

Revised 2018-2033 Local Development Plan

Position Statement Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment



April 2024

Position Statement

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

as part of the Revised Local Development Plan 2018-2033

NB: Please note that the content of this Position Statement and the timetable to undertake a GTANA was prepared prior to the Welsh Government's notice on reviewing their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Methodology.

1. Introduction

1.1 This Position Statement has been undertaken to support the evidence for the provision of the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs within Carmarthenshire and to be considered within the framing of strategic and specific planning policies set out within the Carmarthenshire Revised Local Development Plan. This statement is prepared as a submission document for examination, and its subsequent discussion at the examination hearing session, which is set to take place in Summer / Autumn 2024.

1.2 This statement also sets out the current position of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) and understand the future requirements of updating the existing Assessment, and the timescale of delivering it.

2. Gypsy and Accommodation Needs Assessment 2019

2.1 Carmarthenshire County Council undertook a GTANA in the Summer / Autumn of 2019 and submitted to the Welsh Government for ratification. The needs assessment highlighted the following:

GTANA- Current Provision (2019)

2.2 30 private pitches for gypsies and travellers, of which 22 have permanent planning status; and 2 have temporary planning permission. 6 were subject to a current planning application.

There were 15 public pitches for gypsies and travellers.

There were 9 pitches for travelling show-people

Additional pitch needs

Gypsies and travellers as at 2019:

Unmet need: 19 pitches

Likely unmet need in 5 years: 23 pitches

Likely unmet need in 2033: 31 pitches

Travelling Show People - Additional pitch needs as at 2019

Unmet need now: 4 pitches

Likely unmet need in 5 years: 4 pitches

Likely unmet need in 2033: 6 pitches

Transit Need

2.3 The 2019 GTANA did not highlight any evidence in terms of a clear pattern of encampments and the subsequent bi-annual caravan counts have not identified any need for a transit site within Carmarthenshire.

Agreed position with WG

2.4 Welsh Government are currently preparing a response to the 2019 Assessment, following the recent appointment of new staff to their team.

3. Planning permissions since the 2019 GTANA

3.1 Since the publication of 2019 GTANA significant change has taken place within the accommodation needs for Gypsy and Travellers. The County has seen the approval of numerous planning permissions for Gypsy and Travellers, and these are commented on below:

Land at Maesydderwen, Llangennech

PL/00775 – Creation of four family traveller pitches with one residential static unit, touring caravan, utility / day room and parking for each pitch improvements to the existing access, internal access road and landscaping enhancement (Phase 2). Granted 24/06/2021.

PL/03333 – Creation of 10 additional traveller pitches to the west of PL/00775 (Plots 5-14) with alternative layout, ecological and landscape enhancements and extension to approved internal access road (Phase 3). Granted 05/01/2024.

The two applications above form part of the same site. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

Hillside View, Llannon, Llanelli

S/34755 – Two static residential caravans together with the erection of a day/utility room, two touring caravans and a stable block (Partly retrospective). Granted 20/03/20.

S/38535 – Expansion of traveller site S/34755 to allow a third pitch for a family member plus changes to the landscaping scheme and to allow the site to have a permanent consent – Full granted 28/02/2020.

S/40672 – Removal of conditions 4 (Occupants and their dependents) Condition 5 (Restore Land), Condition 6 (Temporary 4-year permission) of S/38535. Removal / Variation of Condition Granted.

The three applications above form part of the same site, with the latter application removing any personal permissions from the site.

Caer Elms Caravan Park, Sandy Bridge, Llanelli

S/22761 – Change of use of land from Former Industrial Yard to Siting Of Caravans for residential use and reuse of building as shower block / toilets.

This is a longstanding application which was approved in February 2023. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

Tynewydd, Llanybydder

W/39249 – Residential static live / work gypsy caravan and stable block, together with the erection of a day / utility room, parking for one touring caravan, revised access, parking and turning area.

Full planning permission was granted on the 15/04/2020. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

Frondeg Terrace, Llanelli

PL/01088 - Creation of one family traveller pitch with one residential static unit, touring caravan, utility/day room and parking area and improvements to the existing access drive and landscaping

Full planning permission was granted on the 11/11/2021. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

Penybryn Farm, Llangynnor, Nantycaws, Carmarthen

PL/00228 - Creation of a family traveller pitch (for three generations) to include three static caravans and tourers, ancillary day / utility rooms, new stable block, retention and extension of hardcore area, retention of storage containers and installation of a package treatment plant.

Full planning permission was granted on the 20/11/2023. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

Melden Stables, Pembrey, Llanelli

PL/02390 – Creation of one additional family travel pitch with one residential static unit touring caravan, utility / day room (disabled friendly) using approved agricultural access.

Full planning permission was granted on the 14/10/2021. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

Glyn Crwbach Farm, Myrtle Hill, Cynheidre

PL/00264 - Creation of a traveller pitch with existing cowshed renovated to form a day/utility room, a static caravan and tourer, installation of a package treatment plant, alterations to access and erection of boundary treatments.

Full planning permission was granted on the 02/03/2021. This site will be considered as part of the 2024 GTANA.

4. Gypsy and Accommodation Needs Assessment – 2024

4.1 Given that 5 years have been since the submission of the previous GTANA there is now a requirement to undertake an updated assessment. This assessment will be undertaken in the summer of 2024. Its publication however will be post-submission of the revised LDP for examination, and therefore it cannot be submitted as part of the suite of documents to PEDW in April 2024.

Timescales

4.2 To maximise the engagement for the Gypsy and Travellers assessment, the timing of any survey work is likely to be more appropriate in early summer and to consider the seasonal changes and travelling patterns of gypsies and travellers. This approach will look to engage with as many Gypsies and Travellers within the county to inform the assessment.

4.3 The Local Authority commits to the following approach in undertaking the updated assessment.

Initial Scoping Work – Preparation and Partnership Working	May 2024
Field Survey Work	June 2024
Collate the evidence and carry out the accommodation needs assessment	July 2024
Fact check	August 2024
Submit the Accommodation Needs Assessment to WG	October 2024

4.4 It is the intention of the Local Authority to provide this information as part of the Hearing Session documentation.

5. Allocated sites in the Revised LDP and Next Steps

5.1 It is noted that the Local Authority has identified two new Gypsy and Traveller sites within the Revised LDP, and they have been subject to consultation as part of the publication of the Deposit Revised LDP in early 2023.

5.2 Given the number of planning permissions highlighted in chapter 3 it will have a presumed impact on the accommodation need within the 2024 GTANA. This may have a consequential impact on the number of pitches required for the plan period to 2033. This information will need to be analysed and deliberated upon through the examination hearing sessions.