

	Cabinet 12 October 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Residents and Housing Services
	Lead Member - Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters (Councillor Robert Johnson)
Amendment to Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan 2026 – 2030	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix A: Updated Brent Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan 2026 - 2030
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Cabinet previously adopted Brent's new Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan 2026 – 2030 on 7 September 2026.
- 1.2 The Council was subsequently contacted by a representative from London Gypsies & Travellers seeking an amendment to the Framework and Action Plan to remove Appendix B, which set out the Council's approach to unauthorised encampments, and a new commitment to explore negotiated stopping approaches to accommodate households pursuing a nomadic way of life.
- 1.3 The Cabinet Member agreed to put forward these amendments to a subsequent Cabinet meeting for formal approval.

- 1.4 This paper seeks Cabinet's approval of the amendment, and Cabinet's agreement that the Corporate Director for Residents and Housing Services be delegated authority to make any further amendments to the Framework and Action Plan in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Approve an amendment to the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan, to remove Appendix B, which sets out the Council's approach to unauthorised encampments, and introduce a new commitment to explore negotiated stopping approaches to accommodate households pursuing a nomadic way of life.
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Residents and Housing Services to make any further amendments to the Framework and Action Plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Cabinet Member foreword

- 3.1.1 Cabinet adopted Brent's new Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan on 7 September 2026. This was an important step in continuing to improve our relationship with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Brent.
- 3.1.2 Following the Cabinet meeting, the Council was contacted by a representative of London Gypsies & Travellers, suggesting an amendment to Appendix B of the Framework. This Appendix sets out how the Council will approach unauthorised encampments and specifically ruled out negotiated stopping.
- 3.1.3 The representative from London Gypsies & Travellers requested the removal of Appendix B from the Framework and introduction of a new commitment to explore negotiated stopping approaches to accommodate households pursuing a nomadic way of life.
- 3.1.4 I committed to bringing this proposed change to Cabinet, on the basis that documents of this kind are meant to be flexible and should be adjusted in light of new circumstances. Making the requested change will demonstrate our ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, and improving our relationship with those communities.
- 3.1.5 Given that circumstances will continue to change throughout the life of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan, it is important to have flexibility to accommodate changes that may be needed, so that we can be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

- 3.1.6 The Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan contributes most directly to the Borough Plan's Thriving Communities Strategic Priority but also touches upon every other strategic priority. This is because the commitments and activities across the Borough Plan's priorities align with supporting the needs of and improving the outcomes experienced by Brent's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The Framework and Action Plan also relates to Brent's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, which encompasses commitments to tackling inequality and supporting marginalised groups, and the Local Plan, which outlines our current approach to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Brent.

3.2 Background and detail

The current version of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan

- 3.2.1 The Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan that was adopted on 7 September 2026 set out, in Appendix B, the approach that the Council would take to responding to unauthorised encampments. Appendix B sets out relevant sections of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and includes a specific section on negotiated stopping, which reads as follows:

Negotiated Stopping

While we recognise the flexibility negotiated stopping provides, at this stage the council is unable to advocate for this option in the borough.

We have exercised negotiated stopping in the past, but we do not consider this a possible option throughout the duration of this strategy due to the lack of available space and sites to accommodate an incursion. As outlined in this strategy, we have established a plan to address accommodation challenges and once this plan is realised we hope to reach a position where we can adopt greater flexibility around unauthorised encampments.

- 3.2.2 There was limited feedback around negotiated stopping during consultation on the draft Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan.

Requested amendments

- 3.2.3 On 9 September 2026, a representative from London Gypsies & Travellers contacted the Council and requested that Appendix B be removed from the Framework and Action Plan and replaced with a commitment to explore the implementation of negotiated stopping approaches to accommodate households pursuing a nomadic way of life.
- 3.2.4 The request was made on the basis that the change would be consistent with the approach recommended by the GLA. The requester also referred to the Supreme Court's decision in *Wolverhampton City Council and others v London Gypsies and Travellers and others* [2023] UKSC 47, which highlighted the importance of constructive engagement and proportionality when addressing

unauthorised encampments. That decision didn't impose a general rule requiring negotiated stopping instead of eviction.

- 3.2.5 The Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters agreed to bringing the requested changes to Cabinet on the basis that documents like the Framework and Action Plan are meant to be flexible and should be adjusted in light of new circumstances.

Practicalities of making the changes

- 3.2.6 The latest version of the London Plan (draft) specifies at [HN4B](#):

LPAs should allocate a Gypsy and Traveller transit site and/or make provision for negotiated stopping.

- 3.2.7 Further, at HN4C, the draft London Plan states:

LPAs are encouraged to work collaboratively with providers, community organisations and the GLA with the aim of securing provision for and delivery of permanent pitches, plots, transit sites and other culturally suitable accommodation.

- 3.2.8 The changes that have been suggested are therefore consistent with the provisions of the draft London Plan, although the draft is not yet adopted and so remains subject to change.

- 3.2.9 Introducing negotiated stopping approaches will require the Council to undertake further work to understand the implications for a number of different services, including parks, environmental health, housing, community safety and legal.

- 3.2.10 The new wording that has been sought (to explore the implementation of negotiated stopping approaches) gives the Council sufficient flexibility to look into the implications of any new negotiated stopping approaches and to work through those implications accordingly.

- 3.2.11 Removing Appendix B from the Framework and Action Plan doesn't remove the Council's ability to rely on sections 61 or 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 if required.

- 3.2.12 The proposed amendments to the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan are shown as tracked changes in Appendix A.

Making further amendments to the Framework and Action Plan

- 3.2.13 Changing circumstances and our commitment to continuing to improve our relationship with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities means it is possible that in the future there may be a need for further amendments to the Framework and Action Plan.

- 3.2.14 Delegating authority for any further changes to the Framework and Action Plan to the Corporate Director for Residents and Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters, will enable the Council to be responsive and make requested changes efficiently.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The changes that are proposed have been requested by London Gypsies and Travellers, which works for change on behalf of gypsy and traveller communities.
- 4.2 The Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters agreed to bringing the proposed changes to Cabinet.
- 4.3 Appendix A of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan provides more detail on the consultation and engagement that was undertaken to inform development of the Framework.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must have due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. The duty does not prevent enforcement action but requires an informed and proportionate response and prohibits treating ethnicity as evidence of misconduct or risk.
- 6.2 The need for constructive engagement and proportionality when addressing unauthorised encampments was specifically noted in the Supreme Court's decision in *Wolverhampton City Council and others v London Gypsies and Travellers and others* [2023] UKSC 47. That decision doesn't impose a general rule requiring negotiated stopping instead of eviction.
- 6.3 The proposed amendments to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Framework and Action Plan are consistent with these requirements, and consistent with the signalled policy intention in the draft London Plan, which states that Local Planning Authorities should allocate a Gypsy and Traveller transit site and/or make provision for negotiated stopping.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared for the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan, which captured how it will result in more positive outcomes for these communities.

- 7.2 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are protected groups, and their experiences of marginalisation, discrimination and disadvantage are well reported at national and local levels. Currently, Brent outlines its commitment to support marginalised groups - through tailoring service delivery and tackling inequality - within the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2024-28. We have gone beyond this for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities with the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 Paragraph 3.3.10 notes that introducing negotiated stopping approaches will require the Council to undertake further work to understand the implications for a number of different services, including parks and environmental health. This process should also consider the wider impact on the council's environmental goals and policies as part of this process.

9.0 Communication Considerations

- 9.1 The Council's website will be updated with the final Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Framework and Action Plan and we will continue to communicate with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities about the work we're doing to support them.

Related document(s) for reference:

[Cabinet Report - Brent's Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Framework and Action Plan 2026 - 2030 \(7 September 2026\)](#)

Report sign off:

Thomas Cattermole

Corporate Director, Residents and Housing Services

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