



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Lee Rowley MP**

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local  
Government and Building Safety*

2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: 28595128

Councillor Paul Peacock  
Newark & Sherwood District Council

3 August 2023

Dear Councillor Peacock,

Thank you for your letter of 22 June about meeting the housing needs of the gypsy and traveller community in Newark and Sherwood.

We believe strongly in the plan-led system where having an effective, up-to-date plan in place is essential to plan for and to meet the needs of the community and to avoid sporadic, unplanned developments from taking place. To support your authority in progressing its plan given concerns raised over potential soundness issues, Departmental officials can arrange an advisory visit with a Planning Inspector if that would be helpful. Whilst the Inspector will not be the appointed Inspector who examines your authority's plan, they can discuss and provide advice on potential soundness concerns. Please contact [sara.lewis@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:sara.lewis@levellingup.gov.uk) or [sarah.hunt@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hunt@levellingup.gov.uk) if you wish an advisory visit to be arranged.

Regarding funding, as outlined in the meeting you referenced with your authority on 28 February 2023, there is no central funding available at this time. Your authority would be very welcome to bid for funds in any future funding pots should they open and they will be considered against the criteria and the wider demand for any such fund, just as the previous Traveller Site Fund was.

Whilst there is no specific funding available currently, the £11.5 billion Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) is designed to delivery thousands of affordable homes for both rent and to buy right across the country. Should you wish to discuss potential options within that programme, you can contact Homes England at [ahp2126@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:ahp2126@homesengland.gov.uk) to talk through your options and whether the AHP can help support them.

I trust that this letter makes clear the Government's position once again and assists you in clarifying your responsibilities as leader of the District Council.

Yours sincerely,

**LEE ROWLEY MP**