

**Examination of the  
Herefordshire Travellers Sites Development  
Plan Document**

**Statement of West Mercia Police  
(Herefordshire Policing Area)**

**Provision of temporary stopping place**

**18 May 2018**

## Herefordshire Travellers Sites Development Plan Document

### Statement from West Mercia Police (Herefordshire Policing Area) regarding the principle of the provision of a temporary stopping place for Travellers.

#### Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground relates to the principle of the provision of a temporary stopping place in Herefordshire. The Statement is intended to provide the Examination Inspector with a summary of matters of agreement between West Mercia Police (Herefordshire Policing Area) and Herefordshire Council. No comment is made on the merits of any particular location.

1. West Mercia Police and Herefordshire Council are members of the Herefordshire Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy Group. This is a network of public sector workers that meets quarterly in order to plan for improved outcomes for Gypsy and Traveller families. The group comprises:
  - Senior police officers from West Mercia Police
  - Officers from Herefordshire Council, including representatives from Education, Planning, Housing, and Traveller Sites Management Team
  - Representatives from the voluntary sector, including the Herefordshire Traveller Support Group.
2. The Herefordshire Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy Group recognises the need to co-ordinate the response of public services towards Gypsy and Traveller families in order to work effectively to address inequalities.
3. Through the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy Group, West Mercia Police has reiterated the urgent need for the provision for temporary stopping places for travellers in Herefordshire.
4. Whilst West Mercia Police is not in a position to advise or comment on specific locations it does advocate that a temporary stopping place is located in close proximity to the strategic road network in the county.
5. There is currently no authorised site for temporary stopping within the county and the lack of such provision has two main effects:
  - 1 - Travellers have no option but to stop at an opportunist location of their choosing
  - 2 - Police have no legal power to remove them other than via S69 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which is only ever invoked in aggravated trespass circumstances and logistically is flawed in execution.
6. Provision of a transit site or at least temporary stopping places would enable officers to legally direct an unauthorised encampment (that is not an aggravated trespass but simply an inappropriately located one) to that other preferred location.
7. This will remove the community tension issues occasioned by many such unauthorised encampments and also reduces the financial burden on landowners on engaging the process

to regain their land. Other unseen costs include police monitoring, associated crime, loss of trade and clean-up cost.

<b>Declaration</b>	
The contents of this document are agreed for the purposes of the Herefordshire Traveller Sites Development Plan Document	
<b>Signed on behalf of West Mercia Police</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the Herefordshire Council</b>
C.Paskin  Carl Paskin Date: 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	  Richard Gabb Date: 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
<b>Position: Inspector Hereford Safer Neighbourhood Team West Mercia Police</b>	<b>Position: Programme Director for Growth – Economy, Environment and Corporate</b>