

**Gloucester City Plan (2011-2031)**  
**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

**between**

**Gloucester City Council**  
**Cheltenham Borough Council**  
**Tewkesbury Borough Council**  
**Cotswold District Council**  
**Forest of Dean District Council**

**10th May 2021**

**1. Introduction and background**

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and Forest of Dean District Council, referred to hereafter as ‘the parties’. It documents the current position and future work regarding planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities within Gloucestershire.

**2. Matters that are agreed**

2.1 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS, 2015) sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites, which should be read alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019). PPTS requires local authorities to undertake an assessment of need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities and, working collaboratively with other local authorities, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites over a reasonable timescale.

2.2 The parties, together with Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, worked in partnership in commissioning a county-wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), which was published in 2017, setting out needs between 2016 and 2031. The GTAA was prepared by an independent planning consultant, Opinion Research Services (ORS) and forms part of the evidence base supporting Local Plans for district authorities in Gloucestershire (Submission Document HOU004).

2.3 It is recognised that Gloucester City has a tightly drawn local authority boundary, with significant planning constraints and a limited land supply. It is accepted that there are no deliverable sites within the administrative area of Gloucester City and that consequently, there are currently unmet needs relating to the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. It is therefore necessary to consider how neighbouring authorities can assist with addressing these unmet needs.

2.4 The parties have and will continue to work collaboratively on strategic cross-boundary planning matters and to satisfy the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate, including those relating to Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople matters, through the preparation and review of evidence and Local Plans.

### **Future work**

- 2.5 At the time of writing the parties and Stroud District Council, working in collaboration with Gloucestershire County Council, are in the process of procuring a consultant to update the GTAA, which will re-base needs from 2021. It is anticipated the final report will be issued to the authorities September/October 2021.
- 2.6 Following this, the parties and Stroud District Council have agreed to work in partnership to commission a consultant to undertake a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Assessment Study (SAS). The SAS is being staggered behind the update to the GTAA to allow for the consideration pitch/plot delivery against identified needs.
- 2.7 The parties recognise that it may be necessary to identify sites to provide for unmet Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople need in neighbouring local authorities, where possible and appropriate, when justified through a shortage, or lack of any suitable/deliverable sites to provide for that need where it arises.
- 2.8 This is reflected in the emerging Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground, relating to strategic planning matters in the county. It has been prepared in partnership between the six district authorities, Gloucestershire County Council, and the Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. The draft statement includes an agreement to make provision for the full range of housing needs in the right places and the right times, including Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. It further recognises that it may result in a local authority accommodating the needs of another local authority, where a local authority is unable to accommodate the development in their own administrative area and where it represents the most sustainable form of development.
- 2.9 The Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground is in the final stages of preparation and will be put to each local authority for approval over the coming months.

### **3. Matters that are not agreed**

- 3.1 None

### **4. Conclusion**

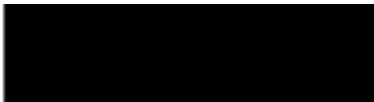
- 4.1 The parties agree that:
  1. Gloucester City has a tightly drawn local authority boundary, with significant planning constraints and limited land supply, and that there are currently no deliverable site opportunities to provide for that need in the administrative area of Gloucester City Council. The City Council will continue to actively investigate opportunities to meet unmet needs within the administrative area, where they arise.
  2. In satisfying the Duty to Cooperate, the parties have and will continue to work in partnership and collaborate to identify needs and sites to provide for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community, including on a cross-boundary basis where justified and where it represents the most sustainable form of development, through Local Plan reviews.
  3. Gloucester City Council has complied with the Duty to Cooperate in preparing the Gloucester City Plan through the various stages to date.

**Signed on behalf of Gloucester City Council**



**Ian Edward – Head of Place**

**Signed on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council**



**Mike Holmes – Interim Head of Planning**

**Signed on behalf of Tewkesbury Borough Council**



**Planning Policy Manager – Gloucester City Council**

**Signed on behalf of Cotswold District Council**



**James Brain – Forward Planning Manager**

**Signed on behalf of Forest of Dean District Council**



**Nigel Gibbons – Forward Planning Manager**

**Dated**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

From: (null)  
Subject:  
Date: 10 May 2021 at 15:57  
To:

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Dear Adam Gooch

Thank you for the teams call today. As I explained I am pleased to confirm that officers at Stroud District Council have been working with you in both drafting the Statement of Common Ground and commissioning new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment work. As I explained unfortunately due to the elections, it is not currently possible to determine who will be able to agree and sign the Statement of Common Ground under our scheme of delegation requirements. I hope this will be resolved shortly and I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Regards

Conrad Moore

Conrad Moore MRTPI, MIFM, ALGE.  
Principal Planner.  
Planning Strategy.  
Development Services.

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