

To: All Local Authority Leaders

Kemi Badenoch MP *Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling Up Communities*

Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities Fry Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF Email: <u>kemi.badenoch@communities.gov.uk</u>

www.gov.uk/dluhc

20 March 2022

Dear Colleague,

Traveller Site Fund for 2022/23

I am writing to all local authorities in England to bring to your attention the launch of the Traveller Site Fund totalling £10 million for 2022/23. The capital fund will enable local authorities in England to increase the provision and refurbishment of permanent sites, transit sites and temporary stopping places for travellers.

The funding will support local authorities to provide provision for additional permanent sites, transit sites and temporary stopping places. The capital fund will be available in the 2022/2023 financial year for the:

- building of new permanent and transit sites
- refurbishment of existing permanent and transit sites
- building or refurbishment of temporary stopping places

The fund will be kept under review for future financial years.

The fund is now open for applications to be made, further details can be found at <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traveller-site-fund-202223-prospectus</u>. All completed applications must be submitted by the deadline of midday on Monday 13 June 2022.

The Traveller Site Fund is designed to support authorities in making additional site provision to meet the accommodation needs of travellers in the local area to address underprovision and to maintain an appropriate supply of sites to meet identified need. The refurbishment of existing sites, which will help to improve the living conditions and environment for residents, will also be eligible for grant funding.

The Traveller Site Fund will enable you to build on that work to provide more authorised sites and provide facilities and access to services that improve the life chances of travellers, reduce community tensions and the associated harms and high costs of unauthorised encampments.

Through grant support, including the Affordable Homes Programme and New Homes Bonus, we have seen that the number of caravans on authorised sites has increased from July 2010 – July 2021 under a locally-led system. The number of caravans on unauthorised sites has decreased over the same period.

Supporting local authorities to provide and improve authorised sites and temporary stopping places, will help to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and the associated harms, community tensions and high costs to local areas, as well as ensuring travellers have access to local services, health care, education, and employment to improve life chances. This new support for authorised sites complements the action that the Government is taking to give the police and councils more powers to tackle unauthorised sites.

If you have any further questions about the Traveller Site Fund, please email <u>travellersitefund@levellingup.gov.uk</u>.

Yours sincerely,

mi budonoul

KEMI BADENOCH MP