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UPDATED GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION  
ASSESSMENT

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**Purpose of Report**

1. This report provides background information to assist Members in their consideration of the '*Updated Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment*' which is to be considered by Cabinet on the 18th of November 2021.
2. A briefing report on the Assessment is attached at **Appendix A**, which contains the following Appendix:
  - **Appendix 1** Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

**Background**

3. Data from the 2011 census suggested a total of 521 Gypsy and Irish Travellers in Cardiff. However as detailed on **page 7** of **Appendix 1**, this number may not adequately reflect the full number of Cardiff's gypsy and traveller population due to the potential for some individuals not wishing to declare their ethnicity or holding a stronger affiliation with another ethnicity<sup>1</sup>.
4. Cardiff Council is currently preparing a replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) to cover the period 2021 to 2036. The replacement LDP will need to identify sufficient land to meet the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches presented in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

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<sup>1</sup> Members are to note the results from the 2021 census will be released between May & June 2022

5. The Council is required under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies an unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. The first GTAA was approved by Welsh Ministers in 2016 and, in accordance with the Act, Local Authorities must update the GTAA every 5 years.
6. The updated assessment is attached at **Appendix 1** and is required to be submitted to Welsh Government by February 2022.
7. The Assessment is subject to the approval of Welsh Ministers who will assess the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to ensure its robustness in terms of compliance with Welsh Government guidance, quality of engagement with relevant individuals and calculation of needs. Members are to note that Welsh Ministers may approve the assessment as submitted, approve the assessment with modifications, or reject the assessment and require a new assessment be undertaken.
8. Members are to note the GTTA is to be conducted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance which can be found [here](#).

### **Current Accommodation Provision**

9. The Welsh Government produce a biannual statistical report on Gypsy and Traveller caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites in Wales using data collected and submitted by each local authority. The figures provided by Cardiff Council since January 2019 are:

Survey Date	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Number of Caravans on Authorised sites	Number of Caravans on unauthorised sites
31/01/2019	6	N/A	192	N/A
24/01/2020	6	N/A	191	N/A
15/07/2021	6	N/A	185	N/A

10. As detailed in **Appendix 1**, in Cardiff there are:

- 4 authorised private sites in Cardiff with a total of 22 pitches<sup>2</sup>
- 2 authorised local authority sites (Shirenewton & Rover Way) with a total of 80 pitches (59 at Shirenewton and 21 at Rover Way)

11. It is to note that some members of the Gypsy and Traveller community will not live on site and will instead reside in bricks and mortar housing.

### **Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment**

12. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment which is proposed for submission to the Welsh Government. Members are asked to reflect on the Assessment and can refer to the following sections for detail. *Please note the pages numbers listed below refer to the pages of the original document for Appendix 1.*

<b>Section of Gypsy &amp; Traveller Accommodation Assessment</b>	<b>Pages in Appendix 1</b>
<b>Policy Context</b> <i>(includes information on legislation and guidance, local development plan and definition of key terms)</i>	3-6
<b>Background &amp; Analysis of Existing Data</b> <i>(includes information on previous assessments identified need and progress to date, current accommodation provisions and unauthorised encampments)</i>	7-8
<b>Methodology</b> <i>(includes information on the project steering group, )</i>	9-12
<b>Survey Findings</b>	13-25
<b>Assessing Accommodation Needs</b>	26-29
<b>Conclusions &amp; Recommendations</b>	30-31
<i>Appendix A – Interview Log</i>	32-37
<i>Appendix B – Record of contact made by Traveller Education Service</i>	37

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<sup>2</sup> The term ‘pitches’ refers to the space required to accommodate one household.

## GTAA Methodology

13. The GTAA methodology is informed by Welsh Government guidance and contains three main components:
- an analysis of existing data sources,
  - conducting a specialist survey,
  - assessing accommodation needs.
14. To inform the GTAA, the Council commissioned Gypsy & Traveller Wales and Travellers Education to carry out interviews with Gypsy & Traveller communities, made contact through local schools and established a Steering Group.
15. **Pages 9–12 of Appendix 1** provides full detail on the methodology deployed to inform the assessment. Members will note that a total of 122 surveys were completed by Gypsy & Travellers residing in different accommodations across the city to inform the assessment and resultant identified needs.

## Identified Needs

16. The previous GTAA, submitted to Welsh Minister in 2016, found a need for:
- an additional 72 permanent pitches and;
  - a regional transit site up to 2026.
- The 72 permanent pitch need was broken down into 48 short-term 5 year need and 24 long-term need.*
17. The updated GTAA, contained in **Appendix 1** identifies:
- a need for 115 permanent pitches up to 2036 and;
  - continues to support the need identified in 2016 for a regional transit site
- Of the above 115 additional need, 73 have been identified as being required in the next 5 years.*
18. Members are to note a full analysis of the findings are set out in **pages 26-31 of Appendix 1**.

19. Following agreement of the GTAA by Welsh Ministers, detailed technical assessments will be undertaken before identifying potential sites for consideration. **Points 7-10 of Appendix A** provides information on site selection criteria previously approved by Cabinet.

### **Way Forward**

20. The Cabinet Members for Housing & Communities and Strategic Planning & Transport will be in attendance at the meeting, supported by officers from Housing & Communities and Planning, Transport & Environment. Officers in attendance will provide Committee Members with a presentation providing a short overview of the attached appendices.
21. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration prior to making their decisions.

### **Legal Implications**

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. Consider the appendices and decide whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 18 Nov 2021; and
- ii. Decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**4 Nov 2021**