findings of a joint re-assessment of needs with other Hampshire planning authorities. The new assessment is due to report in Spring 2013 and will look ahead to 2022. If the assessment indicates that further new provision is needed within the plan area, this will be addressed in a partial review of this plan.

2.58 As the level of new provision required is small it does not justify the allocation of new sites in the Plan Area, as the need can be met through an extension of and increase in the capacity of the existing site at Little Testwood Farm Totton (See Policy TOT10, Section 3).

2.59 With regard to travelling showpeople, up to an additional 5 plots is required. It is considered that the best approach is to be responsive to proposals from travelling showpeople based on the criteria set in Policy CS16 of the Core Strategy. It is understood that this is also the favoured approach of the travelling showpeople community.