Julie James AC/AM Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Ein cyf/Our ref MA(P)-JJ-3603-18

Julian Pike julian.pike@merthyr.gov.uk

15 October 2018

Dear Julian,

Thank you for submission of your Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for consideration by the Welsh Ministers. I have considered the Assessment and approved its content, in accordance with section 102 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Council is required to publish its approved Assessment.

I note the Council has used an amended household formation rate. I feel that the new, lower new household formation rate is realistic.

I understand the project work for the 2018 GTAA was conducted during a short time period, which I feel may have led to a disappointingly low survey response rate, perhaps exacerbated by residents' survey fatigue as they had been surveyed only 2 years previously. In the case of this GTAA, I am prepared to overlook the low survey response, because other evidence suggests that it is likely that a fresh GTAA would turn out a similar end result: that no additional pitches are likely to be needed in the County Borough during the Local Development Plan period.

When you conduct your next GTAA in 2023 I strongly urge you consider using a longer survey period, to aim for a significantly higher response rate, and to use a steering group to help you find additional Gypsy and Traveller residents in your area.

The Council will be required to undertake and submit a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to the Welsh Ministers by 12 October 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AC/AM

Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip Leader of the House and Chief Whip

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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.