

<b>Report on</b>	Consultation on Draft NIFRS Fire Safety Guide for Caravan Site Operators
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	2 July 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b> If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider draft response to the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service's consultation on " <i>A Fire Safety Guide for Caravan Site Operators – Information on Complying with Fire Safety Law in Northern Ireland</i> ".
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>A caravan site operator is required to hold a site licence and operate in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 1963;</li> <li>• Model Licence Conditions for Caravan Sites 1992 (Holiday Caravan Sites);</li> <li>• Model Licence Conditions for Residential Caravan Sites 1994.</li> </ul> <p>All caravan site licences within Mid Ulster District Council have been previously issued by legacy Councils in line with the Model conditions above. The Model conditions include a number of fire safety requirements that are subject to inspection. Although both the Council and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service may carry out inspections in relation to fire safety, Council's enforcement remit extends only to those conditions specified within the site's licence.</p> <p>The relevant enforcing authority for all fire safety related issues is the NIFRS under the <i>Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006</i> and <i>The Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010</i>. This fire safety legislation applies to all caravan sites with common or shared parts and individual caravans that are rented out as a holiday-let.</p> <p>The legislation requires the licence holder, and the site manager, to undertake duties to ensure persons (whether they are employees, residents, visitors or others) are safe from harm caused by fire.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 , Council received a letter of consultation from the NIFRS on draft Fire Safety Guidance for Caravan Site Operators, with information on complying with fire safety law in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Members should note that the draft guidance produced by NIFRS to assist the operators of caravan sites is substantially reflective of information contained within the existing Model Licence Conditions for Caravan Sites 1992 and Model Licence Conditions for Residential Caravan Sites 1994. Caravan site licences issued by legacy Councils under</p>

	<p>the Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 1963 prior to the formation of Mid Ulster District Council in 2015 incorporate these model conditions.</p> <p>The new draft guidance is an opportunity for site operators to be brought up to date on amendments to fire safety requirements enforced by NIFRS since the issue of their caravan site licence, particularly in respect of fire safety risk assessment.</p> <p>Additionally as technical guidance issued by industry bodies is reviewed regularly, gas safety is no different, therefore section 4.12 of the draft guide brings information on the relevant British Standards and UKLPA Codes of Practice relating to storage of gas up to date.</p> <p>The draft guide also includes useful advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the use of BBQs at caravan sites;</li> <li>• information on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitoring;</li> <li>• design guidance on turning circles for fire appliances;</li> <li>• technical specification for fire hydrant water supply; and</li> <li>• glamping pods, yurts or similar units.</li> </ul> <p>NIFRS places a limitation on the draft guidance (in paragraph 1.2 - page 6) by excluding its applicability to <i>“caravan sites which are occupied by gypsies, travellers or which house agricultural workers”</i>. With respect to sites provided for the travelling community this exclusion seems unusual following the recent publication of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission report <i>“Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers Accommodation in Northern Ireland”</i> in March 2018.</p> <p>This aspect has been further clarified in correspondence received from the permanent secretary dated 14th June and attached at Appendix 4.</p> <p>The draft response to the consultation states that it welcomes the NIFRS draft guide due to it substantially reflecting fire safety conditions already in place.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: N/A</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>

5.1	That Members agree the content of the draft response to be forwarded to the NIFRS and notes correspondence from Department of Infrastructure at Appendix 4 .
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Letter which accompanied the NIFRS consultation.
6.2	Appendix 2 - Draft document - <i>“A Fire safety Guide for Caravan Site Operators – Information on Complying with Fire Safety Law in Northern Ireland”</i> .
6.3	Appendix 3 - Draft MUDC response to consultation.
6.4	Appendix 4 correspondence received from Mr May (Permanent Secretary).