

Agenda – Local Government and Housing Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5

Meeting date: 28 June 2023

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Manon George

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddHousing@senedd.wales

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Papers to note

(Page 1)

2.1 Letter from the First Minister to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee regarding the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Page 2)

2.2 Letter from Travelling Ahead – Provision of sites for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers

(Pages 3 – 5)

3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

4 Local Authority Leisure and Library Services – consideration of draft report

(9.35–10.45)

(Pages 6 – 76)

(Break 10.45 – 11.00)

5 The Right to Adequate Housing – consideration of draft report

(11.00–12.00)

(Pages 77 – 116)



Agenda Item 2

Local Government and Housing Committee

28 June 2023 – papers to note cover sheet

Paper no.	Issue	From	Action point
Paper 1	Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement	Welsh Government	To note
Paper 2	The provision of sites for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers	Travelling Ahead	To note



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

12 June 2023

Dear Huw

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: 39th British-Irish Council Summit

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you of the 39th Summit meeting of the British-Irish Council, which will take place this week and is being hosted by the Government of Jersey.

I will be attending the summit in person. As well as the usual opportunity for a general update on issues, the theme of the Summit relates to housing and energy policy and is titled 'Building for the Future: Green and Affordable'

A communiqué will be agreed by the Council at the Summit detailing the discussions held, and I will write to share these with you. I will also update the Senedd with a written statement in due course.

I have also copied this letter to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, the Local Government and Housing Committee, and the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

Yours sincerely

MARK DRAKEFORD

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 2.2

From: Trudy Aspinwall
Sent: 16 June 2023 14:21
To: Local Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Follow up on Inquiry into the provision of Gypsy and Travellers sites

Afternoon John
Hope you are well

We are writing to follow up on your Committee's Inquiry from last year on the provision of sites for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities and the recommendations accepted in full by the Minister Mindful of the link with the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan (ARWAP) which is cited as the key delivery driver for many of those recommendations I am also copying in Jenny Rathbone and the Equality and Social Justice Committee who I know intend to undertake some scrutiny of the implementation of the ARWAP

I am copying in my coalition colleagues here who assisted in the giving or submitting of evidence to the Inquiry and the development of the ARWAP

I am writing to express concern and ask that your Committee and any other relevant scrutiny mechanisms in the Senedd take urgent steps to hold the Minister and the Welsh government to account on their commitments.

To our knowledge not one of the recommendations in your committee's report has yet been actioned, and not one of the actions in the ARWAP relating specifically to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller accommodation and other areas have been progressed either.

If there has been any progress it has not been communicated (or done in co-production) with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities or with any of the advocacy and community networks and organisations who support Gypsy, Traveller and Roma families

There remains no 'team' in place in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller policy team in Welsh Government and the acting official at Deputy Director level who has made some progress in understanding the issues and engaging with some representatives from the communities and organisations is about to move on in mid -July now that the substantive Deputy Director post has been filled.

There appear to be no resources being allocated or prioritised at all in any sustainable way to realise the commitments to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (albeit commitments or actions to support Roma communities are entirely absent from the ARWAP in any specific way and also in the priorities of Welsh Government) and the same can be said in that migration official time and policy is mostly directed at 'forced' migrants i.e. Asylum seekers and refugees, on funding EUSS advice and the needs of more EU Citizens facing significant barriers, discrimination and exclusion (of whom Roma communities form a large part) are not provided for and fall betwixt and between policy and service portfolios

Communities we work with are fast losing patience or any trust in these commitments (and as you know this was fragile before the inquiry and the ARWAP came into place) and it is left to a few of us to try to mitigate this damage

Please, there is urgent need for follow up scrutiny on these issues.

We are happy to discuss further with yourselves or Committee clerks the detail of each of the recommendations and the actions and provide further evidence of the unacceptable lack of progress

which points to the lack of prioritisation of staff resources in this area of work – many of these are interconnected of course – the complete standstill on reviewing the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is impacting on planning and developing new sites or the planning of transit provision; the fact that no funding has been allocated (ARWAP action) to organisations to support Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month (whilst other communities and important dates clearly have received new funding to commemorate or celebrate) further leads to the lack of valuing of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities here in Wales – its notable that the Welsh Government have not even marked June as the History Month

We note in the [Ministerial response](#) to your report that the only time limited actions appear to be the re-commissioning for the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller specific advocacy and advice service (which I have managed since its inception) which was given a 3 month timescale in the response and in the ARWAP (not likely now to be re-commissioned before March 2024) and a pre-summer recess deadline for : Recommendation 20 The Committee recommends that: “The Welsh Government should provide an update on the work undertaken to provide transit pitches across Wales before the Senedd’s summer recess in 2023.” Response: Accept **We will provide an update on progress on provision of transit pitches before summer recess 2023 as requested.**

We look forward to receiving your response once you have had time to consider what steps you may be able to take

Thank you

Trudy

Trudy Aspinwall

Team Manager

[Travelling Ahead: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Advice & Advocacy Service](#) / Teithio Ymlaen: Gwasanaeth Cyngor ac Eiriolaeth Sipsiwn, Roma a Theithwyr

Freephone Advice Line: 0808 802 0025

Mailing Address:

Travelling Ahead

TGP Cymru

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Suggestion Box

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Agenda Item 4

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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