

Rochford District Council's Statement on the Proposed Delivery and Management of a Gypsy and Traveller site at Michelins Farm, Rayleigh

Policy GT1 of the Allocations Submission Document (April 2013) sets out the Council's position in relation to the delivery and management of the proposed site at Michelins Farm:

"It is essential that the site is managed in a way that ensures it is open and accessible to the traveller community. Specifically, there will be a need to ensure that travellers, in appropriate circumstances, can be offered a pitch when required as part of the process of dealing with unauthorised sites in the district. On that basis, the Council's preference is for the creation of a new municipal site that will be positively managed for the benefit of the traveller community and will ensure that a pitch can be offered when required in a simple and straightforward way. To this end the Council will seek to acquire this land and will ensure that it is appropriately managed by or on behalf of the Council." (paragraph 3.314)

The Council will work with the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit to deliver and manage the proposed site as per other municipal sites in the County. The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit is responsible for a number of traveller's sites in the County, including a new site in Colchester Borough.

The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit is a partnership made up of district, borough, city and unitary councils, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Essex Police, Essex Primary Care Trusts and Essex County Council. The Council is a full member of this Unit.

Compulsory purchase of the site would be used as a last resort. However, it has been confirmed that the landowner of the site would be supportive of part of the site being allocated for this use (see Appendix 14).