

# **Gypsy/ Travellers Evidence Paper for the Development of the Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021**

**Housing Development Section**

**April 2016**

**North Lanarkshire Council  
Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021  
Gypsy/Travellers Evidence Paper**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This evidence paper provides the supporting information for North Lanarkshire Council's position in relation to the considerations contained within Scottish Government Local Housing Strategy (LHS) Guidance 2014 in relation to gypsy/travellers. The evidence focuses on how the LHS can compliment and advance our understanding of address housing need as identified within Clydeplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment (Clydeplan HNDA) in relation to gypsy/travellers and also provides qualitative and quantitative evidence to support future accommodation and support requirements.
- 1.2 The LHS Guidance 2014 sets out the context of gypsy travellers in Scotland as a recognised ethnic minority group with a range of housing options including council/RSL sites, private sites, bricks and mortar housing as well as unauthorised temporary sites. It is acknowledged that access to services such as health, education and social services can be difficult. The aim of this paper is to clearly show what action is being taken to address housing related issues within their LHS.
- 1.3 The LHS Considerations to be addressed include:
- Providing an assessment of the current level of site and pitch provision and whether the current provision is adequate
  - Providing an assessment of whether sites and pitches currently provided are of an acceptable standard and of the right type
  - Current and future need for appropriate sites identified by Clydeplan HNDA
- 1.4 The LHS is a flexible policy document and therefore has the ability to consider national policy as well as local policy and evidence to meet the LHS Considerations outlined above.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In August 2006 Craigforth were commissioned to conduct a wide-ranging accommodation needs assessment of Gypsies/Travellers/Travelling Showpeople in West Central Scotland. The research was jointly commissioned by eleven local authorities<sup>1</sup> and Communities Scotland.
- 2.2 The research was specifically commissioned to assist the authorities develop and update their LHSs and aimed to identify and quantify Gypsies/Travellers accommodation needs over the next five years as well as providing some insight into longer term requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Argyll & Bute, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire

- 2.3 Although North Lanarkshire did not take part in the study the findings have been a useful tool in creating a wider understanding of the gypsy/traveller community across Clydeplan area. The research identified the following as priorities:
- Existing site investment
  - New forms of provision
  - Allocation policies
  - Private sites
  - Holiday sites
  - Equipment and adaptations
- 2.4 The priorities identified highlighted a range of issues for consideration such as:
- Continued Scottish Government Investment and availability of funding
  - Lack of robust demand evidence base
  - Risks associated with continued/future investment
  - Closure of sites due to vandalism and underuse
  - Meeting needs and maintaining site harmony
  - Anti-discriminatory work with partners
  - Consultation
- 2.5 The evidence available from the Craigforth report provided a starting point for Clydeplan HNDA where there is a requirement to demonstrate the requirement of land for Gypsies/Travellers sites. To support and update the Report Clydeplan HNDA considered other information sources such as Census 2011, Scottish Government's 'Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count' and local information provided by local authorities.
- 2.6 Clydeplan HNDA concluded that none of the areas with local authority Gypsies/Travellers site provision had recorded any significant unmet need or demand for pitches but there was some evidence to show a demand from the community for land for private sites to accommodate family groups.
- 2.7 Although the information gathered provided a broad indication of need it was acknowledged that further work was required at a local level to establish if current provision was sufficient to meet requirements. The Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Ayrshire authorities have undertaken a joint desktop exercise to help address evidence gaps and assist in developing strategic statements within LHSs to address identified issues such as demand and supply of sites, satisfaction and unauthorised encampments.
- 2.8 This evidence paper is based on the evidence gathered through this exercise and has been supplemented by more qualitative local authority specific evidence by making use of the knowledge and expertise gathered locally at an operational level by our Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer (GTLO), landowners

and through developing 'Case Studies' (Appendix 1) and Unauthorised Encampment information as supporting evidence.

### 3. National Data

- 3.1 The Gypsies/Travellers population have been historically difficult to quantify, travelling activity partly accounts for this but the community often do not wish to be counted or identified and as such the counts, surveys etc are not completely reliable.
- 3.2 The Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland (undertaken by local authorities) 2009 is the most up to date information available and is the last published official count. At that time there were just over 2,000 people living on Council/Registered Social Landlord sites, private sites and unauthorised encampments in Scotland. A review of the count estimated that it may only record a third of the Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland. The count for North Lanarkshire at that time is shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: The Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland (undertaken by local authorities) 2009**

Description	Number Encampments	No of Households	No of Caravans	Length of Stay
Unauthorised encampments (July 2009)	1	2	2	2 weeks

Source: Scottish Government 2009

- 3.3 Scotland's Census 2011 indicated there were 1,792 households where the household reference person was a Gypsy/Traveller. For Clydeplan area the figure was 437, accounting for just under a quarter of all Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland. 205 households in North Lanarkshire indicated that they were white gypsy traveller ethnicity within the 2011 Census.
- 3.4 National evidence in relation to site quality is available from The Scottish Social Housing Charter, Charter Outcome 16. This outcome requires local authorities and social landlords with responsibility for managing sites for gypsies and travellers to ensure sites are well maintained and managed, there are no Council or RSL sites within North Lanarkshire and the return for this outcome is therefore nil.
- 3.5 The Scottish Parliament, Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry, March 2013 'Where Gypsy/Travellers Live' indicated that there appeared to have been little progress since housing strategy guidance was published in terms of establishing a required standard for site facilities and tenancy agreements, amongst a host of other recommendations. This evidence paper looks to the qualitative evidence gathered within North Lanarkshire to highlight the difficulties faced by both gypsy traveller communities and the local authority in terms of provision and facilities.

### 4. Literature Review

4.1 Scottish Government Centre Housing Market Analysis attended a Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Ayrshires LHS Meeting in July 2015 and recommended that the review of existing evidence and literature review should focus on answering a small number of core questions that would assist authorities to address the LHS Considerations. The questions considered for North Lanarkshire include:

- Is the current level of provision adequate?
- Is the current provision a satisfactory standard?
- What are the key issues identified?
- What are the recommendations?

4.2 The Literature Review considered the above questions and a summary is provided within Appendix 2 of the position in each of the documents listed below.

- Criagforth, 2007 'An accommodation needs assessment of gypsies/travellers in West Central Scotland'
- The Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Commission, March 2013 'Where Gypsy Travellers Live'
- Scottish Government, May 2015 'Improving Gypsy Traveller Sites'
- Scottish Government, 2009 Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers
- Scottish Government: Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: Summary of the Evidence Base, Summer 2013
- Clydeplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment, 2015
- Shelter Scotland: Gypsies/Travellers
- The Traveller Movement: The Health and Wellbeing of Gypsies and Travellers, March 2012
- Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, November 2012 'Inclusion and ethnic monitoring of Gypsies and Travellers in the National Health Service'
- European Roma and Travellers Forum, May 2015 Fact Sheet on the Situation of Roma/Gypsies/Travellers in the United Kingdom
- The Traveller Movement, October 2014 'A Place to call home: Ethnicity, culture and planning for Traveller sites'
- The Traveller Movement, 2014 Conference Report 'Operation Traveller Vote'
- Travelling Towards Equality, May 2013 'Impact of universal credit and welfare reforms on the Gypsy and Traveller communities'

4.3 There are cross cutting issues and recommendations across the documents reviewed. Looking at each question identified by CHMA and how it relates to development of Local Housing Strategies has been summarised below:

*Is the current level of provision adequate?*

The literature review is wider than North Lanarkshire level although some documents do make specific reference to Lanarkshire and West Central Scotland. The general view for this area is that gypsy/traveller households have reduced opportunities and evidence of demand can only exist where there are existing services. There is no comprehensive estimate of need for additional

provision and Clydeplan HNDA has indicated that there is no unmet need within North Lanarkshire.

*Is the current provision a satisfactory standard?*

North Lanarkshire Council has no Council or RSL sites, however, all social landlord sites are now under scrutiny by the Scottish Housing Regulator under the Scottish Social Housing Charter with the outcome monitoring site maintenance and management. The literature review highlighted that there are significant differences in site standards across Scotland particularly in relation to facilities and access to surrounding amenities. Drivers for satisfaction mainly relate to these being good combined with good relationships on site.

*What are the key issues identified?*

Local authorities, including North Lanarkshire, have identified that the annual count in 2009 was the last official count and is now outdated. This only took account of Council and RSL sites and therefore didn't include households in unauthorised encampments so the figure was likely to be under representative. Furthermore issues arise in identifying a true picture and pattern of households as the counts in summer are 50% greater than in winter with no knowledge information collected or gathered in relation to where households come from or go to. The accuracy of information is therefore a key issue.

Other issues identified relate to site conditions, tenancy agreements and rental charges as well as lack of suitable stopping places for gypsy/travellers on the move. Health and access to services appears to be a cross cutting theme with publications indicating that gypsy/traveller household life expectancy and NHS outcomes are far poorer than that of the general public.

Recent changes to Planning systems and Welfare Reforms were also identified as key issues and are likely to also affect households in North Lanarkshire.

*What are the recommendations?*

Local authorities have been urged to review policies and procedures in relation to applications and allocations of Council sites. For existing sites there is a requirement to ensure planned cyclical maintenance of sites and facilities to ensure good standards, there was a cross cutting theme in relation to regulation of private sites to ensure good standards. The evidence suggests that positive health outcomes for gypsy/travellers is below average so improved links with health services is recommended, including equipment and adaptations.

For Councils and RSLs there appears to be disparity in relation to what is included within a Tenancy Agreement and how this compares to social housing tenancy agreements and within private sites households often don't have a tenancy agreement and are therefore at the mercy of their landlord.

An overview of the recommendations within the publications highlights the key areas North Lanarkshire should consider addressing which include access to

health services and considering how best to develop engagement and monitoring with private sites to regulate site standards and tenancy agreements.

## **5. Local Area Profiles**

- 5.1 In order to support the National data available at that time the Craigforth, June 2007 study completed 'Local Area Profile' templates for each local authority.
- 5.2 The Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Ayrshires Local Housing Strategy Group made use of this template in recording information for each authority. The template has been adapted to provide authorities with both qualitative and quantitative evidence to ensure the LHS Considerations have been thought through for each authority. The template consists of information in relation to official sites, private sites, new site provision, homeless applications, housing and unauthorised encampments and is included as Appendix 3.
- 5.3 The most significant development in data collection for North Lanarkshire has been in relation to unauthorised encampments. The GTLO has developed a database that will assist the authority to better understand requirements and travelling activity on the community using unauthorised encampments across the authority. In 2015, there appears to have been an increase in unauthorised encampments with 14 being recorded to date. The GTLO has been able to ascertain that it is generally the same households using a site for around two weeks and moving on and then coming back on their return journey to the same location. Sites have generally been on areas with hard standing and often away from residential areas and close to industrial units. Households advised that their reasons for stay included Christian Convention, funerals, visiting family, holidays and work. Only four households indicated they would have used a transit site had one been available but indicated they were aware of the local issues in terms of the Council being able to make such provision.
- 5.4 In addition information has been gathered on Private Planning Site Applications, there has been one retrospective application within North Lanarkshire this year to date for proposed extension to a gypsy/travellers site in Shotts. In previous years a number of applications have been received in relation to the same site and one in relation to another which was refused.
- 5.5 In 2014 the Council received three Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests in relation to gypsy/travellers, this included requirement for information on Education Policy and site provision. There have been no FOIs to date for 2015.
- 5.6 North Lanarkshire have a dedicated health resource, partly funded by Housing Services, for the gypsy/travellers. This equates to one fully day within a two week period of Health Visitor time and Keep Well Nurse input as required.
- 5.7 The area profile of gypsy/travellers has been a useful tool in assisting the authority to determine current provision, possible future requirements and standards within current sites. This information combined with the GTLO qualitative evidence and case studies highlights the key challenges for the

community within North Lanarkshire and also shows some examples of good practice and positive outcomes.

## **6. GTLO and Case Studies**

- 6.1 North Lanarkshire's GTLO carries out this role as one function within their post of Service Delivery Co-ordinator within Housing Services Central Operations. It is their responsibility to liaise with other agencies and make necessary referrals when unauthorised encampments arise in North Lanarkshire and to provide information and advice as required to gypsy/travellers. Interviewing the GTLO provided an insight into the views and thoughts of the GTLO on a number of areas including discrimination, site development and maintenance, engagement, tenancy agreements, temporary sites, access to other services and data collection.
- 6.2 The case studies highlight examples of good practice. The GTLO ensures that all unauthorised encampments are provided with waste collection and uplift services and referrals are made to health and education where appropriate.
- 6.3 The GTLO attends the Corporate Gypsy/Traveller Working Group on behalf of Housing Services. Housing Services have contributed to the success of the Council's Equality Strategy 2013-2018. Furthermore Housing Services have progressed actions in relation to gypsy travellers within the Equality Action Plan in relation to provision of information and guidance. The Action Plan was developed following consultation in 2011 with gypsy/travellers in relation to their perception of services, barriers and service provision.

## **7. Understanding the Evidence**

- 7.1 The desktop literature review, analysis of national data, Unauthorised Encampments Register and other relevant local data sources indicate that there has been a significant increase this year in unauthorised encampments within North Lanarkshire. Understanding why there has been this increase is more difficult as up until 2014 the numbers had been decreasing. The literature review has indicated that generally across Scotland there has been a lack of suitable stopping places and perhaps this may be the key to understanding the increase as the majority of unauthorised encampments within North Lanarkshire have been within the Cumbernauld area and area surrounding Euro Central. Both provide access to stopping places with hard standing and have large industrial areas which are quiet and where gypsy/travellers are less likely to be moved on very quickly as sites are within private ownership.
- 7.2 Larger landowners who have experience of dealing with unauthorised encampments tend to be less reactive and understand that the sites are generally short term (less than two weeks) and Council Services are put in place in relation to waste and site clean ups. There are good relationships between landowners, Police Scotland, NHS Lanarkshire and Council Services and it is often less resource intensive to manage the unauthorised encampment than to serve Notices for the group to move on.



- 7.3 To date, households living in unauthorised encampments have indicated that they would not generally make use of a Council site if it was available. There are a number of reasons for this ranging from intimidation to freedom of choice on where to stop. Most households indicated that their preference would be to stay on self owned sites with a close network of family and friends, however, none of them indicated that this more permanent base would be in North Lanarkshire. The unauthorised encampments so far in 2015 have all been on private sites with no Notices having been served.
- 7.4 The Council recognises that South Lanarkshire Council have Council owned sites and none have major maintenance, management of vandalism issues. Previous studies have indicated that some 'need' from North Lanarkshire is being met within South Lanarkshire as there is no provision within North Lanarkshire. However, local evidence doesn't support this theory as households indicate to the GTLO that a main driver for location is proximity to family and there is anecdotal evidence from GTLO across all authorities that Council and RSL sites are often predominantly lived on by a small number of families of various generations.
- 7.5 Evidence suggests site standards and facilities are an area gypsy/travellers feel needs to be addressed across the whole of Scotland due to the inconsistencies. As there are no Council or RSL sites within North Lanarkshire there is no direct action for the Council to take in relation to this evidence. However, gypsy/travellers have indicated that they feel private sites should be regulated in terms of site condition and tenancy agreements and this is something that the Council could consider developing in the future. The GTLO has indicated that facilities and conditions within the private site in North Lanarkshire appear to be good and no complaints have been received to date on this.

## **8. Progress to Date**

- 8.1 A good starting place to measure progress made so far is to consider the recommendations within the Craigforth 2007 Report, despite North Lanarkshire not having taken part in the study the Council have made considerable progress in addressing the recommendations identified.
- 8.2 The recommendations included:
- Demonstrate continued joint working at a regional level
  - Update of evidence base with similar study every five years
  - Monitor trends on an annual basis
  - Demonstrate accessibility of access to application process for both social housing and Council/RSL sites
  - House visits to gypsy/traveller households on Council/RSL sites on annual basis
- 8.3 The Council are key partners within both the Clydeplan Housing Market Partnership and within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Ayrshires LHS Group. Clydeplan Housing Market Partnership are responsible for assessing housing

need across the region and identifying any future land requirements in relation to gypsy/travellers and the Council have worked jointly with the other authorities to produce the Clydeplan HNDA. In addition the LHS group commissioned Craigforth in 2007 and have now this year jointly agreed to work together to produce a desktop study to consider the LHS Guidance Considerations in relation to gypsy/travellers.

- 8.4 North Lanarkshire Council were unable to participate in the 2007 Research but have carried out considerable work internally in 2011 through face to face surveys and have improved our local intelligence by improving monitoring of unauthorised encampments to allow the authority to start to identify trends and future requirements. The joint work with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Ayrshires LHS Group has also helped to develop the evidence base through consideration of both national and local data.
- 8.5 The Council monitor a variety of information on an annual basis across a number of Services and the Corporate Working Group will be taking this forward in the future. Housing Services are committed to monitoring information in relation to unauthorised encampments, CHR applications and referrals to and from other services.
- 8.6 There appears to have been consistent levels of demand for social rented housing from households identifying themselves as gypsy/travellers within the Common Housing Register (CHR). The CHR can be accessed on line, over the telephone or in person within Council First Stop Shops, furthermore the GTLO and Keep Well Nurses ensure households are referred to appropriate services as required, including those seeking social rented housing.
- 8.7 Gypsy/travellers are not singled out for house visits on an annual basis, all tenants of North Lanarkshire Council are visited annually through our Annual Housing Visit process.
- 8.8 At a local level interviews have been carried out with the authorities Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer and members of the Corporate Gypsy Traveller Working Group.
- 8.9 The information gathered has provided a robust range of information from a wide source of publications and qualitative sources.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is clear from the literature review and the local evidence gathering that measuring and counting gypsy/travellers is very difficult, especially as counts generally only relate to official sites and known unauthorised encampments. Given a significant proportion of gypsy/travellers live in bricks and mortar housing and do not identify themselves and the transient nature of the community the true figure is unknown.

9.2 There is no Council or RSL site provision within North Lanarkshire and the Clydeplan HNDA indicates that there is no unmet need for the gypsy/traveller community within North Lanarkshire. Anecdotal evidence from gypsy/traveller households suggests that the standards within sites they have visited across the country varies considerably. No complaints have been made about standards within the private site within North Lanarkshire.

9.3 Recommendations to be taken forward include:

- Continued membership of Gypsy and Travellers Corporate Working Group
- Review Actions for Housing Services within Action Plan Gypsy Travellers Corporate Working Group Action Plan
- Assess and monitor compliance with legislation and Government Guidance with regard to equalities and the gypsy traveller community in relation to Housing Services
- Continue to develop our understanding and evidence base in relation to housing need for gypsy/travellers through Clydeplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment
- Maintain Register of Unauthorised Encampments in North Lanarkshire
- Develop Site Visit Protocol and Referral Process between Partners
- Monitor planning applications and outcomes for private gypsy/traveller site provision
- Monitor the number of Common Housing Register Applications and Allocations to Gypsy/Travellers
- Develop and implement housing options information for gypsy/travellers
- Develop and implement housing support for gypsy/travellers
- Consult with gypsy/traveller community where possible in relation to development of Council's Local Housing Strategy
- Promote good neighbour relationships and understanding between gypsy travellers and settled community

## **APPENDIX 1 CASE STUDIES**

### **CASE STUDY 1**

A large encampment on a former access road outside a prominent town centre within a large local authority.

Occupants of the site were made up of small number of non family groups who were not travelling together but had set up the encampment at the same location.

There was a young woman on site about 3-4 months pregnant, she wasn't certain of exact time as she had not yet seen a midwife. She advised she would like to see a medical professional so the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer arranged for a Health Visitor to attend the next day resulting in a midwife appointment at local clinic the following day.

Whilst on site the Health Visitor carried out a number of other medical checks on other occupants whilst on site, the joined up partnership and referral approach undertaken potentially contributed to improved health and wellbeing of the households occupying this site.

### **CASE STUDY 2**

Small encampment within industrial area close to busy town centre. An elderly lady occupant of the site required medical assistance with an injection and regular medication for a number of health conditions so the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer contacted the Health Visitor and arranged a site visit. Initially the lady did not wish to engage with the Health Visitor as she hadn't brought the required medication with her, progress was made when the Health Visitor explained the lady would need to register with a GP to be able to receive a prescription. Assistance was provided to the lady to allow her to access NHS Services within the local area as she was from outwith the area. There had been a lack of knowledge that health services differed across Scotland and there was a requirement to register in a new area. A temporary GP was arranged who was able to provide the injection and update her medication. There were initial difficulties getting a GP within the health centre to register the lady however the Health Visitor succeeded in doing this.

Joint working with NHS improves access to services that be difficult for the Gypsy Traveller community to try and access themselves. Practices are different across all areas and many GPs are reluctant to accept households as temporary patients.

## APPENDIX 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

<b>LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)</b>				
<b>Literature</b>	<b>Current Level of Provision</b>	<b>Standard of Current Provision</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<p>Craigforth, June 2007 'An accommodation needs assessment of gypsies/travellers in West Central Scotland'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 1290 people or 415 households were identified as living in West Central Scotland. It is estimated that 60% of these live in ordinary housing and around 40% on Council/RSL or private sites or encampments.</li> <li>• West Central Scotland has seen both summer and winter populations decline since 2001.</li> <li>• Not clear if this is related to reduced opportunities for encampments or a reduction in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in 3 residents of Council/RSL sites rate their site as 'good' (few excellent) but 1 in 4 as 'poor'.</li> <li>• Key drivers of satisfaction are: peace and quiet, family/good neighbours, site facilities and good location for accessing services.</li> <li>• Key drivers for dissatisfaction are poor site facilities (amenity blocks), poor site layout and design, overcrowding and disruptive behaviour, problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual count only measured population residing on official Gypsies/Traveller sites and on known unauthorised encampments. Majority live in ordinary housing and are generally reluctant to self identify.</li> <li>• The summer population is almost 50% greater in size than the winter one, and this is accounted for by an incoming travelling population of largely English or Irish origin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dual approach to investment in existing Council/RSL sites on an ongoing basis and the development of additional year round sites. Central Government funding considered critical by local authorities as a lack of demand evidence combined with past failures brings financial risk.</li> <li>• Councils and RSLs should put sound plans in place for the planned and cyclical maintenance and ongoing upgrading of official sites.</li> <li>• Need for up to an additional 50 pitches on year round sites in West Central Scotland over the</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

Literature	Current Level of Provision	Standard of Current Provision	Key Issues	Recommendations
	<p>popularity of the area i.e. fewer seasonal work opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The biggest concentrations of Gypsies/Travellers are in Argyll and Bute, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.</li> <li>• The current level of occupancy on Council/RSL sites is over 80%</li> <li>• Turnover is around 30 pitches per year</li> <li>• There is no agreement as to what constitutes a 'need' in a Gypsy/Traveller context</li> <li>• The best estimate is that there may be a need for additional</li> </ul>	<p>with rats and drainage, arrangements for mail delivery and problems with electricity supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In total around 1 in 5 households interviewed (22%) had an unmet potential need for adaptations or additional facilities directly related to health and mobility needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gypsy/Traveller population in West Central Scotland is younger in profile than found nationally (42% under 16 compared with 37% nationally).</li> <li>• A strictly needs based approach along the lines of that used to allocate social rented housing is not without considerable risk - without careful selection of new tenant's sites could easily become ineffective and abandoned, therefore playing no role in meeting accommodation needs. They also</li> </ul>	<p>next 5-6 years – in Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priority area for developing new transit provision is Ayrshire.</li> <li>• Scottish Government should consider the continues availability of grant aid to encourage development of new site provision</li> <li>• Local authorities and RSLs should consider joint funding applications for new provision and develop joint working and cost sharing arrangements with neighbouring authorities.</li> <li>• Local priority for South Lanarkshire Council to consider the development of new year round site(s) in consultation with North Lanarkshire with a</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

Literature	Current Level of Provision	Standard of Current Provision	Key Issues	Recommendations
	<p>provision of 50 pitches across West Central Scotland over the next 5 – 6 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong evidence of demand only exists in those authorities who already have settled popular sites. There is little evidence base in areas with little or no provision.</li> <li>• Evidence suggests that priority areas for additional official site provision are the Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire areas. South Lanarkshire are cautious given the already large concentration of site provision and</li> </ul>		<p>potentially become loss making concerns for Councils/RSLs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of Gypsy/Travellers taking part in the study favoured living on Council/RSL sites and wanted to continue to do so.</li> <li>• 1 in 4 of those living on Council/RSL sites expressed a preference for living in housing, probably in the social rented sector but less than 1 in 3 of those interested had applied to a social landlord.</li> <li>• The level of long term limiting illness and disability</li> </ul>	<p>capacity of 10-20 pitches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local authorities and RSLs need to review their policies and procedures in relation to the application for, and allocation of, pitches on official sites.</li> <li>• Need to consider how local authorities can work with private owners of sites to ensure good standards of accommodation and amenities i.e. introduction of regular inspection or development of an accreditation scheme (possible expansion of the private landlord accreditation scheme)</li> <li>• In conjunction with Police, local authorities with holiday sites in their area should consider how best to tackle discrimination</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

Literature	Current Level of Provision	Standard of Current Provision	Key Issues	Recommendations
	<p>population in their area. There is need to consider neighbouring North Lanarkshire where previous site provision has been unsuccessful or fallen into disuse.</p>		<p>among the official site population is high with 2 in 3 households reporting at least one family member falling into this category – twice the national average. This suggests a potentially much higher need for particular needs accommodation, equipment and adaptations and support needs among Gypsy/Travellers than the general population.</p>	<p>experienced by Gypsy/Travellers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Authorities need to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to deliver a comprehensive equipment and adaptations service to Gypsy/Traveller households living on official sites.</li> <li>• It is recommended that local authorities should continue to work jointly i.e. on a regional basis to identify and address the accommodation needs and preferences of Gypsy/Traveller households.</li> <li>• Councils and RSLs should take regular steps to ensure that those wanting to apply for a pitch on a site or apply for a move to a social</li> </ul>



**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

Literature	Current Level of Provision	Standard of Current Provision	Key Issues	Recommendations
				rented house do make an application. Otherwise need goes considerably unrecorded.
The Scottish Parliament, Equal Opportunities Commission, March 2013 'Where Gypsy Travellers Live'		Site visits identified 'horrendous conditions' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freezing cold shower and toilet blocks with over priced heating</li> <li>• A fire hose that couldn't even reach all of the pitches</li> <li>• No bus stop or roadside pavement</li> <li>• Nearest playground a 2 mile walk along muddy, unlit woodland path</li> <li>• Inadequate attempts to make adaptations for a disabled resident</li> <li>• A site with no fixed phone line or stable mobile phone signal –</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor quality of Gypsy Traveller sites</li> <li>• The need for site tenants to have consistent tenancy agreements across the country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An existing Scottish Government minister should be given a new specific and over-arching responsibility for the on-going support and profile-raising of Gypsy/Travellers</li> <li>• Scottish Government leadership is needed in supporting the development of sites. This is essential in supporting local authorities and elected representatives both in building new sites and setting an example against discrimination</li> <li>• The Minister should find a way of establishing a</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

Literature	Current Level of Provision	Standard of Current Provision	Key Issues	Recommendations
		unable to easily seek medical care		<p>required standard for site facilities, whether through statutory guidelines such as the SHQS or by some other means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They commend the work of Planning Aid for Scotland and Article 12 and expect the Scottish Government to continue to support such initiatives to help with planning applications.</li> <li>• Scottish Government should work with Gypsy/Travellers and supporting bodies on the development of a standard Gypsy/Traveller site tenancy agreement</li> <li>• The role of a Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer should be adopted jointly between local authorities and site residents.</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any national action plan the Scottish Government develops should suggest that local authorities use multiple options in developing options for temporary stays.</li> </ul>
<p>Scottish Government, May 2015 'Improving Gypsy Traveller Sites'</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance sets out minimum site standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities and RSLs'.</li> </ul>	<p>Minimum standards:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical facilities and fabric, including the quality of fixtures and fittings, lighting, heating, and a hot a cold water supply</li> <li>Services provided by the site provider and how it treats site tenants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site providers have until 30 June 2018 to make sure all sites meet the minimum standards</li> <li>Site providers should carry out an assessment of their site(s) and any work needed to ensure a site meets these minimum standards by the end of 2015.</li> <li>Site tenants should be involved in reviewing the standard of the currents site</li> <li>Following the initial assessment site providers should undertake a regular walk round inspection (at least</li> </ul>

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				twice per year) to identify repairs and maintenance that needs to be undertaken.
Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2009 recorded 648 Gypsy/Traveller Households living on Council/RSL sites, private sites and unauthorised encampments in Scotland</li> <li>• This represents an estimated population of around 2,120 people (a small decrease from July 2008)</li> <li>• At this time there were 31 Council/RSL sites across 23 different council areas (3 summer only) – a total of 478 pitches. 72%</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 43% of Gypsy/Traveller population living on Council/RSL sites is aged 19 or under (compared to only 23% of general population).</li> <li>• Conversely, 10% of Gypsies/Travellers are over 60, compared to around 22% of general population</li> <li>• Not necessarily a sign of a shorter life span, but could reflect a desire to move away from Council/RSL sites, possibly to housed</li> </ul>	

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	<p>currently tenanted 13% available for let but untenanted, 15% unavailable for letting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of 31 sites, 8 were operating at full capacity</li> <li>• There were 22 private sites (5 summer only) - 161 households. 92% had been living there for 4 weeks or longer</li> <li>• There were 46 unauthorised encampment locations across 18 local authorities (33% of total Gypsy/Traveller households). National average encampment size was 5.2 caravans</li> <li>• In North Lanarkshire, there were only 2</li> </ul>		<p>accommodation for health reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most settled sites with tenants over 5 years show some tendency towards older populations</li> <li>• Average household size across all sites was 3.1 (above Scottish average of 2.2.). Varies from 2.5 to 7.8.</li> <li>• Accurate data on the number of households living on private sites and details of the sites themselves can be difficult to obtain.</li> <li>• Unauthorised encampments can be difficult to find and are not always known to the local authority officers</li> </ul>	

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	<p>reported Gypsy/Travellers households both of which were living on an unauthorised encampment at the time of the 2009 count. The caravans had occupied the site for 'longer than 2 weeks'. This is down from 38 households in July 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 6 month period Jan 2009 – July 2009, North Lanarkshire had 12 locations used as encampments with a total of 123 caravans over 6 month period.</li> <li>• There were 94 applicants on the waiting list for Council/RSL sites, equivalent to 23% of</li> </ul>			

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<p>Scottish Government: Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: Summary of the Evidence Base, Summer 2013</p>	<p>the available pitches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At present there are no official population estimates for the Gypsy/Traveller population in Scotland.</li> <li>Last official count (2009) there were just under 700 Gypsy/Traveller households</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scottish Housing Regulator now has regulatory responsibility for local authorities and social landlords who manage Gypsy/Traveller sites</li> <li>There is now a Scottish Social Housing Charter Outcome: <i>Sites are well maintained and managed.</i></li> <li>Site satisfaction data collected for the first time by SHR in 2014.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is limited evidence available about patterns of travel for Gypsies/Travellers and there are multiple factors which influence the travel activities of Gypsies/Travellers</li> <li>Gypsies/Travellers experience much poorer outcomes than other communities and can have difficulty accessing services which are appropriate to their needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scottish Government's Communities Analytical Services team (CAS) plan to analyse emerging data on Gypsies/Travellers – late 2013</li> </ul>
<p>Clydeplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gypsies and Travellers have specific housing needs, often requiring sites for caravans and mobile</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The evidence base on Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople's housing needs is now outdated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision should be made for those communities which are in an areas already and those who may arrive at a later date</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

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	<p>homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no comprehensive estimate of the Gypsy/Traveller populations. The main source of information on people identified as Gypsies/Travellers is the 2011 Census.</li> <li>• The 2011 Census recorded the Gypsy/Traveller population as a separate ethnic group for the first time and found that ¼ of the 4,200 people who identified as Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland live in West Central Scotland, compared to 1/3 of the total population</li> <li>• 205</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling showpeople are distinct from Gypsy/Travellers. They are not recognised as an ethnic group. They are a community of self-employed people with a strong and distinctive culture who travel the country, often with extended family groups. Showpeople travel from fair to fair throughout the summer months, and settle in more permanent sites during the winter. Winter quarters are often located on temporary sites, for example, land awaiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning authorities should identify suitable locations for meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and set out policies about small privately owned sites.</li> <li>• Gypsy and Travellers communities should be involved in decisions about sites for their use</li> <li>• The future viability of the currently unused site in North Lanarkshire requires further evaluation</li> <li>• The partner authorities are jointly developing a brief with a view to updating the findings of the 2007 study to provide a clearer understanding of housing needs and appropriateness of current provision.</li> </ul>



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	<p>Gypsy/Travellers in North Lanarkshire 0.06% of population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main source of information about people living on Gypsy/Traveller sites is the Scottish Government's Twice Yearly count however this is currently suspended pending a wider review of Government data collections.</li> <li>• There are three operational Gypsy/Traveller sites in the GCV area: 2 in South Lanarkshire (27 pitches) and 1 in West Dunbartonshire (20 pitches)</li> <li>• These sites are popular and settled,</li> </ul>		<p>redevelopment. Although showpeople may aspire to own their own yard, local authorities may grant 'temporary' planning permission</p>	

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

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	<p>with many households living there for several years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 3 'official' private sites in the GCV area, all in South Lanarkshire, providing 57 pitches: 47 long stay and 10 short stay. Two of the sites are specifically for Gypsy/Travellers; the third is a holiday sit that accepts Gypsy/Travellers</li> <li>• None of the areas with local authority Gypsy and Traveller site provision record any significant unmet need or demand for pitches</li> <li>• There is evidence of demand from the community for land</li> </ul>			

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	<p>for private sites, which is shown in private planning applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Lanarkshire Council noted that they have not processed any applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites over the last three years</li> <li>• Anecdotal evidence indicated that the number of sites for travelling showpeople may have decreased in recent years, mainly as a result of redevelopment. Consequently, some existing sites have become more crowded</li> <li>• The previous</li> </ul>			

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	<p>HNDA1 recorded that 4 out of 8 GCV authorities had sites for travelling showpeople (including North Lanarkshire)</p>			
<p>Shelter Scotland: Gypsies/Travellers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At present, Scottish councils provide around 500 pitches in council sites which are open all year round, although a few councils operate seasonal sites</li> <li>• In Scotland, there are currently no official 'transit' sites where Gypsies/Travellers can stop over while travelling, while many council-run sites are situated in bad locations, often due to historic reasons and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities for each council pitch can include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A hard standing for a caravan</li> <li>○ Space to park a car or other vehicle</li> <li>○ Space for a second caravan, as additional accommodation</li> <li>○ Toilets</li> <li>○ Showers and/or baths</li> <li>○ Some storage space</li> <li>○ An area for preparing and cooking food</li> <li>○ A secure mailbox</li> <li>○ Communal areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The traditional travelling way of life is threatened by a shortage of suitable campsites and stopping areas.</li> <li>• Gypsies/Travellers are often refused planning permission by the council.</li> <li>• Private rented accommodation is generally more readily available than council housing, however, rents are higher, and some</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils should involve members of the Gypsy/Traveller community when drawing up plans and strategies. They may do this by, for example:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Putting a poster up on site notice board, inviting them to a meeting</li> <li>○ Working with Gypsy/Traveller liaison organisations or other voluntary agencies to recruit representatives</li> <li>○ Consulting the site's residents' association, if there is one.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If parked up in an unauthorised area, a</li> </ul>

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	<p>travelling patterns, with inadequate facilities and limited access to services. This means that Gypsies/Travellers are often forced to stop in unauthorised areas, which can lead to problems and confrontations with local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are around 20 private sites used by Gypsies/Traveller in Scotland. These consist of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sites set up and run by Gypsies/Travellers themselves</li> <li>○ Holiday or touring sites which allow Gypsies/Travellers to use them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unauthorised sites or encampments are</li> </ul>	<p>i.e. meeting rooms or children's play area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights will vary depending on the agreement with the council but it should set out:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contact details for the site manager</li> <li>○ Site rules, for example, about visitors, pets, anti-social behaviour</li> <li>○ How to report repairs</li> <li>○ How to make a complaint</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pitch rents on council sites vary. Failure to pay rent can result in eviction</li> <li>• Residents also need to pay for electricity and council tax</li> <li>• A private protected site has planning</li> </ul>	<p>landlords are prejudiced against Gypsies/Travellers and may be reluctant to let property to them</p>	<p>representative from the council should visit the site to assess the situation and see whether they'll be able to stay on. If there are free places in the council's official site (if they have one), they may suggest a move there. The council should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ how many vehicles</li> <li>○ how long their planning on staying</li> <li>○ any welfare needs (for example, whether any one is ill, elderly or pregnant)</li> <li>○ road safety</li> <li>○ other safety issues (for example, if the site is near a railway line or in a polluted area)</li> <li>○ what the land is normally used for and whether it's needed in the near future</li> <li>○ any potential damage to</li> </ul>

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	<p>sites which aren't licensed, don't have planning permission and aren't run by the council. Gypsies/Travellers usually set up these sites on unused land, for example on wasteland or at the roadside. Some councils may unofficially set aside areas of waste ground to be used as unauthorised sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Gypsies/Travellers live in permanent, settled housing. This may be through choice, or it may be a last resort option, due to age, ill health or lack of seasonal employment or</li> </ul>	<p>permission and a site licence from the council. In order to receive a licence, the site must reach certain standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those staying on a protected site, should be given an agreement, known as a written statement, setting out their rights.</li> <li>• Those staying on an unprotected site, that is, a site that doesn't have planning permission and a site licence, won't have many rights, and the site owner will be able to evict them easily</li> <li>• A holiday site or a site that is not open all year round is not a protected site.</li> </ul>		<p>the land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the effect on the local community.</li> <li>• In general, Gypsy/Travellers shouldn't be moved on from council-owned land, provided that it's safe for them to be there and they:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ look after the land</li> <li>○ make sure they don't cause any fire risks</li> <li>○ dispose of any rubbish responsibly</li> <li>○ keep any animals under control</li> <li>○ respect the rights and way of life of others in the area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The council may provide minimal facilities, such as portaloos and bin bags for your rubbish for a small fee, although not all do. If the council doesn't, it may be possible to</li> </ul>

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	<p>suitable 'on the road' accommodation, or to escape discrimination and harassment.</p>			<p>argue that they should, in the interests of public health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those Gypsy/Travellers who find it hard to adjust to living in settled housing, the council should offer help and support</li> </ul>
<p>The Traveller Movement: The Health and Wellbeing of Gypsies and Travellers March 2012</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite a lack of national data on the health status of Gypsies and Travellers, studies have revealed their health outcomes to be much poorer than the general population.</li> <li>• Gypsies and Travellers have the lowest life expectancy of any group in the UK and experience an</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (ITMB) consider the poor health outcomes which Gypsies and Travellers suffer unacceptable and are willing to work with the government, local health service providers and the Gypsy and Traveller communities to address this issue.</li> <li>• ITMB urge Government and DoH should develop a national Gypsy, Roma, Traveller health strategy</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

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			<p>infant mortality rate which is 3 times higher than the national average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key area of concern is mental health with Gypsies and Travellers over twice as likely to be depressed, and almost three times as likely to suffer from anxiety as others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITMB urge the DoH to ensure that funding is available for targeted partnership programmes with community members and representative groups</li> <li>• The DoH should develop and provide community led training for the National Inclusion Health Board, the NHS, local government and other about Gypsies and Travellers</li> </ul>
<p>Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, November 2012 'Inclusion and ethnic monitoring of Gypsies and Travellers in the National Health Service'</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gypsies and Travellers face higher levels of exclusion and exceptionally poor health outcomes in the NHS.</li> <li>• There are a variety of reasons for the poor inclusion of Gypsies and Travellers health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the context of the new legal duties on health inequalities in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, it is an imperative that the Department of Health take pro-active steps to improve the engagement, inclusion and monitoring of Gypsies and Travellers service use and health</li> </ul>



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			<p>needs including discrimination, unstable accommodation, lack of cultural awareness poor literacy and engagement with statutory bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research indicates that Gypsies and Travellers are dying 10-12 years younger than the average life expectancy</li> <li>• Research has found that a majority of trusts and health service providers are failing in their statutory duties to 'assess and address health inequalities, difficulties in access and discrimination'</li> </ul>	<p>outcomes.</p>

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<p>eEuropean Roma and Travellers Forum, May 2015: Fact Sheet on The Situation of Roma/Gypsies/Travellers in the United Kingdom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no longer a duty on local authorities to provide sites for Gypsy and Travellers to live on.</li> <li>• Under the Housing Act 2004, local authorities were required to assess need and allocate land for Gypsy and Traveller sites to meet their needs but most authorities have failed to comply.</li> <li>• Resistance by local authorities, reflecting attitudes within the majority population, is a major obstacle to the provision of new sites.</li> <li>• Gypsies and Travellers are facing major problems in finding sites that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The living condition of Gypsies and Travellers in both authorised and unauthorised sites are deplorable. Even legally provided encampments tend to be located in remote locations or new industrial sites, railways, roads and sewage works etc</li> <li>• Many Roma live in poor, sub-standard accommodation, often shared with other families. Due to a shortage of social housing, Roma typically are required to rent in the private sector. Reports show that some landlords are charging Roma tenants high rents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refusal of previous Coalition Government to adopt a Roma National Strategy instead publishing a list of 28 proposed commitments which 'fall well short of the explicit measures that the EU framework advocates'.</li> <li>• Significant difference in health access between Gypsies and Travellers living at authorised sites which are safe from eviction and provide residents with the potential to register with medical services, and those who have no legal place to park their</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government must adopt effective national strategies to improve Roma, Gypsies and Travellers living conditions and inclusion across multiple domains</li> <li>• The Government must take more vigorous measures to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers who wish to live in caravans in a culturally congruent manner</li> <li>• The Government should increase the delivery of sites</li> <li>• Local authorities must actively seek to identify adequate solutions to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.</li> <li>• The Government must put in place a system of regulation for the private rented sector, including</li> </ul>

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	<p>allow them to pursue their traditional way of life and are constantly faced with eviction from sites which do not fulfil all complex legal requirements to exist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of legal stopping places combined with inadequate and unhealthy official sites means that many Gypsies and Travellers are often forced into broke and mortar accommodation. There is substantial evidence of depression and anxiety amongst housed Gypsies and Travellers, associated with isolation, loss of</li> </ul>	<p>for low quality and overcrowded accommodation which often leads to poor health and low school attendance/attainment.</p>	<p>caravan.</p>	<p>clear criteria about affordability, access to information and security of tenure, to stop landlords unscrupulous practices which impact on Roma.</p>

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	<p>community, discrimination and difficulties of transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forced eviction is a common problem.</li> </ul>			
<p>The Traveller Movement, October 2014 'A Place to call home: Ethnicity, culture and planning for Traveller sites'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical shortage of culturally appropriate accommodation is a major barrier to equality for Gypsies and Travellers in the UK.</li> <li>Despite a succession of central government policies urging local authorities to make provision, these policies have consistently been ignored or watered down in their implementation at local level.</li> <li>The failure to address the</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The technical planning definition used in Scottish Government planning guidance - 'gypsy status' does not recognise the ethnicity or culture of the UK's Gypsy, Irish Traveller or other traditional Travellers. It is based on an outdated idea that Gypsies and Travellers are purely 'nomadic' – or constantly travelling in search of certain types of work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government need to ensure they engage in a meaningful and robust consultation process on 'gypsy status' definition</li> <li>The TM recommends a revised workable definition which recognises the cultural heritage of traditional Gypsies and Travellers whilst encompassing a wider dimension</li> <li>The Government should ensure that all their documents/publications use upper-case G and T when referring to Gypsies and Travellers</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

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	<p>shortage of sites impacts on other social inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, since without a fixed home it is harder to attend school, access health and maternity care, register for a bank account etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significant difficulties Gypsies and Travellers experience gaining permission through the planning system is one of two major barriers to providing accommodation – the other being the continued lack of public site provision and the building of new public sites.</li> <li>• Key part of planning</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The definition requires Gypsies and Travellers to travel in order to stay still. Applicants for planning permission for a permanent site have to prove they are nomadic for economic purposes, but it is increasing impossible to live an economically viable life.</li> <li>• It confines Gypsies and Travellers to traditional and often insecure occupations because sedentary professions such as teaching pose the danger of an individual losing 'gypsy status'.</li> </ul>	

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	barrier is the anachronistic 'gypsy status' definition.			
The Traveller Movement, 2014 Conference Report 'Operation Traveller Vote'			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Government proposals to change planning guidance for Traveller sites and the definition of Gypsies and Travellers are not practically workable; will most likely be subject to legal challenges and fail to recognise the ethnic and cultural identity of these groups.</li> <li>• Accommodation insecurity, living environment and social exclusion all negatively impact on Gypsies' and Travellers' health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is critical that any new Government bring forward sustainable policy solutions that address the national shortage of sites; properly manage unauthorised encampments and recognise the ethnic and cultural identity of Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of planning.</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

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<p>Travelling Towards Equality, May 2013 'Impact of universal credit and welfare reforms on the Gypsy and Traveller communities'.</p>	<p>Gypsies and Travellers experience acute accommodation insecurity, with approximately 16-20% of community members living in caravans in England being classified as homeless, in that they have no legal place to park their caravans.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of universal credit, linked with wider welfare reforms, pose a significantly greater risk of negativity impacting on Gypsies and Travellers.</li> <li>• Under universal credit claimants maximum benefit award will be subject to a total benefit cap regardless of how many children they have. Gypsy and Travellers traditionally have larger families than the settled accommodation; an average of between 3.5 and 5.9 children compared to a national average of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DWP, in collaboration and consultation with Gypsy and Traveller organisations, should produce guidance information about claiming UC in DVD and online formats showing step by step how to make a claim, adhering to the claimant commitment, alternative payment arrangements etc</li> </ul>

**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

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			<p>1.9 children per woman. Therefore the caps could have a disproportionate impact on Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of Gypsy and Traveller families facing increasing accommodation insecurity as a result of welfare reforms, especially those living in the local authority mobile rented sector and 'bricks and mortar' private rented sector.</li> <li>• Serious concerns regarding the capacity of self-employed Gypsies and Travellers with low literacy and numeracy skills to</li> </ul>	



**LHS Gypsy Traveller Joint Desktop Study Literature Review (July 2015)**

Literature	Current Level of Provision	Standard of Current Provision	Key Issues	Recommendations
			engage with the changes in UC.	
Assessing local authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in Scotland – Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 100 caravans on unauthorised sites in January 2008</li> <li>• Eight authorities provided an estimate of additional need ranging from 0-50 pitches</li> <li>• Seven authorities provided an estimate of transient need ranging from 0-6 pitches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		
Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland: A thematic inquiry				



## APPENDIX 3 GLASGOW, CLYDE VALLEY AND AYRSHIRE DESKTOP STUDY TEMPLATE

**LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:**

North Lanarkshire Council

**COMPLETION DATE:**

28 July 2015

NATIONAL DATA	LOCAL AUTHORITY FIGURE/EVIDENCE Within published source
<p><b>Scottish Government: Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland 2009</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population Levels</li> <li>• Sites</li> <li>• Total Households</li> <li>• Council/RSL Site Provision</li> <li>• Site Turnover</li> <li>• Turned Away</li> <li>• Waiting Lists</li> <li>• Encampments (Summer)</li> </ul>	<p>As at July 2009:                      1 unauthorised encampment                      2 households within encampment                      2 caravans within encampment                      Staying for period longer than 2 weeks</p> <p>January – July 2009                      12 locations used and occupied on 12 occasions                      123 caravans                      2 unauthorised encampments – 2 households</p> <p>Population Estimate                      No of hh x Ave Size of hh (3.1)                      2 x 3.1 = 6.2</p> <p>Private Sites – 0                      Council RSL Sites - 0</p>
<p><b>2011 Census</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request submitted for required information by local authority area</li> </ul>	<p>205 White Gypsy Travellers</p> <p>Long Term Health Conditions</p>

<p>I:\DEVELOP\LHS 2016\Gypsy Travellers\Analysis of Equality Results from the 2011 Census - Part 2.mht</p>	<p>All people in households 200  No condition 142  One or more conditions 58  Deafness or partial hearing loss 7  Blindness or partial sight loss 4  Learning disability 2  Learning difficulty 8  Developmental disorder 3  Physical disability 16  Mental health condition 15  Other condition 34</p>	
<p><b>SHR – Scottish Social Housing Charter Outcome 2014/15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites are well maintained and managed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cost per pitch</li> <li>○ Satisfaction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No Council Site – N/A</p>	
<p><b>Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry, March 2013 – Where Gypsy/Travellers Live</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Study evidence of sites visited (NB not within this study area)</li> </ul>	<p>LV requested data from EOC July 2015</p>	
<p><b>LOCAL DATA</b></p>	<p><b>LOCAL AUTHORITY FIGURE</b> Local data as at 313/15</p>	<p><b>LOCAL AUTHORITY FIGURE</b> Local data as at Completion Date if available</p>
<p><b>Housing Need and Demand Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land requirement for new/additional sites/pitches</li> </ul>	<p>No significant requirement</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p><b>Council Sites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sites</li> <li>• For each site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity</li> <li>• Occupancy</li> <li>• Site Turnover</li> <li>• Turned Away</li> <li>• Waiting Lists</li> <li>• Rent</li> <li>• Site Office</li> <li>• Amenity Block</li> <li>• Tenants Association</li> <li>• Issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No Council Sites</p>	<p>No Council Sites</p>
<p><b>RSL Sites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sites</li> <li>• For each site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity</li> <li>• Occupancy</li> <li>• Site Turnover</li> <li>• Turned Away</li> <li>• Waiting Lists</li> <li>• Rent</li> <li>• Repairs</li> <li>• Site Office</li> <li>• Amenity Block</li> <li>• Tenants Association</li> <li>• Issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No RSL Sites</p>	<p>No RSL Sites</p>
<p><b>Private Sites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sites</li> </ul>	<p>National data sources record 0 sites, however, Planning</p>	<p>National data sources record 0 sites, however,</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For each site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity</li> <li>• Occupancy</li> <li>• Site Turnover</li> <li>• Turned Away</li> <li>• Waiting Lists</li> <li>• Rent</li> <li>• Site Office</li> <li>• Amenity Block</li> <li>• Tenants Association</li> <li>• Issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Application records indicate 2 sites in North Lanarkshire	Planning Application records indicate 2 sites in North Lanarkshire
<b>Homeless Applications (All Households &amp; GT Households)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of Applications</li> <li>• No of Allocations</li> <li>• No in temporary accommodation</li> <li>• No of unresolved cases</li> </ul>	TBC	2013/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 homeless applications</li> <li>• Allocations not recorded by ethnicity</li> <li>• 1 applicant within temporary accommodation</li> </ul> 2014/15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>
<b>Housing (All Households &amp; GT Households)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of applications</li> <li>• No households identified within Council Housing</li> <li>• No of households identified within RSL Housing</li> <li>• No of households identified with Private Housing</li> </ul>		2013/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 applications in total (incl 2 homeless)</li> <li>• Gypsy Traveller Terminations – 1 abandoned and 4 with four weeks notice</li> </ul> 2014/15

<p><b>Encampments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of short term</li> <li>• No of long term</li> <li>• For each encampment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average length of Stay</li> <li>• Reason for stay</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• No of caravans</li> <li>• Children</li> <li>• From/To</li> <li>• Family link to area</li> <li>• Would they use site if provided</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul> <p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 encampments</li> <li>• 10 brownfield and 1 greenfield</li> <li>• 37 caravans</li> <li>• 81 adults &amp; 62 children</li> </ul> <p>2015 to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 encampments</li> <li>• 20 caravans</li> <li>• 240 adults &amp; 120 children</li> <li>• 1-10 households per site</li> <li>• Reasons for stay include Christian Convention, Funeral, Family Visit/Holiday, Work</li> <li>• Going to Ayrshire, Inverness and South</li> <li>• 4 indicated they would have used transit site if available</li> </ul>
<p><b>Private Site Planning Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of Applications Received</li> <li>• No of Applications Approved</li> </ul>		<p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Proposed Extension to Gypsy Travellers Site (in retrospect)</u></a></li> </ul>

Travelling People's  
Site Currieside  
Piggery 269 Station  
Road Shotts ML7  
4LB  
Ref. No:  
15/00979/FUL |  
Received: Tue 05  
May 2015 | Validated:  
Wed 17 Jun 2015 |  
Status: Pending  
Consideration

**2010-2014**

- [Proposed Alterations to Gypsy Traveller Compound](#)  
Currieside Piggery  
Station Road Shotts  
North Lanarkshire  
ML7 4LB  
Ref. No:  
12/01050/FUL |  
Received: Fri 28 Sep  
2012 | Validated: Fri  
28 Sep 2012 | Status:  
Application Permitted
- [Private Gypsy/Traveller Pitch \(Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development\)](#)



		<p>22 Chapel Road Bogside Newmains Ref. No: 10/00816/LUC   Received: Tue 20 Jul 2010   Validated: Tue 20 Jul 2010   Status: Application Refused</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Change of Use to Establish Nine Private, Permanent Gypsy/ Traveller Pitches (In Retrospect)</a></li> </ul> <p>Currieside Piggery Station Road Shotts North Lanarkshire Ref. No: 10/00544/FUL   Received: Fri 14 May 2010   Validated: Fri 14 May 2010   Status: Application Permitted</p>
<p><b>FOI Requests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of FOI request from GT</li> <li>• No of FOI requests about GT Sites</li> <li>• No of FOI requests about GT encampments</li> </ul>		<p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 request re Education Policy</li> <li>• 1 re Site Provision</li> <li>• Enquiries from Individual and Journalist</li> </ul>

		<p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None to date</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated health service provision for GT Community</li> <li>• No of households assisted/provided with services</li> <li>• No of GT A&amp;E Admissions</li> <li>• No of GP Registrations</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected Time: Health Visitor every 2 weeks for up to one day</li> <li>Keep Well Nurse input as required</li> <li>Other NHS Board Capacity</li> <li>GT Liaison Officer</li> <li>Oral Health Checks</li> <li>• Keep Well Nurse Visits</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education (Pupil Census 2014)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of young persons in Education within authority</li> </ul>		<p>It is reported that Gypsy Travellers have the lowest educational results of any ethnic minority group. Attendance and the uptake of secondary education are particular concerns. Learning and Leisure Services provide Support for Learning Staff to link with schools where traveller's children are attending.</p> <p>March 2013 Primary 16 Secondary 9</p>

### **Operational/Site Manager/Liaison Officer/Equality Groups**

Where an authority has an operational officer/equality group and information is being gathered from this source in relation to both qualitative and quantitative evidence then it should be evidenced within this template and provided as supporting information.

- North Lanarkshire Council have developed a register of Unauthorised Encampments which is maintained by the Council's GTLO
- GTLO carries out the initial visit to all unauthorised encampments along with Police Scotland and makes referrals as required to NHS Health & Homelessness Team (Keep Well) and Environmental Services
- Links with other Services & Organisations: The last meeting of the Gypsy/Travellers Working Group was in November 2011, the meeting was attended on a regular basis by Social Work, Housing Services, Legal Services, Environmental Services (Roads & Transportation, Planning and Environment), Justice Services, NHS Lanarkshire and Police Scotland. The GTLO is seeking to reconvene this group in the near future.
- The Gypsy/Travellers Working Group developed a Gypsy Travellers Needs Assessment for North Lanarkshire (March 2012) and Action Plan, however, although Action Plan has been progressed by Housing Services it is not a public document
- The GTLO has provided 2 case studies to highlight examples of good practice and referral processes and also to highlight the challenges faced by gypsy/travellers (Appendix 1)

### **Progress in relation to Recommendations within Craigforth 2007 Report, 'An Accommodation Needs Assessment of Gypsies/Travellers in West Central Scotland'**

Demonstrate continued joint working at a regional level:

- North Lanarkshire Council continue to be members of the Glasgow, Clyde Valley & Ayrshire LHS Group, it is through this group that this piece of Research has been developed
- North Lanarkshire Council are members of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Housing Market Partnership (HMP), the HMP is responsible for determining Housing Need across the Strategic Development Plan Area, including land requirement for gypsy traveller sites

Update evidence base with similar study every 5 years:

- North Lanarkshire Council did not take part in the Craigforth, 2007 Research but completed an internal Gypsy Travellers Needs Assessment in March 2012

- Evidence gathered in relation to Specialist Provision within [Clydeplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment](#) provided an update to the 2012 work and highlighted the need to develop a comprehensive updated regional position in relation to gypsy/travellers

Monitor trends on annual basis:

- Existing site provision and usage
  - There are no Council or RSL sites within North Lanarkshire
- Evidence change in demand
  - There are no Council or RSL sites within North Lanarkshire
  - There have been consistent levels of demand for social rented housing from households identifying themselves as gypsy/travellers within the Council's Common Housing Register
  - 2011/12 -2, 2012/13-2, 2013/14 -2
- Evidence levels unauthorised encampments
  - Table below indicates number of unauthorised encampments on an annual basis

YEAR	NO. OF SITES	NO. ON BROWN FIELD SITE	NO. ON GREEN FIELD SITE	NO. OF CARAVANS	ADULTS	CHILDREN
2007	13	10	3	142	113	272
2008	10	7	3	161	211	112
2009	18	12	4	158	260	137
2010	18	10	8	169	356	165
2011	10	7	3	52	87	76
2012	9	9	0	35	68	43
2013	8	8	0	43	90	54
2014	11	10	1	37	81	62

Demonstrate accessibility of access to application process for both social housing and Council/RSL sites:

- There are no Council or RSL sites within North Lanarkshire
- The Common Housing Register Application process is accessible to all and can be accessed in person within any of the Council's First Stop Shops (located across six localities), over the telephone and online. Furthermore, the TPO and Keep Well Nurses ensure anyone within sites visited who require advice or assistance are provided with appropriate details and

referrals are made.

Has your authority taken on board the recommendation to consider house visits to gypsy traveller households on Council/RSL sites on annual basis:

- Gypsy/travellers are not singled out for house visits on an annual basis, all tenants of North Lanarkshire Council are visited annually through our Annual House Visit.

**Additional Information/Comments:**

Please use this section to provide any supporting information and evidence not covered within the template that you feel will be of assistance to your authority in determining adequacy of current provision.

There are no Council or RSL sites within North Lanarkshire, however, anecdotal evidence suggests that there are a number of private sites. The condition of the private sites is generally not a concern, information from Environmental Services indicates:

- No Notices served in relation to unauthorised encampments 2014/15
- No of complaints received and reason for complaint in relation to unauthorised encampments per annum (over past five years)
- Anecdotal evidence from Environmental Health Officers in relation to issues they face in relation to unauthorised encampments on a day to day basis e.g. waste, clear ups etc

The TPO gathers detailed information on each unauthorised encampment, including information in relation to caravan numbers, number of households, education and health needs, waste requirements and condition of site. The information is contained within the Unauthorised Encampments Register.

The work of the Gypsy/Traveller Working Group covers a wider range of Services including Police, Health, Education, Planning, Environment and Social Work, although the group has not met recently the Action Plan indicates significant commitment to improving services to gypsy/travellers across the authority.

**Aspirations/Recommendations:**

Authorities should use this section to provide details of aspirations and recommendations that they wish to be addressed locally within their LHS:

Scottish Government Local Housing Strategy Guidance requires authorities to:

- Assess current level of site and pitch provision and whether this is adequate
- Assess whether sites and pitches provided are of an acceptable standard and of the right type

North Lanarkshire Council has no current Council or RSL site provision. There has been one Gypsy Traveller site within North Lanarkshire, whilst operational the site was consistently under-occupied and despite significant investment the site was in relatively poor condition due to continued vandalism to the extent that the site had to be closed. There are no records indicating that there was a waiting list for the site re-opening. The March 2012 Gypsy/Traveller Housing Need Assessment and the Unauthorised Encampment Register indicate that when asked what type of accommodation households favoured, most stated they would like to stay on "self owned sites with planning permission". Very few households indicated that their preference would be to stay on a Council site with only four of the 20 households in authorised encampments this year indicating that they would prefer this choice.

From the intelligence available locally most households indicated that they wanted to stay near or with other family members. A significant factor in determining where they stay appears to be the level of harassment that is likely to take place and for some households inter-family disputes are a major concern.

The Council recognise that our neighbouring authority South Lanarkshire Council have three gypsy/traveller sites that are well occupied and without major issues in relation to maintenance, management and vandalism. It could be suggested that some gypsy/travellers using the sites within South Lanarkshire are doing so because there is no provision in North Lanarkshire, however, the local evidence does not support this theory as households strongly indicate the wish to remain close to their family network and Council sites are often predominantly lived on by a small number of families of various generations.

Local intelligence suggests there are consistent levels of unauthorised encampments during the summer months across North Lanarkshire with periods of stay being relatively short. All encampments have been on private sites and the Council have not required to serve any notices in relation to unauthorised encampments. Households have indicated a preference not to stay on Council sites and this anecdotal evidence, combined with recent information collected from 2015 Unauthorised Encampment Register suggests that the current provision is adequate within North Lanarkshire.

The Council are committed to meeting the requirements outlined within the Scottish Government LHS Considerations and working jointly with Clydeplan Housing Market Partnership to determine housing need and future land requirement for gypsy travellers and

have therefore set out a number of recommendations to take forward through the new Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021:

- Continue membership of Gypsy and Travellers Corporate Working Group and review Housing Services Actions within Action Plan
- Assess and monitor compliance with legislation and Government Guidance with regard to equalities and the gypsy traveller community in relation to Housing Services
- Continue to develop local understanding and intelligence to inform a robust evidence base in relation to housing needs of gypsy/travellers
- Continue joint working at a regional level through Glasgow, Clyde Valley and Ayrshire LHS Group and Clydeplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment
- Maintain Register of Unauthorised Encampments in North Lanarkshire
- Develop Site Visit Protocol and Referral Process between Partners
- Monitor planning applications and outcomes for private gypsy/traveller site provision
- Monitor the number of Common Housing Register Applications and Allocations to Gypsy/Travellers
- Develop and implement housing options information for gypsy/travellers
- Consult with gypsy/traveller community where possible in relation to development of Council's Local Housing Strategy
- Promote good neighbour relationships and understandings between gypsy travellers and settled community