

# Gypsy & Traveller Update

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Scrutiny Committee 6 November 2024

# AGENDA

**Update on visits by Gypsies & Travellers to Trafford**

**Update on the provision of sites and any implications for the planning system**



# 2022 Encampments

In this year there were 8 different encampments on Council land.

Where visits by Gypsies & Travellers interrupts the normal use of land – such as playing fields, sports pitches or parks, it may be necessary to take steps to move the group on from the site.

In 2022 two of the encampments required the Council to submit applications to the Magistrates Court to obtain a court order for removal of the encampment, which were both successful and resulted in the traveller group vacating the site.

On a further three occasions in 2022 the Council instructed private bailiffs to remove the encampments; this also resulted in groups moving on from their location.





## 2023 Encampments

In 2023 5 separate encampments on Council land were reported and 2 of these required applications to the Magistrates Court and 2 required bailiff intervention.

## 2024 Encampments

In 2024 3 separate encampments have been reported on Council land. None of the encampments have required Officer intervention as the vehicles have left site within a couple of days of arrival. This year we have seen an increase in the number of reports of single vans residing on Council land. Following these reports, Officers will engage with the inhabitants to work through the usual process of undertaking welfare checks to assess if assistance is required and requesting the land to be vacated.



# Provision of Sites

## Temporary Stopping Facility

During the 2024 Season, the Council trialed the provision of a temporary stopping facility at Boyer street in Old Trafford

This facility would enable visiting Gypsies & travellers to remain on site – along with the provision of waste bins and temporary toilets.

The facility was offered to several groups over the summer of 2024, but none took up the offer. Future operation will therefore be reviewed



Image:Google streetview

# The Local Plan

It is a function of a Council's Local Plan to make appropriate provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites. Such sites will normally be of two kinds:

**Residential** – a site of permanent residence for one or more groups, usually including hard standing and an individual utility block. This may be the base from which families then move around elsewhere in the Country.

**Transit** - a site for temporary residence, usually for more than one group. These sites will often feature larger hard standings and communal utility blocks. They are intended for occupation of a few days or weeks as groups move to new locations.



Image: Google Maps

# Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment

This study makes an assessment of the need for Gypsy & Traveller sites across Greater Manchester – and will be published later in the year by the GMCA

The 2021 Census identified a population of 2,170 people (47 in Trafford) who identified as ‘White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ or ‘Gypsy/Romany’ living in Greater Manchester.

Should there be any need for an additional gypsy site in Trafford, it will fall to the Local Plan to either allocate a site or devise a suitable criteria based planning policy against which applications can be judged.

## Planning Applications

There is currently one live and undetermined Planning application for a pitch at Easbrook in Urmston. It is a retrospective application for the siting of caravans (two), stabling and a dayroom.

# QUESTIONS