

Gypsy & Traveller Transit Site Provision

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	709
Brief description:	The inclusion of a Gypsy & Traveller transit site in the emerging replacement Local Development Plan (LDP).
Date Completed:	24/09/2019 10:13:51 Version: 1
Completed by:	David Lorey
Responsible Service:	Facilities, Assets & Housing
Localities affected by the proposal:	Denbigh, Elwy, Prestatyn, Rhyl,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Future users of the site will be affected by the proposal. A range of other stakeholders may be affected or may perceive they are affected - these include immediate neighbours of proposed sites, the wider communities surrounding the sites including businesses, employees and people who use the identified areas for leisure. The communities currently impacted by unauthorised Gypsy & traveller encampments will also be affected.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

★ ★ ★ ★ (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 26 / 30.

Implications of the score

The sustainability of the approach will improve as the proposals progress through the consultation and decision making process associated with the approval of the Council's Local development Plan.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Neutral
A healthier Denbighshire	Neutral
A more equal Denbighshire	Positive
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral



Main conclusions

At this stage in the project the potential locations for the sites are undetermined and therefore it is difficult to fully assess the sustainability and well-being goals effectively, therefore this assessment should be reviewed throughout the lifetime of the project. It is clear that there are a number of factors around access, services, ICT provision and community cohesion which should form part of the consideration of the land selection process. It has become apparent through the course of the well-being assessment that the location of the land is fundamental to achieving a positive impact on the well-being goals.

Incorporating the needs and preferences of the users will be fundamental to the success of this project and cultural requirements may need to take preference over other considerations i.e. may limit the types of landscaping used within and around the site. However, through working closely with the Gypsy and Traveller community these considerations can be explored at each stage of the project. Sites surveys will be required but will be determined once the site is selected.

The provision of authorised sites provides far greater stability to the Gypsy and Traveller community and will enable greater access to services. However, critical to the ultimate success of this project will be appropriate management arrangements. This project seeks to consider those arrangements but delivery will be following the second phase of the project.

The Gypsy and Traveller community have experienced years of prejudice and persecution and the

provision of these sites may not be welcomed by the settled community which will provide challenges around the cohesiveness of communities. This project aims to provide appropriate accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community to maintain cultural traditions and this will also need to be balanced with the consideration around the Welsh culture. A clear, agreed strategy around communication , education and the protection of privacy will be essential to this project.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	<p>The proposal is too small and the occupation of sites too sporadic to generate a significant positive or negative impact on the prosperity of Denbighshire overall, although the reduction of unauthorised encampments may have a localised benefit.</p> <p>Secure accommodation may improve seasonal employment opportunities and access to education may be improved.</p> <p>As no similar facilities exist in Wales, the local and wider implications are difficult to predict.</p>
Further actions required	<p>Engagement with potential site users to better understand their needs. Effective management of the site and its occupants needs to be used to foster better cultural understanding and acceptance by settled communities. Conversations at regional level would help better understanding of needs across North Wales - particularly at busier times of the year.</p>

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The proposals will include renewable energy considerations on proposed buildings at detailed design stage. The proposals will provide more sustainable solutions to current arrangements in terms of travel and use of welfare facilities
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Electronic communications will be enhanced (it is assumed sites will have 4 G coverage but this would need confirmation)
Economic development	Provision of appropriate accommodation for transient Gypsies & Travellers enabling the community to engage in traditional economic activities such as seasonal work or self employment opportunities. Managed facilities would reduce the negative impact on businesses who's land/surrounding land could be used for unauthorised camp sites.
Quality skills for the long term	providing secure accommodation for up to 3 months for people travelling through the County would provide opportunities for education and training for the period of their stay.
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	A managed site will provide secure and safe location for children during their stay in Denbighshire without fear of being moved on or risks associated with living roadside or in car parks. It will allow families who travel together to provide childcare support within their community. Children will be better placed to access education during their stay.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	
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Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Gypsy & Traveller's caravans and vehicles are outside the scope of the project.
Economic development	The sites are intended to provide accommodation only. Consideration of trade waste disposal of self employed residents would need consideration. Concerns from local businesses of negative impact of the sites will need to be managed - highlighting that managed sites are a better option than unauthorised ones.
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	As a small short term accommodation project there are unlikely to be long term or quality employment opportunities. Some concerns may be raised in terms of localised business growth being affected.
Childcare	There may be a lack of appropriate childcare in the wider community.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The site is too small and anticipated use too infrequent to generate a significant positive or negative impact.
Further actions required	Flood consequence assessments, ecology/biodiversity surveys etc. will be undertaken and appropriate steps taken during the design stages to mitigate any negative impacts identified. Planting for screening will incorporate local species and enhance opportunities for habitat for wildlife. Best practice will be applied to the design and visual appearance of buildings. Work with future residents of the site can be undertaken to ensure they make the best use of recycling and re-use options for waste.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Planting around the proposed sites would provide privacy, noise and light barriers. Any proposals would be subject to detailed ecology impact assessments. The proposal could lead to environmental remediation works on a contaminated site.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Non expected given the size of the development
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	The proposals will ensure adequate waste and recycling facilities can be provided that would not be available for unauthorised encampments. Expectations regarding recycling can be explained to site users and enforced if necessary.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	The design of the amenity blocks will be to current standards/regulations incorporating renewable energy provision where appropriate. Having secure accommodation for a fixed period will reduce the need for Gypsies & Travellers to search for alternative sites - reducing miles travelled.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	The development of a welcome pack and enforcement of site rules could help instil awareness and consideration of environmental issues.
Flood risk management	detailed site design would take into account surface water drainage and flood consequence assessments would be undertaken.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The proposals could lead to the loss of approximately 0.6h of farmland or open space.
Biodiversity in the built environment	None expected given the size of the development
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Given the scale of the development no significant negative impact is envisaged.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Energy usage cannot be eliminated but given the scale of the development and anticipated use, no significant negative impact is anticipated.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	No negative impacts anticipated.
Flood risk management	The developments would require increased hardstanding/hard landscaped areas. Mitigation action would be taken where necessary.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The site is too small and anticipated use too infrequent to generate a significant positive or negative impact. There is currently a lack of information regarding transient communities to assist in the consideration of needs and impacts.
Further actions required	Welfare assessments will be undertaken for site users. A welcome pack will be developed to inform site users of available services. Engagement and consultation with the settled community will be undertaken via the LDP process, prior to any development and during periods of site use.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Users will have access to welfare facilities for washing and toilet facilities. Stress from legal challenge/eviction from unauthorised encampments will be reduced.
Access to good quality, healthy food	The proposals would provide electricity for fridges in caravans allowing food to be stored/stay fresh for longer periods. Sites would be within reasonable distance of local facilities/transport links allowing regular food shopping to take place.
People's emotional and mental well-being	Reduced stress for site users with the removal of the need for legal action/eviction. Also the reduction of confrontation with the settled community that unauthorised encampments can create.
Access to healthcare	Improved access to healthcare information for site users. Meeting room provision would allow healthcare professionals to visit site and engage in a neutral setting.
Participation in leisure opportunities	Secure accommodation provision will allow site users to pursue leisure activities in the local area should they wish to do so.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Previous consultations suggest that the settled community/neighbours are concerned/fearful of the impact of a transit site.
Access to good quality, healthy food	No anticipated negative impacts
People's emotional and mental well-being	Concerns of the settled neighbouring communities will need to be addressed via robust management arrangements. The potential for users of the suite being from different communities will also need to be managed.
Access to healthcare	Visitors from outside DCC will not have existing arrangements with service providers and could have some impact on resources.
Participation in leisure opportunities	No negative impacts identified

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will deliver an identified accommodation need for a group with protected characteristics where no alternative provision is available.
Further actions required	Community consultation (with the travelling community and settled community). Raising cultural awareness. Ensuring management arrangements are in place. Ensuring site rents are set at an appropriate level.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	Romany Gypsies & Irish Travellers have protected characteristics in law. We have a legal duty to meet their accommodation needs and public service duties under the Equalities Act. This proposal specifically addresses housing need.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	Gypsies and Travellers can face significant discrimination and disadvantage. The proposal seeks to provide appropriate short term accommodation to meet their needs. No such provision currently exists
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	No anticipated positive impact

People in poverty	Gypsies & Travellers are among the most excluded groups in British Society and many families are living in poverty. the project provides short term accommodation to support the cultural practice of travelling for social and economic purposes without the fear of legal action, eviction or confrontation.
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Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	There are cultural differences which could lead to tension between Romany Gypsies & Irish Travellers using the site.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	It is anticipated that concerns will be raised by the settled neighbouring communities which will need to be managed via communication of management arrangements.
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	No anticipated negative impact
People in poverty	Fees for site use will be applicable. These will need to be set at an appropriate level to ensure that the site is accessible economically.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Effective management arrangements will be critical to the success of the project. Tensions between potential site users and the settled communities will require monitoring and management, particularly given the short term use.
Further actions required	An on site office will be provided to give a neutral space for meetings. There will be site rules and responsibilities for site users. Robust monitoring, management and ongoing community engagement will be key.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Reduction in unauthorised encampments and the increased ability to allow the enforcement of legislation. A transit site would provide a managed approach to dealing with the travelling community. Effective welfare assessments would be enabled with increased access to services.
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Community participation and resilience	The proposals will be subject to public consultation via the LDP adoption process.
The attractiveness of the area	Detailed designs will allow for appropriate design of buildings and screening using planting etc.
Connected communities	Sites will be within accessible distances to amenities and/or public transport routes. Mobile/broadband infrastructure is assumed but needs testing.
Rural resilience	No anticipated positive impacts.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Potential tensions between site users will need to be managed.
Community participation and resilience	Concerns from settled neighbouring communities are anticipated.
The attractiveness of the area	Short term impacts associated with the construction phase of any development.
Connected communities	No anticipated negative impacts
Rural resilience	No anticipated negative impacts

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The site is too small and anticipated use too infrequent to generate a significant positive or negative impact. There is currently a lack of information regarding transient communities to assist in the consideration of needs and impacts. A well managed site would demonstrate that transient and settled communities can coexist.
Further actions required	Robust site management and community engagement to ensure that information is accessible to all residents.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Information and signage will be bilingual supporting the continued use of the language with Welsh speaking residents.
Promoting the Welsh language	Use of bilingual signage and literature will promote the awareness of the Welsh language to visitors.
Culture and heritage	The proposal provides culturally appropriate accommodation for site users. A well managed site could assist with cultural awareness and reduce negative stereotyping.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	No anticipated negative impacts
Promoting the Welsh language	Literacy levels within Gypsy & Traveller communities can be low. Use of bilingual literature could be overwhelming.

Culture and heritage	Short term accommodation is unlikely to encourage integration/community interest from site users.
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A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The site is too small and anticipated use too infrequent to generate a significant positive or negative impact. Providing secure and appropriate accommodation without the conflict associated with unauthorised encampments could foster better relationships with public services and allow users to have greater access if required.
Further actions required	Fostering positive relationships will be an important aspect of project delivery. Further research and engagement is required to do this and the LDP process will provide the opportunity for this aspect of the proposal. More informed welfare assessments and record keeping will enable a better picture of need across the travelling community.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	During the construction phase consideration for locally sourced products and services will be incorporated into the procurement process.
Human rights	The provision of culturally appropriate accommodation helps to protect the rights of Gypsies & Travellers.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Site users will be staying in the area for a maximum of 3 months and as such the requirement of long term service provision is not anticipated.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	No negative impacts anticipated
Human rights	No negative impacts anticipated
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	As user needs are not known prior to occupation, the welfare assessments may identify short term intervention at increased level.