

## Officer Key Decision Record – The Provision of Emergency Stopping Places

<b>Chief Officer taking the decision</b>	Strategic Director - Communities
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before 23 October 2015)	26 October 2015

### Decision Taken

- a) That the Strategic Director for Communities approves the land adjacent to Oldbury Road / Gin Wood (site 13) as the preferred location for an Emergency Stopping Place in the North of the County.
- b) That the Strategic Director for Communities authorises officers to progress the process to obtain necessary permissions, orders and any other consents for the development of the Northern Emergency Stopping Place on terms acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources

### Reasons for Decisions

The approval of the Strategic Director of Communities is required to progress this proposal.

### Background Information

The primary duties to identify and make provision for the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers lies on district and borough councils in their capacities as housing and planning authorities. However, under section 24 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, the County Council has a power to provide temporary or permanent sites and to manage the sites and do anything appearing to them desirable in connection with the provision of such sites. Use of this power not only helps partner authorities to achieve their statutory duties but also supports the achievement of County Council functions and objectives such as those relating to public health and education. The County Council has for many years used this power to provide permanent sites and in October 2012 Cabinet resolved to 'approve the principle of providing emergency stopping places for travellers and ask the Strategic Director for Communities to obtain all necessary consents and take all other steps as are necessary to provide such place or places as she may identify on terms acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources.'

Following this resolution, a suitable site has been identified and progressed on land adjacent to the A425 near Southam. This site will be established to ensure adequate provision for the South of the County.

Identification of a suitable site to ensure adequate provision for the North of the County has progressed at a slower rate. During this time the need for a site has not diminished and regular unauthorised encampments occur. There is an increasing number of encampments occurring in the North of the County, which may in part be attributable to neighbouring authorities taking forward local responses which in turn displaces activity into Warwickshire.

Given the continuing demand, this report seeks approval to progress with the development of an ESP in the North of the County on land adjacent to Oldbury Road / Gin Wood (site 13).

**Financial Implications**

None specified

<b>Report Author</b>	Dan Green
<b>Head of Service</b>	Phil Evans
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Monica Fogarty
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Jeff Clarke

**Checklist**

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**List of Reports considered**

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3558/Committee/557/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers** - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

**Members and officers consulted or informed**

Monica Fogarty  
 David Carter  
 Ian Marriott  
 Jane Pollard  
 Virginia Rennie  
 John Betts  
 Elected Members