



## **GYPSY / TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION**

Scottish Planning Policy (2014):

*Paragraph 133 confirms that HNDA's should evidence need for sites for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Development plans and local housing strategies should address any need identified, taking into account their mobile lifestyles. In city regions, the strategic development plan should have a role in addressing cross-boundary considerations. If there is a need, local development plans should identify suitable sites for these communities. They should also consider whether policies are required for small privately-owned sites for Gypsy/Travellers, and for handling applications for permanent sites for Travelling Showpeople (where account should be taken of the need for storage and maintenance of equipment as well as accommodation). These communities should be appropriately involved in identifying sites for their use.*

### **What has changed since 2014?**

- Research by Engage Scotland and Craigforth on Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Scotland<sup>1</sup> provides a better understanding of sites across Scotland. This shows an undersupply in accommodation across Scotland as a whole and in some local authority areas, and unauthorised encampments arising as a result of a shortage of transit sites.
- The research also shows that a significant proportion of applications for private sites are refused by planning authorities, and overturned at appeal, generating concerns about elected member and local community perceptions and objections to proposals for new sites.
- Research undertaken by Ironside Farrar on the Adoption of Scottish Planning Policy in local development plans<sup>2</sup> shows that 24 of the 34 local development plans include policies on Gypsy/Traveller sites.
- It is clear that the recording of the Gypsy/Traveller population, for example in Census returns, are inaccurate, contributing to the undersupply of accommodation and sites.
- New approaches to Gypsy/Traveller permanent and transit sites have emerged in other parts of the UK, including enhanced data collection in Wales and negotiated stopping as a potential solution to transit sites.
- In 2019 the Scottish Government published a 10 point action plan<sup>3</sup> on planning and Gypsy/Travellers, setting out its commitment to ensuring their needs are met by the planning system.

<sup>1</sup> [Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Scotland](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Adoption of Scottish planning policy in local development plans](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Gypsy/Travellers and the planning system: action plan](#)

- The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019<sup>4</sup> also includes new duties for planning authorities to set out how they have engaged with Gypsy/Travellers in their local development plans evidence reports, and to report on how they have met the accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers.

**Key objective of NPF4:** To ensure that the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers are met so that they are provided with access to good quality, safe and appropriately located sites.

**Issues to consider:**

- How can NPF4 ensure that land for appropriately located public sites is made available in development plans to meet a need identified through the HNDA process?
- What locational guidance should be provided to direct new development proposals to suitable sites?
- Should NPF4 include policy criteria to support acceptable proposals coming forward if there are no suitable sites identified in the development plan?
- Should NPF4 include policy criteria setting out the issues that should be addressed by proposals for small privately owned sites?
- Is there a need to include mapping of transit routes and sites in the spatial analysis and proposals for NPF4, so that authorities can refer to this as part of the evidence base for their plans?
- Is there a need to set out what is expected to engage with, and meet the needs of, Gypsy/Travellers in local development plan evidence reports?
- What can the planning system do to support the human rights of Gypsy / Travellers to travel? What approach and criteria should be used to inform consideration of transit sites in local development plans?
- How can the planning system also support the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople?

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<sup>4</sup> [The Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)



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