

Draft

Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Introduction

The North Wales Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) has identified unmet need for residential sites in Denbighshire and transit sites across the region; the recommendation for the latter being that this need be met by cross County collaboration with Conwy County Council.

It is proposed Denbighshire County Council, in accordance with GTANA recommendation, establish an internal working group to better co-ordinate the response and approach on Gypsy and Traveller issues and to ensure that the authority complies with its statutory duties in relation to this area.

Purpose

The purpose of establishing a Denbighshire Gypsy and Traveller Working Group is;

- To ensure the Council meets its full legal obligations in addressing the needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- To look at how the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers can best be met within the County.
- To consider the potential impact of establishing accommodation (site provision) on the Council's resources, local communities and the local economy and how this can be most effectively managed through a fully coordinated approach.
- To determine how unmet accommodation need be met e.g. through site provision owned and managed by Gypsies and / or Travellers; or owned and managed by the Council; or owned by the Council but managed by an appointed agent, or owned and managed by an RSL.

Membership

It is recommended that the Group be lead by Housing Services (the Housing , Care and Support Manager would chair the group) with a broad based membership to facilitate a fully coordinated approach. Representation from the following is considered appropriate;

- Legal Services
- Planning
- Community Safety
- Education (Education Welfare)
- Homelessness and Housing Options
- Supporting People
- Lead Member for Housing (Cllr Hugh Irving)
- Homelessness Champion (Cllr Bill Tasker)

The task and finish group would consider how best to meet the Councils statutory obligations in relation to meeting the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community and make recommendations which shall be reported back to full council for consideration.

It is important to note that the LDP did state that sites would be made available for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation where there was an identified need however any sites would be subject to the full planning process.