

SUBJECT: GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT 2027 MEETING: CABINET DATE: 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026 DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL
--

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 As required by Welsh Government, to approve the undertaking of the statutory Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTA) for completion by 24th February 2027, to identify the pitch needs for Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the undertaking of the Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment as per the broad timeline set out in **Para 3.6**.
- 2.2 To receive a further report to approve and adopt the completed Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment together with a Pitch Waiting List & Allocation Policy.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council alongside other Local Authorities in Wales, has a legal duty to undertake a GTA every 5 years to identify the pitch requirements for Monmouthshire. Where pitches are required, the Council has a subsequent legal duty to meet the identified need and facilitate culturally appropriate accommodation.
- 3.2 [Guidance](#) for undertaking GTA's has been issued by Welsh Government. The Guidance is prescriptive. In addition to identifying the need, the final GTA will serve as a strategic planning tool, similar to the Local Housing Market Assessment.
- 3.3 The Guidance requires the Council to establish a Steering Group to deliver and oversee the delivery of the GTA. A wide group of services and agencies (eg Housing; Social Care; Education; Equalities; Environmental Health; Health; Police etc) who may have knowledge and/or involvement with Gypsy & Traveller households. The aim, as per the Guidance, is to identify Gypsy & Traveller households who may be willing to either join the Steering Group or be involved in some way by method(s) of choice, to help inform the completion of the GTA and arising conclusions and next steps
- 3.4 Of relevance, other key aspects of the Guidance include:
- The Council is expected to have a pitch waiting list in place.
 - Should any pitch need be identified, the final report needs to set out how this need is going to be met.
 - Understanding the need for a transit or temporary/negotiated stopping provision.
- 3.5 As part of the approach, it is intended to informally engage with Travelling Ahead, Gypsy & Traveller Advocacy Service as a 'critical friend' to provide both a 'cultural' steer and practical advice. Travelling Ahead will also be invited to join the Steering Group. Travelling Ahead, however, have indicated that whilst they are open to informally 'supporting' the Council, they have advised:
- They are no substitute for the Council engaging directly with members of the Gypsy & Traveller Community;
 - They cannot be party to decisions;
 - Their role is to support the Gypsy & Traveller Community.
- 3.6 A key role of the Steering Group will be to help identify individual households to participate in the GTA and to support the delivery of the GTA. This will include promoting the GTA and its importance and wherever possible encouraging households to participate through existing arrangements.

- 3.7 It is proposed that the survey itself will be undertaken directly by Council officers.
- 3.8 Of relevance to undertaking the GTA and the associated findings and conclusions, is the Council's current position in regard to meeting the need of the local Gypsy & Traveller Community.
- 3.9 Further to the previous GTA adopted by the Cabinet in 2021, the Council has already identified a location for proposed development as a Gypsy & Traveller site at Bradbury Farm. This will be relevant when the Council seeks to maximise engagement with the local community.
- 3.10 The Bradbury Farm site is for the provision of 7 permanent pitches, where households would be expected to settle permanently as their home and become integrated into the local community. This site has been included in the proposed Replacement Local Development Plan, which is currently proceeding through the Examination process. On completion and adoption of the RLDP, work will commence to design and develop the Bradbury Farm site. It is proposed to identify a specialist agency to assist the Council with this.
- 3.11 Also of relevance and as required in the Guidance, is the need for a Pitch Waiting List and Allocation Policy. It is proposed that a policy is drafted for consultation and approval alongside the draft GTA document. This Policy will be needed for the letting of the impending Bradbury Farm site.
- 3.12 The proposed broad timeline is
- 16th September 2026 – Cabinet approval to commence and undertake GTA
 - September – establish Steering Group
 - September to November – undertake survey
 - December – analyse results and draft report
 - January 2027 – report to People Scrutiny Committee to consult on draft GTA and draft Waiting List & Pitch Allocation Policy
 - February 2027 – report to Cabinet for approval and adoption of GTA and Waiting List & Pitch Allocation Policy
 - February 2027 – forward to Welsh Government
- 3.13 In forwarding the final draft to Welsh Government, there will be a need for Welsh Government to also approve and sign off.
- 4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**
- 4.1 The assessment is expected to generate significant positive equality and socio-economic impacts by ensuring the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are understood and subsequently, need can and will be reflected in future planning and service delivery.

Negative

None identified at this time

See Appendix 1.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1

Option	Benefit	Risk
Option 1. The preferred option: To approve the undertaking of the GTA by 24 th February 2027.	• The Council has a duty to undertake a GTA under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 • The GTA serves as a strategic planning tool. • It is positive for the Council to engage directly with the	• If a pitch need is identified there will be a need to reflect in the GTA how the Council will meet that need, which would be in addition to the impending and proposed site at Bradbury Farm, Crick, subject to being adopted by the RLDP.

	Gypsy & Traveller community.	The Council, quite rightly, will be scrutinised to ensure that it follows Welsh Government guidance
Option 2. To delay the undertaking of the GTA.	There are no benefits to this option.	- The deadline of 24th February 2027 is a statutory requirement, and the Council would immediately be in breach of its statutory duty under S.103 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 once this deadline has passed. - Judicial Review could be brought against the Council by affected parties. - It may impact on the Council's ability to defend Planning appeals. - There is reputational risk to the Council and a risk of legal recourse from affected parties.
Option 3. To not undertake the GTA	As above outlined in Option 2	As above outlined in Option 2

6. REASONS

6.1 The Council has a duty to undertake a GTA under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The resource implications will be mainly staff time which had already been considered as part of the forward work planning process. Direct costs will therefore be minimal and can be absorbed within existing Housing budgets.

8. **CONSULTEES:** Senior Leadership Team

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Guidance for Undertaking Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments.

10. **AUTHOR:** Ian Bakewell, Strategic Housing Manager

11. **CONTACT DETAILS:** Tel: 01633 644479 **E-mail:** ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

