

Red tape cut to allow campsites to remain open all summer

Holidaymakers will enjoy 'pop up' campsites across England this summer to support the surge in demand for staycations.

Brits are expected to flock to the nation's favourite holiday hotspots and destinations in the coming months and the government is keen to ensure red tape does not get in the way of a great British summer.

Local councils are being urged by Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick MP to support the extension of 'pop-up' commercial authorised campsites this summer so local economies and holidaymakers can enjoy a staycation.

Last year new measures were introduced which allowed businesses to set-up temporary 'pop-up' campsites without the need to apply for planning permission.

The measures allow businesses across the tourism and hospitality sectors to meet the additional demand for camping holidays.

The government is asking and expecting local councils to take a flexible approach to the enforcement of regulations. This will allow 'pop up' commercial campsites and existing campsites to take advantage of the relaxation of rules over the duration of the holiday season.

Measures do not prevent local councils taking action where relaxation of the rule have a negative impact on public health, the local area or the environment such as litter, noise pollution or social distancing.

Communities Secretary RT Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

Many of us are planning a staycation this year, and I'm asking councils to support the extension of pop-up campsites for tourists and not let red tape get in the way of a great British summer.

The measures will help holidaymakers make the most out of the beautiful seaside towns and countryside this country has to offer. Greater campsite capacity over the summer months will boost our tourism and hospitality industries and support the communities that rely upon visitors in their area.

By taking a positive approach we can ensure that tourism, hospitality and the people across the country have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Last year the government introduced a temporary permitted development right which allows for the temporary use of land as a commercial campsite for up to

56 days, without the need to apply for planning permission.

The government would like to see more of these businesses taking advantage of this opportunity over the summer and will encourage local planning authorities to take a flexible and proportionate approach to the enforcement of planning controls, including restrictions through planning conditions on existing campsites, which may limit the temporary extension of commercial campsites for leisure use over this holiday season.

These regulations do not apply to other forms of campsites, including those for domestic use. This does not stop local planning authorities taking appropriate action where there are significant adverse impacts on amenity, public health and safety or the environment.

These provisions do not apply to unauthorised encampments.

In addition, the provisions do not remove the legal requirement for campsite licenses. Local authorities are encouraged to expedite new applications for licences to provide certainty for applicants.