

work with the developers of major strategic sites to ensure that such housing is delivered as part of the strategic allocations. Strategic site masterplans should demonstrate how needs for specialist accommodation for older people have been incorporated in the site layout and design.

- 4.73 The Council will work with the County Council and Homes England to secure sites and obtain funding, to deliver suitable housing that enables older people and people with other specialist housing needs to live independently.

## Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.74 The overall scale of need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the district is small in comparison to wider housing needs, but the Council has a responsibility to address these needs. It is important that the Local Plan develops a fair and effective strategy to meet the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, particularly through the identification of land for pitches.

### Policy H14: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

1. **The provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople will be delivered through:**
  - i) **safeguarding authorised sites;**
  - ii) **extending existing sites, where possible, to meet the needs of existing residents and their families;**
  - ii) **delivery within the following strategic allocations:**
    - **4 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers at Didcot North East (carried forward from Core Strategy) as shown on the policies map;**
    - **3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers at Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre (STRAT9) as shown on the policies map;**
    - **3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers at Land at Chalgrove Airfield (STRAT7) as shown on the policies map.**
2. **Additional proposals for pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling**

Showpeople not set out in Part 1 of this policy, will be permitted where it has been demonstrated that the following criteria have been met:

- i) the capacity of the site can be justified to meet needs for further Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites, or extensions to existing sites;
- ii) the site is not located within the Oxford Green Belt unless very special circumstances are demonstrated;
- iii) the proposal will not have an unacceptable impact on the character and appearance of the landscape and the amenity of neighbouring properties, and is sensitively designed to mitigate visual impacts on its surroundings;
- iv) there are no adverse impacts on the significance of heritage assets;
- v) the site has safe and satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access to the surrounding principal highway network. The site will be large enough to enable vehicle movements, parking and servicing to take place, having regard to the number of pitches/plots on site;
- vi) the site can be provided with safe electricity, drinking water, sewage treatment and waste disposal facilities; and
- vii) no significant barriers to development exist in terms of flooding, poor drainage, poor ground stability or proximity to other hazardous land or installation where other forms of housing would not be suitable.

This policy contributes towards achieving objectives 2, 4, 5 & 6.

### Policy H15: Safeguarding Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites

1. Proposals that result in the loss of an authorised and permanent site for residential use by Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that:
  - i) the site is no longer suitable for such use and suitable alternative provision is made for the use on a site of equal or better quality with equal access to services; or
  - ii) that there is no need for Traveller pitches in the district.
2. Appropriate, detailed and robust evidence will be required to