
SECOND TRANSIT SITE AT HONEYPOT LANE CARAVAN SITE

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Stephen Harker,
Environmental and Consumer Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To report on the allocation of grant from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and to authorise the release of the funding.

Background

2. A bid was made in February 2005 to the ODPM for a 100% grant to build a second transit site at Honeypot Lane Caravan site. The Council received notification by letter on 26 July 2005, attached as **Appendix 1**, that it has been successful and that the £468,000 requested would be paid immediately. This funding now needs to be released and arrangements made for the works to be carried out.
3. In the previous two years £1.38 million investment has been made in improvements to Honeypot Lane Caravan Site. This includes construction of a new Transit Site and refurbishment of the main residential site at Honeypot Lane Caravan Site. The Council received £747,000 refurbishment grant and £298,000 transit site grant from the ODPM plus £70,000 from SureStart and £30,000 from the Primary Care Trust towards the costs.
4. The site currently is made up of thirty residential pitches and ten transit pitches. The land is owned by the Council and leased to a member of the gypsy community. The lessee is responsible for management and maintenance of the site.

Information and Analysis

5. The ODPM have approved a grant of £468,000. The works involve the provision of 11 new hard standing pitches, a security fence, street lighting, an amenity block providing separate male and female facilities (a total of 2 showers, 6 WCs and 4 wash hand basins) together with accessible shower/toilet room and a laundry room. Each pitch will have separate electric and water supply for up to 2 caravans.
6. The Council will have to select a contractor to carry out the works following the tender process and it is expected that work could start in January in 2006 for completion in May 2006.

Outcome of Consultation

7. Discussions have been held with the Lessee of the site. He has confirmed that he is currently unable to meet demand at peak times. He supports the construction of the additional 11 family pitches to increase the capacity of the site to meet the demand from travellers wishing to visit Darlington and to prevent unauthorised encampments.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is considered that the contents of this report will have an effect as it is likely to lead to fewer unauthorised encampments or encampments being present for a shorter time and a reduction in associated anti social behaviour.

Financial Implications

10. The scheme is completely funded from the ODPM. There will be no ongoing revenue costs.

Council Policy Framework

11. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework, however, the waiving of the Contract Procedure Rules need to be considered by Council.

Decision Deadline

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

13. This is a key decision as it is significant in terms of its effect on the travelling community living in Darlington.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the scheme for the construction of transit Site 2 at Honeypot Lane Caravan site be approved and funding of £468,000 be released.

Reasons

15. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) To provide additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in Darlington.
- (b) To reduce the number of unauthorised encampments set up in Darlington by Seasonal travellers.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

Letter from the ODPM dated 21 July 2005

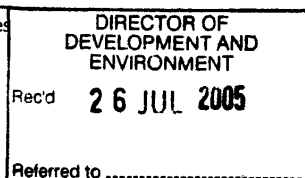
Barry Pearson : Extension 2560
kr



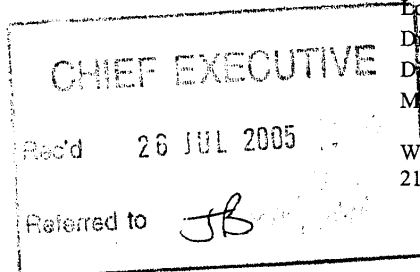
Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Mr B A Keel
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21st July 2005



Dear Mr Keel,

GYPSY SITES REFURBISHMENT GRANT 2005 - 2006

Approval of Proposed Project at Honeypot lane Site

Thank you for your application for Gypsy Sites Refurbishment Grant (GSRG). The purpose of the grant this year is to fund projects that will create new residential sites, or transit sites, as well as significantly extend the useful life of local authority Gypsy sites, bring unused or under used sites back into full use and improve the quality of life for residents by improving or providing new facilities.

I am pleased to tell you that your application for the project at Honeypot Lane has been approved for grant funding.

Approved costs

The total cost of the project set out on your authority's application form was £468,000.00

The maximum amount of GSRG that will be paid to your authority for payment made on the approved project is therefore **£468,000.00** which is 100% of the total approved costs.

Payment of grant

Grant is paid under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. You will not need to make a claim to the Department, as was the case in previous rounds, as funding will be allocated in advance. Payment of grant will be made as soon as is practically possible after this letter is issued.

The authority shall return monitoring returns at half-yearly intervals to the Office, providing an estimate, of the proportion of the work completed to date and an estimated project completion date. Monitoring returns must be submitted within one month of the end of the relevant half year.

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If the authority becomes aware that the project will not be completed by 31 March 2007, it must contact the Office as soon as reasonably practicable to discuss the slippage and to agree a new deadline for project completion.

A copy of this letter will be sent to Mr B Pearson who submitted the application.

Any enquiries about this letter should be addressed to me at:

Zone 1/F8.
Gypsy and Traveller Unit
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Telephone: 020 7944 3668

E- Mail: mary.richardson@odpm.qsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mary Richardson

**THE GYPSY SITES REFURBISHMENT GRANT (No 5) DETERMINATION 2005
[No/31/158]**

The Minister for Housing and Planning, in exercise of the powers conferred on her, by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, hereby makes the following determination:-

Citation

- 1) This determination may be cited as the Gypsy Sites Refurbishment Grant (No 5) Determination 2005 [No 31/158].

Purpose of the grant

- 2) This is a capital grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide support to certain authorities in England towards capital expenditure.

Determination

- 3) The Minister for Housing and Planning determines as the authorities to which grant is to be paid "the receiving authorities" and the amount of grant to be paid, the authorities and amounts set out in Annex A.

Treasury Consent

- 4) Before making this determination in relation to receiving authorities in England, the Minister for Housing and Planning obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Pursuant to section 31(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Minister for Housing and Planning determines that the grant will be paid as soon as practically possible.

Signed by authority of the Minister for Housing and Planning.



20 July 2005

Gypsy Sites Refurbishment Grant 2005/06

Successful Bids

Authority	Approved Project Costs	Maximum Amount of Grant Payable	Site
	£	£	
Brighton & Hove City Council	£212,000.00	£159,000.00	Horsdean
Bristol City Council	£1,805,626.00	£1,513,626.00	South Liberty Lane
Darlington Borough Council	£468,000.00	£468,000.00	Honeypot Lane
Derbyshire County Council	£325,000.00	£243,750.00	Lullington Crossroad
Derbyshire County Council	£550,000.00	£412,500.00	Woodyard Lane
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough	£57,277.00	£57,277.00	Gibbon Lane
Dorset County Council	£440,000.00	£330,000.00	Cold Harbour
Essex County Council	£38,087.00	£28,565.00	Cranham Hall
Essex County Council	£161,503.00	£121,128.00	Ladygrove
Essex County Council	£60,500.00	£45,375.00	Ridgewell
Essex County Council	£29,920.00	£22,440.00	Ridgewell
Essex County Council	£20,240.00	£15,180.00	Elizabeth Way
Fenland District Council	£2,490.00	£1,868.00	Sandbank
Fenland District Council	£13,200.00	£9,900.00	Fenland Way
Kettering Borough Council	£750,000.00	£750,000.00	Stoke Albany
Horsham District Council	£54,701.00	£41,026.00	Small Dole
Lancashire County Council	£44,522.00	£33,400.00	Altham
Leeds Borough Council	£49,250.00	£36,938.00	Cottingley Springs
London Borough of Camden	£23,443.00	£17,582.00	Carol Street
London Borough of Waltham Forest	£600,000.00	£450,000.00	Folly Lane
Maidstone Borough Council	£191,141.00	£143,356.00	Stilebridge
Milton Keynes Council	£14,424.00	£10,818.00	Willen
Norfolk County Council	£49,982.00	£37,487.00	Gapton Hall
Norfolk County Council	£393,790.00	£295,342.00	Roundwell Park
Northampton Borough Council	£489,198.00	£366,899.00	Ecton Lane
Northampton County Council	£193,880.00	£145,410.00	Gypsy Lane
Nottingham County Council	£49,637.00	£37,228.00	Daneshill
Nuneaton & Bedworth City Council	£61,400.00	£61,400.00	Stoney Road
Oxfordshire County Council	£116,160.00	£87,120.00	Standlake
Oxfordshire County Council	£121,723.00	£91,293.00	Wheatley
Oxfordshire County Council	£40,185.00	£30,139.00	Oakley Wood
Rochdale	£120,728.00	£90,546.00	Roch Vale
Shropshire County Council	£120,000.00	£90,000.00	Manor House
South Cambridgeshire District council	£16,513.00	£12,385.00	Whaddon
Surrey County Council	£135,000.00	£101,250.00	Fosterdown
Tandridge District Council	£258,418.00	£193,814.00	Green Lane
Wakefield City Council	£210,255.00	£157,691.00	Heath Caravan
Walsall Metropolitan Council	£74,673.00	£56,005.00	Willenhall
Warwickshire County Council	£234,300.00	£175,725.00	Alvecote
Wiltshire County Council	£300,775.00	£225,582.00	Odstock
Wiltshire County Council	£50,289.07	£37,717.00	Dairyhouse Bridge
Worcestershire County Council	£1,050,000.00	£787,500.00	Hipton Hill
Total	9,088,779.07	7,992,262.00	

