



New Local Plan Review Examination Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, December 2023

Annex 1 of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) was updated by DLUHC on 19 December 2023 for plan and decision making. The government has reverted the definition of Gypsies and Travellers used in the PPTS to that adopted in 2012 as follows. This widens the scope of the definition which now includes the needs of those who have ceased to travel “permanently”. This is the equivalent to cultural needs.

“1. For the purposes of this planning policy “gypsies and travellers” means:

Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.” (emphasis added)

New Local Plan Proposed Main Modification MM143 includes this wider scope by seeking to meet identified needs in the latest London Plan and for those who culturally identify as Gypsy and Travellers. The London Plan identified need is based on a pre-2012 PPTS evidence and does not differentiate between travellers who have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently.

Local Plan Proposed Main Modification MM146 refers to the Mayor’s London wide Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (GTNA) which is expected to be completed later this year. The London wide GTNA is already being prepared on the basis of the wider definition which includes identifying needs of all travellers regardless of whether they have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently.

Given that the identified needs in the London Plan and London Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment both are in line with the updated wider definition of Gypsies and Travellers it is considered that the reference to cultural identity in the New Local Plan MMs is no longer required.