

EXECUTIVE BOARD
26TH MARCH, 2018

**CARMARTHENSHIRE'S GYPSY & TRAVELLER
ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)**

Purpose:

To highlight the results of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) for Carmarthenshire (2016) and agree to publish on the Council's web-site.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To publish the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Carmarthenshire on the Council's web-site.
2. To confirm that we will work with the Gypsy and Traveller community in the County to develop plans to meet any identified need in the future.

Reasons:

- All local authorities in Wales are required to publish the assessment once it has been approved by Welsh Government (WG). Carmarthenshire's was approved by WG on 28th March 2017.
- To ensure future identified need is addressed with the Gypsy and Traveller community and any plans are appropriate.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted : NO

Exec Board Decision Required Yes – 26th March, 2018

Council Decision Required No

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Davies Evans (Housing Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:
Jonathan Morgan

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Designations: Acting Head of
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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26TH MARCH, 2018**

**CARMARTHENSHIRE'S GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS
ASSESSMENT (2016)**

Purpose:

To highlight the results of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) for Carmarthenshire (2016) and agree to publish on the Council's web-site.

Context

The aim of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was to provide an assessment of current and future need for gypsy and traveller accommodation in Carmarthenshire.

When completed and approved by the WG, it must be published. Carmarthenshire's GTAA was approved by WG on 28th March 2017, with the initial draft having been presented to WG in February 2016.

It is also expected that the GTAA will be used as a credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of the provision of pitches required within the Local Development Plan (LDP). Carmarthenshire's LDP is currently under review and therefore the assessment could be used as useful groundwork on further studies on future accommodation needs as part of this process.

The methodology and results of the GTAA

The methodology was a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews and engagement with members of the gypsy and travelling community. A range of local stakeholders served on a project steering group. The baseline date for the study was January 2016.

The results of the assessment did highlight a future additional pitch need for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople. It did not, however, identify a need for a transit site or temporary stopping places in Carmarthenshire.

It should also be noted, however, that any plans for additional provision should reflect the current circumstances and take account of any developments that have taken place since the assessment was carried out.

What do we need to do next?

It is important that the results of the GTAA are formally published as soon as possible. We will also work with the Gypsy and Traveller community, and their representatives, to develop sustainable plans for any future provision identified. Any future plans will be the subject of a further report for consideration.

Recommendations

To publish the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Carmarthenshire on the Council's web-site.

To confirm that we will work with the Gypsy and Traveller community in the County to develop plans to meet any identified need in the future.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

YES - Carmarthenshire Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment, December 2016

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Robin Staines, Head of Homes and Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES
<p>1. Policy, crime & disorder and equalities The Council has a statutory duty under the Equalities Act 2010 to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between different people when carrying out its activities. Publication of the GTAA is an essential step as part of addressing the accommodation needs of these communities.</p>						
<p>2. Legal Publication of the assessment, once it has been approved by Welsh Government, is a requirement of the Welsh Government guidance on gypsy and traveller needs assessments. Failure to publish may place Carmarthenshire at a risk of legal challenge.</p>						
<p>5. Risk management issues There is a risk of reputational damage to the council should the publication of the assessment be delayed.</p>						
<p>7. Physical assets This report does not itself make any recommendations in respect of either acquiring or disposing of physical assets. However, there may be implications for the Council's physical assets as we work with gypsies and travellers to develop an action plan to address the needs identified in the assessment.</p>						

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Robin Staines Head of Homes and Safer Communities

- 1. Scrutiny Committee** Not applicable
- 2. Local Member(s)** County-wide – not applicable
- 3. Community / Town Council** County-wide – not applicable
- 4. Relevant Partners** Gypsies and travellers, and their representatives, were involved in the preparation of the GTAA.
- 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Relevant staff were involved in the development of the GTAA

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, May 2015		http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/communitycohesion/gypsytravellers/accommodation-needs/?lang=en