

Gypsy Roma Traveller Capital grant – 2025-26 Progress Report

	Welsh Government
Site Name:	Riverside
Unique Ref ID:	065
Claim Period:	1st January 2026 - 31st March 2026
Date Grant Offer Letter signed:	23rd December 2025
Date Grant Variation Letter Signed:	N/A
Date report for claiming purposes submitted.	17/04/26

1. Introduction: <i>Background Information</i>
The project proposes a full refurbishment of all twenty residential pitches on the site, addressing long-standing issues and ensuring that the accommodation meets modern health, safety, and quality standards. The works will include the repurposing and upgrading of kitchen, bathroom, and toilet areas for every pitch, as well as essential improvements to site infrastructure. This will involve resolving drainage issues, tackling rat infestation concerns, and future-proofing key assets to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.
2. Application details
Flintshire County Council applied for and were awarded £368,330 for completion by the end of March 2026.
3. Expenditure Cost: <i>List details and costings proposed v actual</i>
This report is for the sixth claim of £158,331.90.

4. Procurement (if applicable) <i>Please provide an update on procurement activity undertaken</i>
N/A

5. Issues and/or Delays
Residents continue to raise concerns regarding the industrial appearance of the sinks and toilets compared to traditional ceramic fittings. Assurance was provided that the chosen fittings are durable, designed for long-term use, and that the completed works, including flooring, would result in an aesthetically pleasing outcome.
6. Progress Photos: <i>Before and after (if applicable) attach here with comments</i>
See separate e mail
7. Conclusion & outcomes achieved: <i>Feedback from Contractors (if applicable)</i>
All works completed within timescales and any concerns from residents addressed
8. Conclusion & outcomes achieved: <i>Feedback from Residents</i>
All pitches have been modified and addressed concerns of residents around damp, rat infestation and poor upkeep.
9. Any other important information:
10. Conclusion & outcomes achieved: <i>Final conclusion & outcomes (state outcomes and benefits also best practice including lessons learnt)</i>

This project represents a meaningful transformation of the site, delivering a full refurbishment of all twenty residential pitches and addressing issues that have impacted residents for many years. By upgrading essential facilities and tackling underlying infrastructure problems, the scheme brings the accommodation up to modern standards while creating a safer, healthier, and more sustainable living environment.

At its core, the project improves everyday life for residents. Refurbished kitchens, bathrooms, and toilet areas provide spaces that are not only functional but also dignified and fit for purpose. At the same time, resolving long-standing drainage problems and addressing rat infestations removes significant health risks, helping to create a cleaner and more secure setting for the community.

Beyond the immediate upgrades, the investment in infrastructure ensures the site is more reliable and resilient for the future. By focusing on durable solutions and addressing root causes rather than symptoms, the project reduces the likelihood of recurring issues and ongoing maintenance burdens. This forward-looking approach ultimately delivers better value over time while supporting environmental sustainability.

The benefits of the scheme extend further than the physical improvements. Residents gain a stronger sense of comfort, safety, and pride in their surroundings, while the site as a whole becomes easier and more cost-effective to manage. The project also ensures compliance with current regulations, reducing risks and setting a clear standard for quality moving forward.

Several key lessons have shaped this outcome. Addressing infrastructure issues early proved essential, as these underpin the success of all other improvements. Taking a preventative, whole-site approach avoided piecemeal fixes and ensured lasting results. Just as importantly, clear communication and engagement with residents helped to build trust and minimise disruption throughout the works.

In summary, this project is more than a refurbishment—it is a long-term investment in people, place, and sustainability. It not only resolves existing challenges but also provides a strong, future-proof foundation for the site and its community.

Sharing best practice and lessons learnt:

This project highlights the importance of taking a joined-up, long-term approach to refurbishment. Addressing core infrastructure issues—such as drainage—at the outset proved critical, as these underpin the success of all other improvements. A preventative mindset, rather than relying on short-term fixes, ensured more durable and cost-effective outcomes.

Engaging with residents throughout the process was equally important. Clear communication helped manage expectations, reduce disruption, and build trust, ultimately contributing to a smoother delivery and better end result.

The project also reinforced the value of using robust, low-maintenance materials and designing with future needs in mind. This not only improves reliability but reduces ongoing maintenance demands.

Overall, the key lesson is that well-planned, holistic investment—combined with strong stakeholder engagement—delivers more sustainable, higher-quality outcomes for both residents and asset management over the long term.

11. Equalities - *How have you considered and met the needs of different equalities groups in use of this funding? Include Black, Asian and Ethnic minority people and disabled people*

The project has been designed and delivered with a clear focus on inclusivity, ensuring that the benefits of the investment are accessible to all residents.

A key priority has been creating living spaces that are safe, practical, and adaptable to a wide range of needs. The refurbishment of kitchens, bathrooms, and toilet facilities has incorporated accessible design principles wherever possible, including improved layouts, safer fixtures, and ease of use for residents with mobility or physical impairments. These improvements support greater independence and dignity in daily living.

Engagement with residents has also played an important role. By listening to the experiences and concerns of those living on site, including individuals from diverse backgrounds, the project has been able to respond to specific cultural, social, and accessibility needs. This has helped ensure that the upgrades are not only technically compliant but also appropriate and respectful of the community they serve.

Addressing issues such as poor drainage and pest infestation has had a particularly positive impact on more vulnerable groups, who are often disproportionately affected by environmental health risks. By resolving these issues, the project contributes to a healthier and more equitable living environment for all.

Overall, the funding has been used in a way that promotes fairness, reduces inequalities, and ensures that all residents—regardless of background or ability—can benefit from improved living conditions and a safer, more supportive environment.