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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Dear Catriona

**South East Plan Partial Review: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople: Review of Local Authority Advice**

The Assembly wrote to local authorities on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 inviting advice groups to consider whether they would wish to submit additional evidence/revised advice to the Assembly on Gypsy and Traveller site provision and ,if so, to submit this by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

The Kent and Medway authorities have duly undertaken this review and wish to submit revised advice to you in respect of Options A and B. The accompanying documentation sets out the basis for this revision which stems essentially from two considerations:

- A revised assessment of the overall level of need in the light of further evaluation of consistency in methodology and interpretation between the four GTAA's applicable to the Kent and Medway area and other supplementary evidence;
- Significant changes in the permitted supply of permanent authorised pitches since the GTAA's were carried out.

The Kent and Medway authorities consider that the latter point raises a wider issue for the presentation and application of advice across the region. Advice from local authority groupings reflects assessments of need derived from GTAA's conducted at various points over the last two or more years. In Kent's case the 4 GTAA's have been carried out at different times over the 2005-7 period. This raises the question of the base date for the partial review and its forward plan horizon. This has been expressed in terms of a 5/10 year horizon nominally extending over the 2006-2016 period. The Kent authorities consider that a clear base for the partial review reconciled with data on both need and supply would aid clarity for both preparation and monitoring of the partial review of the South East Plan and subsequent District LDFs. As far as Kent and Medway are concerned the revised advice now relates to a base year of 2008 but maintains the horizon year of 2016 that has been adopted for the

review hitherto.

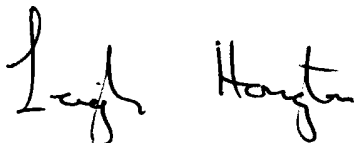
The brief given to local authority groupings by the Assembly relates to the submission of two options for the distribution of pitch provisions within advice areas (Options A and B). Following the submission of the original advice on Options A and B in October 2007 Kent County Council wrote to SEERA (letter of 21<sup>st</sup> November refers) advocating that further consideration of options by the Assembly should include assessment of a more equitable distribution of pitch provision across the region.

The Kent and Medway authorities note that the options previously put to the Regional Planning Committee and the Assembly included two, more redistributive options which acknowledged that Kent (and Surrey) collectively contain over half of the South East region's authorised pitches and under the previously proposed Options A and B would have provided almost half of the region's requirements to 2016.

The Kent authorities collectively wish to recommend to SEERA that, in reviewing the options, to be included for public consultation later in 2008, the Assembly should provide for additional options that secure greater regional redistribution of pitch provision. At its meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 the Joint Members Steering Group for the preparation of the SEERA advice resolved that:

*'In addition to the revised Options A and B now submitted, the Assembly be requested to consider the inclusion of an additional option or options, as part of public consultation, that provide for a wider distribution of pitch provision across the region and which reduces the concentration of pitch provision in Kent as provided for under revised Options A and B.'*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leigh Herington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Leigh Herington  
County Planning Officer