

be able to demonstrate an up-to-date 5 year supply of sites by March 2013. To our knowledge, only a handful of local authorities are anywhere near achieving this, with the rest being stuck in a cycle of needs assessment followed by a failure to identify land deemed suitable for sites, followed by further needs assessment, followed by further failures to identify suitable land. Without active supervision from central government site provision has slowed yet further and Gypsies and Travellers are being left with nowhere lawful to stop.

We consider that a statutory duty to provide sites supported by a power of direction is the most effective way to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and avoid the problems of unauthorised encampment. We therefore congratulate the Welsh Government on its positive approach and fully endorse the proposals set out in the Housing (Wales) Bill.

SouthWestLaw

17 January 2014