



## Report of the Director of Place / Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy

External Funding Panel – 4 July 2018

### Proposal to Submit a Bid to the Welsh Government to Fund a New Gypsy and Traveller Site

<b>Purpose:</b>	To seek approval to submit a bid for grant funding to the Welsh Government to construct a new Gypsy and Traveller site.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Local Housing Strategy 2015 - 2020
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that: 1) A bid for Capital Grant funding is submitted to the Welsh Government
<b>Report Author:</b>	Peter Williams
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Aimee Dyer
<b>Legal Officers:</b>	Sandie Richards & Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer</b>	Catherine Window

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, all Local Authorities are obliged to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to identify any shortfall in pitch provision in their area. .
- 1.2 The Authority's last GTTA was undertaken in 2016 and indicated there was an immediate need for 7 new pitches. Under the current legislation, the Authority is required to address this immediate need for pitches by 2020.
- 1.3 A site has been selected to the West of Pant Y Blawd Road in Llansamlet. and was listed in the Deposit LDP. The LDP is currently going through an examination in Public with the LDP Inspectors stating that progress in terms of developing the new site, will need to be demonstrated in order for the LDP examination to progress.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Following an extensive evaluation of possible sites, it is proposed that a new site is developed at Tygwyn in Llansamlet. The proposed new site has now received Planning Permission and would comprise of 7 pitches along with service blocks for each pitch. The site would comply with Welsh Government Guidance regarding new site design

## **3. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty as imposed by the Equality Act 2010 and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 3.2 An EIA screening form has been completed and an EIA completed.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Welsh Government have indicated that the maximum grant available to bid for by the Authority will be £1m with no requirement for match funding.

- 4.2 Whilst the exact cost of the project is yet to be realised there is potential for costs to exceed £1m.

- 4.3 Certain elements of the site development such as drainage works may not be eligible for grant funding, with Welsh Government stating that it will look at the merits of each bid they receive and then make a decision on whether to fund these costs. The Authority will be required to meet any shortfall in funding.

- 4.4 It is anticipated that any grant funding awarded will be received in two equal sums over financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20.

- 4.5 The ongoing revenue costs associated with the new site, would be funded by the Housing & Public Protection Service, in line with the current arrangements for the existing permanent site.

- 4.6 A full list of financial implications are listed in Table 1

**Table 1 – Financial Implications**

	<b>Current Financial Year</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Total Cost of Project	£500,000	£500,000
Capital	£500,000	£500,000
Revenue	£0	£0
Grant Applied for	£500,000	£500,000
Match Funding	£0	£0

**5. Legal Implications**

5.1 The proposed new site will enable the Council to meet its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Council are required to assess the needs of Gypsy Traveller families under sections 101-107 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and ensure provision has been made for Gypsy Traveller families. The grant of planning permission for 7 pitches on the land to the west of Pant y Blawd Road ensures that there is now sufficient land available with a relevant lawful use to meet the full identified need for Gypsy Traveller families for the duration of the Local Development Plan period.

5.2 The Council will need to ensure that it complies with any terms and conditions attached to the Welsh Government funding.

**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** EIA Screening Form