SUBMISSION FROM ANGUS COUNCIL

1. **Details about your sites, including size, facilities, age, location, management arrangements, rent costs and provisions made for residents’ temporary absences (e.g. to travel for the summer)?**

   We have one permanent local authority owned site. The site comprises of 18 double stances, all have a utility unit which houses their kitchen and laundry appliances, shower and wc facilities, two are traditional brick build and 16 are aluminium. The site was the second provided in Scotland, has been in operation since the late 1970's and is situated in close proximity to Montrose town. Originally built with 75% grant, it was modernised in full consultation with its tenants in the last round of government funding assistance.

   The site is managed by the Montrose CHT Manager. Based on site is an Administration Assistant (St Christopher's). Rent is charged on a weekly basis, £46.84 for a double stance and utility unit.

   Temporary absences – tenants are required to notify the on site Admin Assistant of their intention to be away from site and for how long. This is written into their lease and they are responsible for ensuring that the utility unit is secure and free from risk of fire or water damage. Tenants do travel throughout the summer months but tend to use a second touring van leaving a static on site.

2. **Details of any proposed sites?**

   There are no proposed sites and there are two sites within the Angus boundary, one run by Angus Council and one run by Dundee City Council. Angus Council has an access agreement with Dundee City Council re the utilisation of spare capacity on that site.

3. **How you determine where and what size sites should be?**

   Determined by assessments on demand carried out in house as part of the strategic housing planning process.

4. **If you have no sites, what the reasons are?**

   N/A

5. **Details of any existing/planned temporary or halting sites in your authority area?**

   There are no proposed sites of this nature although consideration was given to a development in the Montrose area which did not proceed to business case assessment due to limited demand.
6. **How often and by what process you review the need for more pitches/sites?**

Reviewed periodically based on traffic and requests. As there are free spaces in the Dundee site within our boundary, capacity already exists.

7. **How you identify, record and address any complaints about sites, e.g. size or facilities?**

Recorded as mainstream complaints.

8. **In building and maintaining sites, how you consider the impact of the site location on, for instance, access to health and education services and/or public transport links?**

Sites are well located for access to services and where special arrangements are needed these are arranged as they would for non travelling residents.

Site assessment guidance issued by the Scottish office has been utilised for any potential developments.

9. **How you monitor private sites and how disputes between their owners and tenants are managed?**

This is not an issue which has arisen in Angus.

10. **How unauthorised sites are managed and by what criteria they are so classified?**

A multi-agency panel, chaired by Angus Council Neighbourhood Services, along with representatives from Social Work, Leisure, Environmental and Consumer Protection, Law and Administration as well as Tayside Police and NHS Tayside decide how to manage unauthorised encampments of Gypsy Travellers in Angus.

Once ownership of the land is established, an Officer from the Housing Department and/or the site manager from the Gypsy/Traveller community site visits each encampment and collects information about the encampment e.g. where they are from, how long they intend staying in Angus and if they require access to any services during their stay.

This data protection compliant checklist (with all personal information removed) is then circulated to all partners of the multi-agency group in order that they can deliver required services. The Gypsies/Travellers are also issued with an information leaflet "A Code for Gypsy/Travellers" which outlines the group expectations regarding behaviour etc whilst in Angus as well as containing information on services. Using this system, the encampment is not identified definitely as Gypsy/Traveller until after the welfare check has been carried out.
11. What policies and staff awareness raising/training on Gypsy/Travellers you have?

All staff undertake Equalities and Diversity Training as part of Angus Council’s staff training programme. Specific procedural and operational training is available to staff undertaking direct communications with the unauthorised encampments.

12. Information about your Gypsy/Traveller liaison officers, including whether the post has a shared remit and whether site managers undertake the role?

There is no dedicated Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer post within Angus Council. The site supervisor of St Christopher's site, Montrose acts as liaison as part of the system described above.

Richard Stiff
Chief Executive
Angus Council
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