

Traveller Local Plan – Regulation 19 Draft Plan

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

September 2025

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1. Who are Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

Gypsies are Romany ethnic groups who have lived in Britain for around 600 years. Their ancestors originate from northern India. Irish Travellers are a nomadic group with a distinctive way of life who have been part of Irish and British society since ancient times. The courts have confirmed that Gypsies and Irish Travellers are distinct ethnic groups and are therefore protected under equality laws; this includes their right to a nomadic lifestyle.

Travelling Showpeople are people who own and operate the fairs, circuses and shows that travel around the country; they require permanent quarters (although not in Enfield Borough) to store equipment and live during the winter months.

2. What difficulties are faced by the travelling community?

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople face a number of difficulties including:

- Limited access to appropriate places to live
- Limited access to services and facilities
- Poorer health outcomes
- Poorer educational achievement
- Lower employment rates and levels of economic activity
- Racist abuse and discrimination

3. Why do the Council have to make provision?

[The National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2024) and [Planning Policy for Traveller Sites](#) (2024), require Councils to assess the need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation and then ensure that these needs are met. An [accommodation assessment](#) for Gypsies and Travellers was commissioned by Enfield Council in 2020 (and updated in 2024), to understand the local needs for the Borough.

4. What will happen if sites are not provided?

The Council would be in breach of planning guidance and could be taken to court. It would also increase the chances of unauthorised encampments, which could have a significant impact on local residents and the environment, and be inappropriate or unsafe for the Gypsies and Travellers themselves. Most importantly, it would mean that some of the Borough's residents would not have their basic needs met.

5. Why do Gypsies and Travellers need a permanent site?

Many Gypsies and Travellers now live in settled accommodation and do not travel all year, but nonetheless, consider travelling to be part of their identity. Permanent sites allow Gypsies and Travellers to have a settled base, but the ability to travel when needed/ desired.

6. What are the Council doing?

Enfield Council have prepared a Regulation 19 Draft Traveller Local Plan 2020-2041 (TLP) for submission, which sets out planning policies and allocates a number of sites for use by Gypsies and Travellers. This follows the [Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment \(GTANA updated 2024\)](#) which provides the evidence base for the plan. The council has also published supporting documentation to help explain the approach taken in the Draft Traveller Local Plan (see links below).

What is the current consultation about?

A number of sites have now been assessed and are proposed for allocation within the Regulation 19 Draft Traveller Local Plan. There are just two policies in the Draft Traveller Local Plan, one that summarises the needs over the Plan period and sets out how these needs will be met (Policy TLP1), and a second policy that focuses on the design and layout of new traveller sites (Policy TLP2).

A number of documents have been prepared to support and accompany the Draft Traveller Local Plan, including:

- Updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (May 2024)
- Traveller Local Plan 2020-2041 Technical Note (2025)
- Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) 2025
- IIA Non-Technical Summary 2025
- Traveller Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Reg 19 (2025)
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) 2024
- Site Selection Topic Paper (2025)
- Green Belt Exceptional Circumstances Topic Paper (2025)
- Capacity Assessment (2025)
- Traveller Local Plan Duty to Cooperate Statement (2025) TLP
- Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Statement

All of these documents can be viewed at:

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/emerging-plans#traveller-local-plan-regulation-19>

7. Will you take account of consultation responses from local residents?

When making any decisions on planning matters, the Council always takes into account the views of local residents, where these views relate to valid planning considerations. A balance will need to be struck between meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and the impacts on the wider community.

8. What will happen next?

The publication of the Draft Enfield Traveller Local Plan launches a six week public consultation pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The consultation commences on 24th September, and close at 5pm on 5th November 2025.

9. How do I Comment on the Regulation 19 Traveller Local Plan?

Comments are now welcome on the published Regulation 19 Draft Traveller Local Plan and supporting documentation. Please note that any responses considered to be inappropriate (for example, on the basis that they include offensive or racist comments) will not be taken into account. Please respond by:

- Using the Council's dedicated consultation platform known as Objective. This can be accessed at: <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/emerging-plans#traveller-local-plan-regulation-19>
- Downloading the consultation response form <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/emerging-plans#traveller-local-plan-regulation-19> which can then be emailed to us at: travellerlocalplan@enfield.gov.uk or,
- By emailing directly to travellerlocalplan@enfield.gov.uk
- By posting your response to: Traveller Local Plan 2020–2041, Regulation 19 Consultation, Planning and Design Team, Planning and Growth, London Borough of Enfield, EN1 3XA

If you have any queries regarding this Traveller Local Plan, or would like assistance in completing a response form, please contact a member of the Plan Making Team on travellerlocalplan@enfield.gov.uk or call 020 8379 3866.

Hard copies of the TLP will be available to view in the Borough's hub libraries.

Library locations and opening hours can be found here:

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/libraries/community-hubs>

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be found here: <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/new-enfield-localplan#privacy-notice-for-the-enfield-local-plan>.