

# London Gypsy and Traveller Forum



**9<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
**City Hall, Committee Room 4**



Universal Credit and  
housing costs -  
effects on Gypsies  
and Travellers living  
on sites

# Dual Claims

- ▶ under Universal Credit regulation 2013 there does not appear to have any clear information on entitlement when making a dual claim other than some general guidance;
- ▶ *“if you are responsible for paying the rent for two properties, Universal Credit may help towards both rents. It may be paid to you as part of the Housing Element. You will then need to pay your rent to your landlord(s) yourself”*
- ▶ Therefore how to complete a claim and request housing costs for 2 properties and 2 different landlords is unclear.



# Difficulties in claiming Housing Costs

- ▶ Imputing housing costs
- ▶ Lack of clarity of how much Housing costs is allocated for each landlord

Lack of clarity how Housing Costs are  
worked out

Private rented – Housing costs is set  
by Local Housing Allowance under  
Universal Credit

However renting a mobile home is  
determined by Evaluation office

# Exemptions

Living in temporary, emergency,  
supported or sheltered accommodation

If you receive a severe disability  
premium

**How can the London  
Forum feedback to the  
DWP**

**What needs to  
happen?**



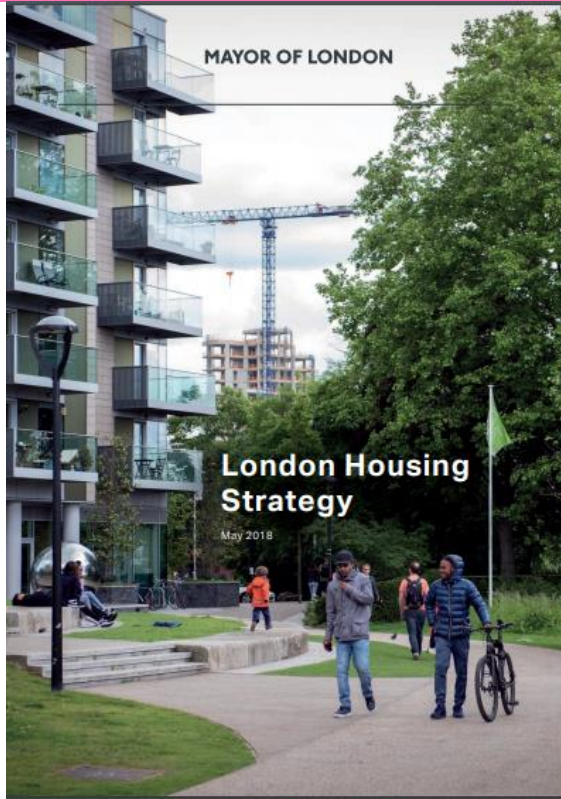
# London Housing Panel



- GLA and Trust for London initiative
- Aim to engage community groups in giving feedback to the Mayor on housing policy
- Membership – 15 voluntary and community organisations
- Three meetings until March 2020



# London Housing Panel



- Issues to focus on:  
Homelessness crisis  
Temporary and Move On Accommodation  
Private Rented Sector - affordability and condition  
Council housing, social housing and future build
- Cross-cutting themes:  
tenants' voice, the benefit system, gender, groups who are particularly vulnerable, security of tenure, access to housing, and living in mixed communities.

<https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/issues/housing/london-housing-panel/>

# Update: London Plan Examination



- Consolidated Plan (with suggested changes marked up)- published second week of June
- GLA's receipt of Inspectors' Report – September 2019. The GLA then has 8 weeks to publish this from date of receipt.
- Mayor to send revised draft Plan; the Intend to Publish Plan, to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government- late 2019
- Mayor to lay a copy of the draft proposals before the London Assembly - early 2020
- Publication of the final Plan - early 2020

# Update: Negotiated stopping research in London



- GLA commissioned research – potential of negotiated stopping approaches in London
- Desktop survey – evidence on current practices of managing roadside camps
- Focus groups and interviews – opportunities and challenges for negotiated stopping



# Update: Negotiated stopping research in London



## Key themes

- An approach that needs to be adapted to local context
- Recognising current good practices
- Need political leadership
- Public perceptions and messages
- Need for permanent sites
- Funding, land, infrastructure

# Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers



**LONDON  
GYPSIES &  
TRAVELLERS**



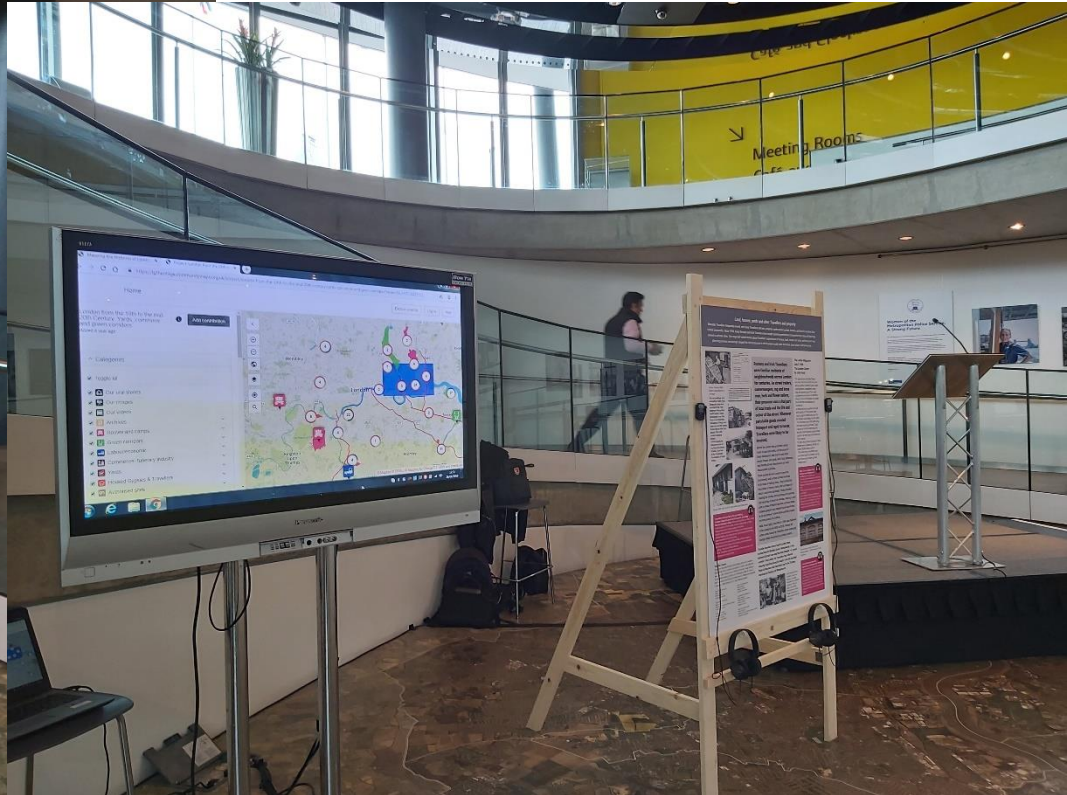
[www.lgtheritage.communitymaps.org.uk](http://www.lgtheritage.communitymaps.org.uk)

# Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers





# Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers





# Getting ready for the Mayoral election in May 2020

London mayoral election, 2020

← 2016      on or before 7 May 2020      2024 →

			
Candidate	Sadiq Khan	Shaun Bailey	Sian Berry
Party	Labour	Conservative	Green



Also election for London Assembly Members – some stepping down

# Why this matters for London's Traveller communities

**LONDON  
GYPSIES &  
TRAVELLERS**

Gypsies and Travellers talk about the issues that need to be addressed in the capital



London Mayoral Election 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MnDrmri1L8>

## THE LONDON GYPSY AND TRAVELLER FORUM

MANIFESTO FOR THE 2016 MAYORAL  
ELECTIONS



# What's been achieved since May 2016?

- Increased visibility of Gypsy and Traveller issues at City Hall
- 2 Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month events
- Mayor's speech
- London Plan
- Negotiated stopping research
- Schools for Success
- Questions to the Mayor
- Some funding for refurbishing sites



# Discussion



- What are the key priorities we want to put forward to candidates?
- How do we engage with candidates before May 2020?
- How do we mobilise more Gypsies and Travellers to be involved?