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TO

Make provision to secure the establishment of caravan sites by local authorities in England for the use of Gypsies and Travellers.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Provision of sites by English local authorities

- (1) It shall be the duty of every local authority in England being a district council, unitary council, metropolitan or borough council or London borough council, to grant planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites sufficient to provide accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their area. 5
- (2) Facilitating the provision of adequate caravan site accommodation shall include the identification of sufficient land for such accommodation in the development plan.
- (3) Any local authority as referred to in subsection (1) above may defray or contribute towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred under this section by any other authority. 10
- (4) In determining what caravan site accommodation is required in its area, a local authority as referred to in subsection (1) shall have regard to the accommodation needs assessment carried out in compliance with section 225 of the Housing Act 2004 (accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers). 15
- (5) The Secretary of State may, if at any time it appears to him or her to be necessary so to do, give directions to any such local authority to which subsection (1) applies, requiring them to grant planning permission for such caravan sites or additional caravan sites, for the accommodation of such numbers of caravans, as may be specified in the direction. 20
- (6) Any such direction given under subsection (5) shall be enforceable, on the application of the Secretary of State, by court order.

2 Interpretation

In this Act the following expressions have the following meanings—

“caravan” has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;

“development plan” has the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; 5

“Gypsies and Travellers” means—

(a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and

(b) all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including— 10

(i) such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependant’s educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and 15

(ii) members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).

3 Extent, commencement and short title

(1) This Act does not extend to Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. 20

(2) This Act shall come into force on the day on which it is passed.

(3) This Act may be cited as the Caravan Sites Act 2012.

Caravan Sites Bill [HL]

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Lord Avebury

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