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Leicester City and Leicestershire¹

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment

Final Report

May 2017

¹ Excluding Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC)



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1. Executive Summary

Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 The primary objective of the 2016 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the following local authority areas: Blaby District Council (BDC), Charnwood Borough Council (CBC), Harborough District Council (HDC), Leicester City Council (LCC), Melton Borough Council (MBC), North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC), and, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC). A separate study was commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) due to Local Plan deadlines. This was also completed by ORS using the same methodology.
- 1.2 As well as updating previous GTAAs, the principal reason for completing the study was the publication of a revised version of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) in August 2015. This included a change to the definition of Travellers for planning purposes. The key change that was made was the removal of the term *persons...who have ceased to travel permanently*, meaning that those who have ceased to travel permanently will not now fall under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing accommodation need in a GTAA (see Paragraph 2.11 for full definition).
- 1.3 The GTAA provides a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the preparation and implementation of Development Plan policies and the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the period up to 2036. This will allow the outcomes of the study to be used to support the different local plan periods for the local authorities that are involved. The outcomes of this study supersede the need figures of any previous Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments completed in the study area.
- 1.4 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in the study area through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews and engagement with members of the travelling community living on all known sites. A total of 78 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers, and a total of 82 interviews were completed with Travelling Showpeople living on authorised and unauthorised sites and yards². Following extensive efforts to identify them, 9 interviews were also completed with Travellers living in bricks and mortar. In addition stakeholder engagement was undertaken and total of 35 telephone interviews were completed.
- 1.5 The fieldwork for the study was completed between July and November 2016, which was after the publication of the PPTS (2015). As a result of this change questions to enable the determination of the travelling status of households were included in the household interviews.
- 1.6 The baseline date for the study is **September 2016** which was when the majority of the site interviews were completed.
- 1.7 A Glossary of Terms can be found in **Appendix A**.

² A number of additional interviews were completed with households that were found not to be Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople.

Leicestershire Multi Agency Travellers Unit (MATU)

- 1.8 MATU is a countywide Gypsy and Traveller management and enforcement partnership. This partnership comprises of all Leicester and Leicestershire Local Authorities, Leicestershire Police and the NHS Travelling Families Team. The unit is hosted by Leicestershire County Council and acts on behalf of (but in liaison with) these other bodies and organisations.
- 1.9 MATU's work covers a range of functions including traveller welfare, improve services to travellers and the settled community and reducing friction, dealing with unauthorised encampments, and providing advice on the development and implementation of traveller related policies. Staff from ORS worked closely with staff from MATU throughout the preparation of the GTAA.

Key Findings

Additional Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.10 Overall, the additional pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers from 2016-2036 are set out below. Additional needs are set out for those households that meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller, for those unknown households where an interview was not able to be completed (either due to households refusing to be interviewed, or not being present despite 3 visits to each site) who may meet the planning definition, and for those households that do not meet the planning definition (even though this is no longer a requirement for a GTAA).
- 1.11 Only the need from those households who meet the planning definition and from those of the unknown households who subsequently demonstrate that they meet it should be considered as need arising from the GTAA.
- 1.12 The need arising from households that meet the planning definition should be addressed through site allocation/intensification/expansion policies. Consideration will also need to be given to the allocation of pitches on public sites.
- 1.13 The Councils will need to carefully consider how to address the needs associated with unknown as it is unlikely that all of this need will need to be addressed through the provision of conditioned³ Gypsy or Traveller pitches. In terms of Local Plan policies the Councils could consider the use of a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) for any unknown households that do provide evidence that they meet the planning definition.
- 1.14 The need for those households who do not meet the planning definition will need to be addressed through other means such as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) or Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). The figures for non-Travelling households are included in the tables below *for information only* and a full breakdown of these needs can be found in the appendices to this report.

Blaby District Council

- 1.15 There were 3 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Blaby District that meet the planning definition, 83 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 14 households that do not meet the

³ Pitches with specific planning conditions restricting occupancy to Gypsies and Travellers who meet the PPTS (2015) planning definition.

planning definition. The number of unknown interviews is high as there were a large number of sites where the Council and the Police had advised against visiting due to safety concerns.

- 1.16 The GTAA identifies a need for **3 additional pitches** for households that meet the planning definition and this is made up of new household formation of 4 based on the demographics of site residents, less supply of 1 pitch on a large unimplemented site in the first 5 years of the GTAA period.
- 1.17 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 23 additional pitches for unknown households and this is made up of new household formation of up to 29 from a maximum of 83 households. There is also supply of 6 pitches on large unimplemented site in the first 5 years of the GTAA period. If the ORS national average⁴ of 10% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional pitches.

Figure 1 – Additional need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Blaby District 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	3
Unknown	0-23 (10% = 2)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	6

Charnwood Borough Council

- 1.18 There were no Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Charnwood Borough that meet the planning definition, no unknown households that may meet the planning definition, and no households that do not meet the planning definition. There is no current or future need.

Figure 2 – Additional need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Charnwood Borough 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	0
Unknown	0
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	0

Harborough District Council

- 1.19 There were 7 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Harborough District that meet the planning definition, 52 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 11 households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.20 The GTAA identified a need for **6 additional pitches** for households that meet the planning definition is made up of 1 concealed family or adult, 1 teenage child in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years, and 4 from new household formation using a rate of 1.75% derived from the site demographics.
- 1.21 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 18 additional pitches for unknown households and this is made up of new household formation from a maximum of 52 households. If the ORS national average of 10% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional pitches.

⁴ Based on the outcomes of over 1,800 household interviews completed by ORS.

Figure 3 – Additional need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Harborough District 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	6
Unknown	0-18 (10% = 2)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	27

Leicester City Council

- 1.22 There were 2 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Leicester City that meet the planning definition, 11 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 24 households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.23 The GTAA identifies a need for **6 additional pitches** for households that meet the planning definition and this is made up of 2 from concealed households or adults, 2 from older teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years, and 2 from new household formation based on the site demographics.
- 1.24 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 1 additional pitch for unknown households and this is made up new household formation of 4 from a maximum of 11 households, less supply of 3 public pitches. If the ORS national average of 10% were applied this could result in a need for no additional pitches.

Figure 4 – Additional need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Leicester City 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	6
Unknown	0-1 (10% = 0)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	21

Melton Borough Council

- 1.25 There were 3 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Melton Borough that meet the planning definition, no unknown households that may meet the planning definition and no households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.26 There is no identified need for **additional pitches** for households that meet the planning definition. Whilst need has been identified as a result of 2 teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years and 1 from a new household to form, there is also supply from unimplemented pitches to meet these needs.

Figure 5 – Additional need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Melton Borough 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	0
Unknown	0
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	0

North West Leicestershire District Council

- 1.27 There were 4 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in North West Leicestershire District that meet the planning definition, 13 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 12 households that do not meet the planning definition.

- 1.28 The GTAA identifies a need for **6 additional pitches** for households that meet the planning definition is made up of 2 unauthorised pitches, 1 concealed household or adult, and 3 from new household formation based on the site demographics.
- 1.29 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 10 additional pitches for unknown households and this is made up of 5 unauthorised pitches and new household formation of 5 from a maximum of 13 households. If the ORS national average of 10% were applied this could result in a need for 1 additional pitch.

Figure 6 – Additional need for Gypsy and Traveller households in North West Leicestershire District 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	6
Unknown	0-10 (10% = 1)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	6

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

- 1.30 There were no Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Oadby and Wigston Borough that meet the planning definition, no unknown households that may meet the planning definition and no households that do not meet the planning definition. Therefore there is **no need for additional pitches**.

Additional Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

- 1.31 Overall the additional plot needs for Travelling Showpeople from 2016 to 2036 are set out below. Additional needs are set out for those households that meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson, for those unknown households where an interview was not able to be completed (either due to households refusing to be interviewed, or not being present despite 3 visits to each site) who may meet the planning definition, and for those households that do not meet the planning definition (although this is no longer a requirement for a GTAA).
- 1.32 Only the need from those households who meet the planning definition and from those of the unknown households who subsequently demonstrate that they meet it should be considered as need arising from the GTAA.
- 1.33 The need arising from households that meet the planning definition should be addressed through site allocation/intensification/expansion policies. Consideration will also need to be given to the allocation of pitches on public sites.
- 1.34 The Council will need to carefully consider how to address the needs associated with unknown Travellers as it is unlikely that all of this need will need to be addressed through the provision of conditioned Travelling Showpeople plots. In terms of Local Plan policies the Councils could consider the use of a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) for any unknown households that do provide evidence that they meet the planning definition.
- 1.35 The need for those households who do not meet the planning definition will need to be addressed through other means such as the SHMA or HEDNA. The figures for non-Travelling households are included in the tables below *for information only* and a full breakdown of these needs can be found in the appendices to this report.

Blaby District Council

- 1.34 There were 5 Travelling Showpeople households identified in Blaby District that meet the planning definition, no unknown households that may meet the planning definition and no households that did not meet the planning definition.
- 1.35 The GTAA identifies a need for **1 additional plot** as a result of new household formation based on the demographics of the residents.

Figure 7 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Blaby District 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	1
Unknown	0
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	0

Charnwood Borough Council

- 1.36 There were 8 Travelling Showpeople households identified in Charnwood Borough that meet the planning definition, 12 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 3 households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.37 The GTAA identifies a need for **8 additional plots** for households that meet the planning definition are made up of 5 concealed households or adults and new household formation of 3 using a rate of 1.00% derived from the site demographics.
- 1.38 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 3 additional plots for unknown households and this is made up new household formation of 3 from a maximum of 12 households. If the ORS national average⁵ of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional plots.

Figure 8 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Charnwood Borough 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	8
Unknown	0-3 (70% = 2)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	1

Harborough District Council

- 1.39 There were 30 Travelling Showpeople households identified in Harborough District that meet the planning definition, 18 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 8 households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.40 The GTAA identifies a need for **30 additional plots** for households that meet the planning definition are made up of 6 concealed households or adults, 2 pitches on a yard that may be sold for development, 8 from older teenage children in need of a plot of their own, and new household formation of 14 using a rate of 1.30% derived from the site demographics.
- 1.41 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 6 additional plots for unknown households and this is made up of 2 from households on a yard that may be sold for development, and new household formation of 4 from a

⁵ Based on the outcomes of over 300 household interviews completed by ORS.

maximum of 18 households. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 4 additional plots.

Figure 9 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Harborough District 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	30
Unknown	0-6 (70% = 4)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	4

Leicester City Council

- 1.42 There were 5 Travelling Showpeople households identified in Leicester City that meet the planning definition, 12 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 2 households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.43 The GTAA identifies a need for **no additional plots** for households that meet the planning definition as there was no current or future need identified.
- 1.44 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 3 additional plots for unknown households and this is made up new household formation of 3 from a maximum of 12 households. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional plots.

Figure 10 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Leicester City 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	0
Unknown	0-2 (70% = 2)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	0

Melton Borough Council

- 1.45 There were no Travelling Showpeople households identified in Melton Borough that meet the planning definition, no unknown households that may meet the planning definition and no households that do not meet the planning definition. Therefore there is **no need for any additional plots**.

North West Leicestershire District Council

- 1.46 There were 14 Travelling Showpeople households identified in North West Leicestershire District that meet the planning definition, 11 unknown households that may meet the planning definition and 11 households that do not meet the planning definition.
- 1.47 The GTAA identifies a need for **20 additional plots** for households that meet the planning definition is made up of 7 concealed households or adults, 7 older teenage children in need of a plot of their own in the next 5 years, and 6 from new household formation using a rate of 1.25% derived from the yard demographics.
- 1.48 The GTAA identifies a need of up to 3 additional plots for unknown households and this is made up new household formation of 3 from a maximum of 11 households. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional plots.

Figure 11 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in North West Leicestershire District 2016-2036

Status	Total
Meet Planning Definition	20
Unknown	0-3 (70% = 2)
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	3

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

- 1.49 There were no Travelling Showpeople households identified in Oadby and Wigston Borough that meet the planning definition, no unknown households that may meet the planning definition and no households that do not meet the planning definition. Therefore there is **no need for additional plots** to be provided.

Transit Requirements

- 1.50 The recommendations for public transit provision set out in the previous GTAA should be acknowledged as evidence of need for additional transit provision in Leicester City and Leicestershire, but the level of provision needs to be reviewed.
- 1.51 Based on a combination of a review of the outcomes of previous GTAA, Traveller Caravan Count Data and intelligence from MATU and other stakeholders, there is a current need for a minimum of 12 caravan spaces (or managed equivalent⁶) in Leicester City, and a minimum of 36 caravan spaces (or managed equivalent) spread over 2-3 sites elsewhere in Leicestershire. This is founded on a conclusion that levels of unauthorised encampments are sustained based on current and historic data; a recalculation of caravan spaces requirements from the 2013 GTAA; and evidence that over 90% of recorded encampments in the area between 2009 and 2016 comprised 12 or less caravans.
- 1.52 As far as suggested locations for the transit provision (or managed equivalent) across Leicestershire are concerned an initial review should be completed of potential sites that are deliverable in the short-term. The data suggests that the need is greatest in the North West of the county and the City and that transit provision should be prioritised in these locations. Further provision will be required elsewhere in Leicestershire taking account of where higher numbers of encampments have been recorded; the strategic transport network; and the overall geography of the county. However the deliverability of new sites in the short-term should be seen as the most important consideration.
- 1.53 The recommendation for the provision of public transit sites needs to be balanced off against the use of managed approaches to dealing with unauthorised encampments as opposed to infrastructure provision. This could include continued use of tolerated stopping or consideration of the introduction of Negotiated Stopping Agreements for short-term encampments along with formal public transit sites. A positive review about the use of Negotiated Stopping Agreements in the Leeds area was published in January 2017.
- 1.54 Each local authority should also consider a review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments in the future, once there is a robust post-PPTS (2015) evidence base. This will establish whether there is a need for and further investment in formal transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.55 Temporary stopping places can be also made available at times of increased demand due to fairs or cultural celebrations that are attended by Gypsies and Travellers. A charge may be levied as determined by the local

⁶ For example the use of management-based approaches or Negotiated Stopping Agreements.

authority although they only need to provide basic facilities including: a cold water supply; portaloos; sewerage disposal point and refuse disposal facilities.

^{1.56} Overall it is recommended that close liaison with MATU is needed in regard with the delivery of Transit provision and the management of unauthorised encampments.

2. Introduction

The Study

- 2.1 The primary objective of the 2016 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the following local authority areas: Blaby District Council (BDC), Charnwood Borough Council (CBC), Harborough District Council (HDC), Leicester City Council (LCC), Melton Borough Council (MBC), North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC), and, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC). A separate study was commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council due to Local Plan deadlines. This was also completed by ORS using the same methodology. The outcomes of this study supersede the outcomes of any previous Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments completed in the study area⁷.
- 2.2 The study provides an evidence base to enable the Councils to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 1985, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 2014 (and as amended), PPTS (2015), and the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- 2.3 The GTAA is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid the preparation and implementation of development plan policies and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots into five year increments covering the periods 2016 to 2036 in accordance with the Councils' plan periods. As well as identifying current and future permanent accommodation needs, it also seeks to assess any need for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 2.4 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- 2.5 The baseline date for the study is **September 2016**.

Local Plan Policies

- 2.6 Providing for the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is covered by a wide range of local plan policies across the local authorities that make up the study area. These are summarised below and set out in detail **Appendix B**.

Figure 9 – Local Plan Policies

Blaby District Council Local Plan (Core Strategy) Development Plan Document – February 2013 Policy CS9 - Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers
Charnwood Borough Council Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy – November 2015

⁷ Except for some recommendations about the need for transit pitches.

Policy CS 5 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
Harborough District Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2006 – 2028 – November 2011 Policy CS4: Providing for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs
Leicester City Local Development Framework Core Strategy – July 2014 CS Policy 9. Gypsy and Traveller and Showpeople Accommodation
Melton Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan – November 2016 Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers
North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan Publication Version – June 2016 Policy H7: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document - September 2010 Core Strategy Policy 13 Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Definitions

- 2.7 The current planning definition for a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson is set out in PPTS (2015). The previous definition set out in the Housing Act (2004) was repealed by the Housing and Planning Act (2016).
- 2.8 Provisions set out in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 include a duty (under Section 8 of the 1985 Housing Act that covers the requirement for a periodical review of housing needs) for local authorities to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to their district with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed, or places on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored. Draft Guidance⁸ related to this section of the Housing and Planning Act has been published setting out how the government would want local housing authorities to undertake this assessment and it is the same as the GTAA assessment process. The implication is therefore that the housing needs of any Gypsy and Traveller households who do not meet the planning definition of a Traveller will need to be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of the area through the SHMA or HEDNA process for example, and will form a subset of the wider need arising from households residing in caravans.
- 2.9 Another key issue is that there may also be Romany, Irish and Scottish Travellers who no longer travel so will not fall under the Planning or Housing definition, but Councils may still need to meet their needs through the provision of culturally suitable housing under the requirements of the Equality Act (2010).

The Planning Definition in PPTS (2015)

- 2.10 For the purposes of the planning system, the definition was changed in PPTS (2015). The planning definition is set out in Annex 1 and states that:

For the purposes of this planning policy “gypsies and travellers” means:

Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age

⁸ “Draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs for caravans and houseboats.” (March 2016)

have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.

In determining whether persons are “gypsies and travellers” for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:

- a) Whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life.*
- b) The reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life.*
- c) Whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances.*

For the purposes of this planning policy, “travelling showpeople” means:

Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

(Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), August 2015)

- ^{2.11} The key change that was made to both definitions was the removal of the term *persons...who have ceased to travel permanently*, meaning that those who have ceased to travel permanently will no longer fall under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing accommodation need in a GTAA.

Definition of Travelling

- ^{2.12} One of the most important questions that GTAAs will need to address in terms of applying the planning definition is *what constitutes travelling?* This has been determined through case law that has tested the meaning of the term ‘nomadic’.
- ^{2.13} **R v South Hams District Council (1994)** – defined Gypsies as “*persons who wander or travel for the purpose of making or seeking their livelihood (not persons who travel from place to place without any connection between their movements and their means of livelihood.)*” This includes ‘born’ Gypsies and Travellers as well as ‘elective’ Travellers such as New Age Travellers.
- ^{2.14} In **Maidstone BC v Secretary of State for the Environment and Dunn (2006)**, it was held that a Romany Gypsy who bred horses and travelled to horse fairs at Appleby, Stow-in-the-Wold and the New Forest, where he bought and sold horses, and who remained away from his permanent site for up to two months of the year, at least partly in connection with this traditional Gypsy activity, was entitled to be accorded Gypsy status.
- ^{2.15} In **Greenwich LBC v Powell (1989)**, Lord Bridge of Harwich stated that a person could be a statutory Gypsy if he led a nomadic way of life *only seasonally*.
- ^{2.16} The definition was widened further by the decision in **R v Shropshire CC ex p Bungay (1990)**. The case concerned a Gypsy family that had not travelled for some 15 years in order to care for its elderly and infirm parents. An aggrieved resident living in the area of the family’s recently approved Gypsy site sought judicial review of the local authority’s decision to accept that the family had retained their Gypsy status even though they had not travelled for some considerable time. Dismissing the claim, the judge held that a

person could remain a Gypsy even if he or she did not travel, provided that their nomadism was held in abeyance and not abandoned.

- 2.17 That point was revisited in the case of **Hearne v National Assembly for Wales (1999)**, where a traditional Gypsy was held not to be a Gypsy for the purposes of planning law as he had stated that he intended to abandon his nomadic habit of life, lived in a permanent dwelling and was taking a course that led to permanent employment.
- 2.18 **Wrexham County Borough Council v National Assembly of Wales and Others (2003)** determined that households and individuals could continue to lead a nomadic way of life with a permanent base from which they set out from and return to.
- 2.19 The implication of these rulings in terms of applying the planning definition is that it will **only include those who travel (or have ceased to travel temporarily) for work purposes and in doing so stay away from their usual place of residence**. It can include those who have a permanent site or place of residence, but that it will not include those who travel for purposes other than work – such as visiting horse fairs and visiting friends or relatives. It will **not cover** those who commute to work daily from a permanent place of residence.
- 2.20 It will also be the case that a household where some family members travel for nomadic purposes on a regular basis, but where other family members stay at home to look after children in education, or other dependents with health problems etc. the household unit would be defined as travelling under the planning definition.
- 2.21 Households will also fall under the planning definition if they can provide information that they have ceased to travel temporarily as a result of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age. In order to have ceased to travel temporarily these households will need to provide information that they have travelled in the past. In addition households may also have to provide information that they plan to travel again in the future.
- 2.22 This approach was endorsed by a Planning Inspector in a recent Decision Notice for an appeal in East Hertfordshire (Appeal Ref: APP/J1915/W/16/3145267). A summary can be seen below.

Case law, including the R v South Hams District Council ex parte Gibb (1994) judgment referred to me at the hearing, despite its reference to 'purposive activities including work' also refers to a connection between the travelling and the means of livelihood, that is, an economic purpose. In this regard, there is no economic purpose... This situation is no different from that of many landlords and property investors or indeed anyone travelling to work in a fixed, pre-arranged location. In this regard there is not an essential connection between wandering and work... Whilst there does appear to be some connection between the travel and the work in this regard, it seems to me that these periods of travel for economic purposes are very short, amounting to an extremely small proportion of his time and income. Furthermore, the work is not carried out in a nomadic manner because it seems likely that it is done by appointment... I conclude, therefore, that XX does not meet the definition of a gypsy and traveller in terms of planning policy because there is insufficient evidence that he is currently a person of a nomadic habit of life.

Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

- 2.23 Decision-making for policy concerning Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation

and guidance. For example, the following key pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when developing policies relating to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:

- » The Housing and Planning Act (2016)
- » PPTS (2015)
- » NPPF (2012)
- » PPG⁹ (2014) and as amended

^{2.24} The primary guidance for undertaking the assessment of housing need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is set out in the PPTS (2015). It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In addition the Housing and Planning Act makes provisions for the assessment of need for those Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households living on sites and yards who do not meet the planning definition – through the assessment of all households living in caravans.

PPTS (2015)

^{2.25} PPTS (2015) sets out the direction of Government policy. As well as including the planning definition of a Traveller, PPTS is closely linked to the NPPF. Among other objectives, the aims of the policy in respect of Traveller sites are (PPTS Paragraph 4):

- » *Local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning.*
- » *To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.*
- » *To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.*
- » *That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development.*
- » *To promote more private Traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those Travellers who cannot provide their own sites.*
- » *That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.*
- » *For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies.*
- » *To increase the number of Traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.*
- » *To reduce tensions between settled and Traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions.*
- » *To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which Travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.*
- » *For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.*

^{2.26} In practice, the document states that (PPTS Paragraph 9):

⁹ With particular reference to the sections on Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments

- » *Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople, which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.*

^{2.27} PPTS goes on to state (Paragraph 10) that in producing their Local Plan local planning authorities should:

- » *Identify and annually update a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets.*
- » *Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.*
- » *Consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries).*
- » *Relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density.*
- » *Protect local amenity and environment.*

^{2.28} Local Authorities now have a duty to ensure a 5 year land supply to meet the identified needs for Traveller sites. However, 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' also notes in Paragraph 11 that:

- » *Where there is no identified need, criteria-based policies should be included to provide a basis for decisions in case applications nevertheless come forward. Criteria-based policies should be fair and should facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of Travellers, while respecting the interests of the settled community.*

3. Methodology

Background

- 3.1 Over the past 10 years, ORS has continually refined a methodology for undertaking robust and defensible Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments. This has been updated in light of the introduction of the PPG in 2014, changes to PPTS in August 2015 and the Housing and Planning Act in 2016, as well as responding to changes set out by Planning Ministers, with particular reference to new household formation rates. This is an evolving methodology that has been adaptive to changes in planning policy as well as the outcomes of Local Plan Examinations and Planning Appeals.
- 3.2 PPTS (2015) contains a number of requirements for local authorities which must be addressed in any methodology. This includes the need to pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves); identification of permanent and transit site accommodation needs separately; working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; and establishing whether households fall within the planning definition for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The stages below provide a summary of the methodology that was used to complete this study. More information on each stage is provided in the appropriate sections of this report.
- 3.3 The approach currently used by ORS was considered in April 2016 by the Planning Inspector for the Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Joint Core Strategy who concluded:

'The methodology behind this assessment included undertaking a full demographic study of all occupied pitches, interviewing Gypsy and Traveller households, including those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, and considering the implications of the new Government policy. On the evidence before me, I am satisfied that the assessment has been appropriately carried out, and there is no reason for me to dispute the figures.'

Glossary of Terms

- 3.4 A Glossary of Terms can be found in **Appendix A**.

Desk-Based Review

- 3.5 ORS collated a range of secondary data that was used to support the study. This included:
- » Census data.
 - » Site records.
 - » Caravan counts.
 - » Records of unauthorised sites and encampments.
 - » Information on planning applications.
 - » Information on enforcement cases.
 - » Existing Needs Assessments and other relevant local studies.
 - » Existing national and local policy.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.6 Engagement was undertaken with key Council Officers and with wider stakeholders through telephone interviews. Council stakeholders included Officers from departments including Housing and Planning. Wider stakeholders included representatives the Showmen's Guild and registered housing providers. Detailed Topic Guides were agreed with the Councils for the telephone interviews.

Working Collaboratively with Neighbouring Planning Authorities

- 3.7 To help support the duty to cooperate and provide background information for the study, telephone interviews were conducted with Planning Officers in neighbouring planning authorities. These interviews will help to ensure that wider issues that may impact on this project are fully understood. This included interviews with Officers from the Councils set out below. Again, a detailed Topic Guide was agreed with the Councils.

» Corby Borough Council	» Rugby Borough Council
» Daventry District Council	» Rushcliffe Borough Council
» Erewash District Council	» Rutland County Council
» Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	» South Derbyshire District Council
» Kettering Borough Council	» South Kesteven District Council
» Lichfield District Council	» Tamworth Borough Council
» Nottinghamshire County Council	» Warwickshire County Council.

Survey of Travelling Communities

- 3.8 Through the desk-based research and the stakeholder interviews, ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites and yards in the study area and attempted to complete an interview with the residents on all occupied pitches and plots. In order to gather robust information to use to assess households against the planning definition of a Traveller, multiple visits were made to households where it was not possible to conduct an interview because they were not in or not available.
- 3.9 Our experience suggests that an attempt to interview households on all pitches is more robust, as opposed to a sample based approach which often leads to an under-estimate of need - an approach which is regularly challenged by the Planning Inspectorate and at planning appeals.
- 3.10 ORS worked closely with the Councils and the Multi Agency Traveller Unit (MATU) to ensure that the interviews collected all the necessary information to support the study. The household interview questions that were used have been updated to take account of changes in PPTS (2015) and to collect the information ORS feel is necessary to apply the planning definition. A copy of the questions can be found in **Appendix G** – although the interviews were completed using Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) tablets.
- 3.11 All pitches and plots were visited by members of our dedicated team of experienced interviewers who work solely on our GTAA studies across England and Wales. They conducted semi-structured interviews with

residents to determine their current demographic characteristics, their current or future accommodation needs, whether there is any over-crowding or the presence of concealed households and travelling characteristics (to meet the requirements in PPTS). Interviewers also sought to identify contacts living in bricks and mortar to interview, as well as an overall assessment of each site to determine any opportunities for intensification or expansion to meet future needs.

- 3.12 They also sought information from residents on the type of pitches they may require in the future – for example private or socially rented, together with any features they may wish to be provided on a new pitch or site.
- 3.13 Where it was not possible to undertake an interview, staff sought to capture as much information as possible about each pitch from sources including neighbouring residents and site management (if present).

Engagement with Bricks and Mortar Households

- 3.14 ORS apply a rigorous approach to making contact with bricks and mortar households as this is a common issue raised at Local Plan examinations and planning appeals. Contacts were sought through a range of sources including the interviews with people on existing sites and yards, intelligence from the stakeholder interviews – including intelligence from staff at the Multi-Agency Traveller Unit (MATU), and adverts on social media (including the Friends Families and Travellers Facebook group). An example is shown below.
- 3.15 As a result of this the following actions were delivered:
- » ORS interviewers attended 2 drop-in sessions that were arranged by GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Equality) Project¹⁰ that were held on the 14th of September in Market Harborough and on the 22nd of September in Leicester City.
 - » Staff from the MATU talked with members of the community they were aware of to seek contacts to interview.
 - » ORS wrote to households on the waiting list for the public sites where there was a valid postal address.
 - » Traveller Education Officers sent out letters to households that are known to the services.
 - » Housing Departments were asked to provide local contacts.
 - » Housing Associations were contacted to ask if they could provide contacts.
 - » All officers who were interviewed were asked to provide local contacts.

- 3.16 Through this approach we endeavoured to do everything within our means to give households living in bricks and mortar the opportunity to make their views known to us.

- 3.17 As a rule we do not extrapolate the findings from our fieldwork with bricks and mortar households up to the total estimated bricks and mortar population as a whole as in our experience this leads to a significant over-estimate of the number of households wishing to move to a site or a yard. We work on the assumption that all those wishing to move will make their views known to us based on the wide range of

¹⁰ G.A.T.E is a group of Gypsies and Travellers who want to promote understanding between themselves and the settled community. They will attend meetings or group events and answer questions on the Travelling life style. They will listen to the concerns of the settled community and aim to reduce the conflicts that can arise between all communities. They will tackle the myths and misconceptions surrounding Gypsies and Travellers.

publicity we will put in place. Thus we are seeking to shift the burden of responsibility on to those living in bricks and mortar through demonstrating disproportionate efforts to make them aware of the study.

Figure 10 – Bricks and mortar advert



Timing of the Fieldwork

- 3.18 ORS are fully aware of the transient nature of many travelling communities and subsequent seasonal variations in site and yard occupancy. As such most of the fieldwork was undertaken during the non-travelling season, and also avoided days of known local or national events. Fieldwork was completed between July and November 2016 and.

Calculating Current and Future Need

- 3.19 The primary change to PPTS (2015) in relation to the assessment of need is the change in the definition of a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson for planning purposes. Through the site interviews ORS sought to collect information necessary to assess each household against the planning definition. As the revised PPTS was only issued in 2015 only a small number of relevant appeal decisions have been issued by the Planning Inspectorate on how the planning definition should be applied (see Paragraph 2.23 for an example) – these support the view that households need to be able to demonstrate that they travel for work purposes to meet the planning definition, and stay away from their usual place of residence when doing so, or have ceased to travel for work purposes temporarily due to education, ill health or old age.
- 3.20 To identify need, PPTS (2015) requires an assessment for current and future pitch requirements, but does not provide a methodology for this. However, as with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the population.

Applying the Planning Definition

- 3.21 The household survey included a structured section of questions to record information about the travelling characteristics of household members. This included questions on the following key issues:
- » Whether any household members have travelled in the past 12 months.
 - » Whether household members have ever travelled.
 - » The main reasons for travelling.
 - » Where household members travelled to.
 - » The times of the year that household members travelled.
 - » Where household members stay when they are away travelling.
 - » When household members stopped travelling.
 - » The reasons why household members stopped travelling.
 - » Whether household members intend to travel again in the future.
 - » When and the reasons why household members plan to travel again in the future.
- 3.22 When the household survey was completed the answers from these questions on travelling were used to determine the status of each household against the planning definition in PPTS (2015). Through a combination of responses households need to provide sufficient information to demonstrate that household members travel for works purposes and in doing so stay away from their usual place of residence, or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to education, ill health or old age, and plan to travel again for work purposes in the future. The same definition applies to Travelling Showpeople as to Gypsies and Travellers.
- 3.23 Households that need to be considered in the GTAA fall under one of 3 classifications that will determine whether their housing needs will need to be assessed in the GTAA. Only those households that meet, or may meet, the planning definition will form the components of need to be included in the GTAA:
- » Households that travel under the planning definition.
 - » Households that have ceased to travel temporarily under the planning definition.
 - » Households where an interview was not possible who *may* fall under the planning definition.
- 3.24 Whilst the needs of those households that do not meet the planning definition do not need to be included in the GTAA, they will be assessed to provide the Council with components of need to consider as part of their work on wider housing needs assessments.

Unknown Households

- 3.25 As well as calculating need for households that meet the planning definition, the needs of the households where an interview was not completed (either due to refusal to be interviewed or households that were not present during the fieldwork period) need to be considered as part of the GTAA where they are believed to be ethnic Gypsies and Travellers who **may** meet the planning definition. Whilst there is no law or guidance that sets out how the needs of these households should be addressed, an approach has been

taken that seeks an estimate of potential need from these households. This will be a maximum additional need figure over and above the need identified for households that do meet the planning definition.

- 3.26 The estimate seeks to identify potential current and future need from many pitches known to be temporary or unauthorised, and through new household formation. For the latter the national rate of 1.50%¹¹ has been used as the demographics of residents are unknown. This approach is consistent with the outcomes of a recent Planning Appeal where access to a site was not possible but basic information was known about the number of households residing there. (Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z6950/A/14/2212012).
- 3.27 Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied, these households could either form a confirmed component of need to be addressed through the GTAA or through the SHMA/HEDNA.
- 3.28 ORS are of the opinion that it would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether or not households where an interview was not completed meet the planning definition based on the outcomes of households where an interview was completed.
- 3.29 However, data that has been collected from over 1,800 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015 suggests that overall approximately 10% of households who have been interviewed meet the planning definition (this rises to 70% for Travelling Showpeople based on over 250 interviews that have been completed) – and in some local authority areas, particularly in the London Boroughs, 100% of households do not meet the planning definition.
- 3.30 ORS are not implying that this is an Official National Statistic - rather a national statistic based on the outcomes of our fieldwork since the introduction of PPTS (2015). It is estimated that there are between 12,000-14,000 Gypsy and Traveller pitches in England and we have spoken to over 12% of them at a representative range of sites and just over 10% meet the planning definition. ORS also asked similar questions on travelling in over 2,000 pre-PPTS (2015) household interviews and also found that 10% of households would have met the PPTS (2015) planning definition. It is ORS' view therefore that this is the most comprehensive national statistic in relation to households that meet the planning definition in PPTS (2015) and should be seen as a robust statistical figure.
- 3.31 This would suggest that it is likely that only a small proportion of the potential need identified from these households will need conditioned Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed through the SHMA or HEDNA for example.
- 3.32 Councils will need to carefully consider how to address the needs associated with unknown Travellers as it is unlikely that all of this need will need to be addressed through the provision of conditioned Gypsy or Traveller pitches. In terms of Local Plan policies the Councils could consider the use of a specific site allocation/protection policy for those households that do meet the planning definition, together with a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) for any unknown households that do provide evidence that they meet the planning definition. An assessment of need for unknown Travellers can be found in **Appendix C**.

¹¹ See Chapter 7

Households that do not meet the Planning Definition

- 3.33 Households who do not travel fall outside the planning definition of a Traveller. However Romany Gypsies and Irish and Scottish Travellers may be able to demonstrate a right to culturally appropriate accommodation under the Equality Act 2010. In addition provisions set out in the Housing and Planning Act (2016) include a duty (under Section 8 of the 1985 Housing Act that covers the requirement for a periodical review of housing needs) for local authorities to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to their district with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed, or places on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored. Draft Guidance¹² related to this section of the Act has been published setting out how the Government would want local housing authorities to undertake this assessment and it is the same as the GTAA assessment process. The implication is therefore that the housing needs of any Gypsy and Traveller households who do not meet the planning definition of a Traveller will need to be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of the area, for example through the SHMA or HEDNA process, and will form a subset of the wider need arising from households residing in caravans. An assessment of need for Travellers that do not meet the planning definition can be found in **Appendix D**.

Supply of Pitches

- 3.34 The first stage of the assessment sought to determine the number of occupied, vacant and potentially available supply in the study area:
- » Current vacant pitches.
 - » Pitches currently with planning consent due to be developed within 5 years.
 - » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing.
 - » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area (out-migration).
- 3.35 It is important when seeking to identify supply from vacant pitches that they are in fact available for general occupation – i.e. on a public or social rented site, or on a private site that is run on a commercial basis with anyone being able to rent a pitch if they are available. Typically vacant pitches on small private family sites are not included as components of available supply, but can be used to meet any current and future need from the family living on the site.

Current Need

- 3.36 The second stage was to identify components of current need. It is important to address issues of double counting:
- » Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected.
 - » Concealed, doubled-up or over-crowded households (including single adults).
 - » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites.
 - » Households in need on waiting lists for public sites.

¹² “Draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs for caravans and houseboats.” (March 2016)

Future Need

- 3.37 The final stage was to identify components of future need. This includes the following four components:
- » Older teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years.
 - » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions.
 - » New household formation.
 - » In-migration.
- 3.38 Household formation rates are often the subject of challenge at appeals or examinations. We agree with the position now being taken by DCLG and firmly believe that any household formation rates should use a robust local evidence base, rather than simply relying on precedent. This is set out in more detail later in Chapter 7 of this report.
- 3.39 All of these components of supply and need are presented in easy to understand tables which identify the overall net need for current and future accommodation for both Gypsies and Travellers, and for Travelling Showpeople. This has proven to be a robust model for identifying needs. The residential and transit pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers are identified separately and the needs are identified in 5 year periods to 2036. These can be found in Chapter 7 and in Appendices C and D.

Pitch Turnover

- 3.40 Some assessments of need make use of pitch turnover as an ongoing component of supply. ORS do not agree with this approach or about making any assumptions about annual turnover rates. This is an approach that usually ends up with a significant under-estimate of need as in the majority of cases vacant pitches on sites are not available to meet any additional need. The use of pitch turnover has been the subject of a number of Inspectors Decisions, for example APP/J3720/A/13/2208767 found a GTAA to be unsound when using pitch turnover and concluded:

West Oxfordshire Council relies on a GTAA published in 2013. This identifies an immediate need for 6 additional pitches. However the GTAA methodology treats pitch turnover as a component of supply. This is only the case if there is net outward migration yet no such scenario is apparent in West Oxfordshire. Based on the evidence before me I consider the underlying criticism of the GTAA to be justified and that unmet need is likely to be higher than that in the findings in the GTAA.

- 3.41 In addition a recent GTAA Best Practice Guide produced by a number of organisations including Friends, Families and Travellers, the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit, the York Travellers Trust, the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Garden Court Chambers and Leeds GATE concluded that:

Assessments involving any form of pitch turnover in their supply relies upon making assumptions; a practice best avoided. Turnover is naturally very difficult to assess accurately and in practice does not contribute meaningfully to additional supply so should be very carefully assessed in line with local trends. Mainstream housing assessments are not based on the assumption that turnover within the existing stock can provide for general housing needs.

- 3.42 As such, other than current vacant pitches on sites that are known to be available, or pitches that are known to become available (as a result of households moving for example), pitch turnover has not been considered as a component of supply in this GTAA.

Transit Provision

- 3.43 PPTS (2015) also requires an assessment of the need for any transit sites or stopping places. While the majority of Gypsies and Travellers have permanent bases either on Gypsy and Traveller sites or in bricks and mortar and no longer travel, other members of the community either travel permanently or for part of the year. Due to the mobile nature of the population, a range of sites or management approaches can be developed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers as they move through different areas.
- » Transit sites
 - » Temporary/Emergency stopping places
 - » Temporary (seasonal) sites
 - » Negotiated Stopping Agreements
- 3.44 In order to investigate the potential need for transit provision when undertaking work to support the study, ORS sought to undertake analysis of any records of unauthorised sites and encampments, as well as information from the CLG Caravan Count. The outcomes of the interviews with Council Officers, Officers from neighbouring local authorities and other stakeholders was also taken into consideration when determining this element of need in the study area.

4. Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites and Population

Introduction

- 4.1 One of the main considerations of this study is to provide evidence to support the provision of pitches and plots to meet the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. A pitch is an area normally occupied by one household, which typically contains enough space for one or two caravans, but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. For Travelling Showpeople, the most common descriptions used are a plot for the space occupied by one household and a yard for a collection of plots which are typically exclusively occupied by Travelling Showpeople. Throughout this study the main focus is upon how many extra pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople are required in the study area.
- 4.2 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of a Gypsy and Traveller site is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Registered Provider (usually a Housing Association). Pitches on public sites can be obtained through signing up to a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees (similar to social housing).
- 4.3 The alternative to public residential sites are private residential sites and yards for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing. Generally the majority of Travelling Showpeople yards are privately owned and managed.
- 4.4 The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few days or weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is an emergency or negotiated stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate, for a temporary period, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople whilst they travel. A number of authorities also operate an accepted encampments policy where short-term stopovers are tolerated without enforcement action.
- 4.5 Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers or with the approval of the land owner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers. In some cases where unauthorised developments have been in place for many years Councils

often refer to them as ‘tolerated sites’ or ‘established sites’. Whilst they do not have planning permission they are tolerated for the purposes of planning enforcement and many would be eligible for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development (CLEUD).

Sites and Yards in the Study Area

Blaby District Council

- 4.6 In Blaby District, at the baseline date for this study, there was 1 public site with 20 pitches; 26 private sites with permanent planning permission for 110 pitches; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and 1 Travelling Showpeople yard with 1 plot (5 households). There are also 3 private transit sites with 15 pitches. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.

Figure 11 - Total amount of authorised provision in Blaby District (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	26	110
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	1	20
Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	3	15
Travelling Showpeople Provision	1	1

Charnwood Borough Council

- 4.7 In Charnwood Borough, at the baseline date for this study, there were no public sites; 1 private site with permanent planning permission for 1 pitch¹³; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and 1 private Travelling Showpeople yard with 20 plots. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.
- 4.8 In addition planning consent was granted in August 2016 for a large strategic site on land North East of Leicester. This includes an agreement for the provision of 1.1ha of prepared and serviced land for 4 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 4 Travelling Showperson plots. A resolution for approval was also made in September 2016 for land West of Loughborough – this is expected to provide a permanent site for 4 pitches to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and 4 plots to meet the needs of Travelling Showpeople. As it is not known whether these sites and yards will be developed within the first 5 years of the GTAA they have not been included as components in the study at this time. However the Council should continue to monitor progress with these applications and take account of any supply associated with them when the GTAA is reviewed.

¹³ It is understood that this planning consent has lapsed as it was not implemented within 3 years of permission being granted.

Figure 12 - Total amount of authorised provision in Charnwood Borough (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	1	1
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	0	0
Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Provision	1	20

Harborough District Council

- 4.9 In Harborough District, at the baseline date for this study, there was 1 public site with 5 pitches; 8 private sites with permanent planning permission with 73 pitches; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and 5 private Travelling Showpeople yards with 64 plots. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.

Figure 13 - Total amount of authorised provision in Harborough District (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	8	73
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	1	5
Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Provision (Private)	5	64

Leicester City

- 4.10 In Leicester City, at the baseline date for this study, there were 3 public sites with 37 pitches; no private sites with permanent planning permission; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and 1 private showpeople yard with 19 plots. In addition analysis of the waiting list for the public site indicated that there were 4 households living on the roadside in Leicester. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.

Figure 14 - Total amount of authorised provision in Leicester City (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	0	0
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	3	37
Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Provision	1	19

Melton Borough Council

- 4.11 In Melton Borough, at the baseline date for this study, there were no public sites; 4 private sites with permanent planning permission for 8 pitches; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and no private showpeople yards. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.

Figure 15 - Total amount of authorised provision in Melton Borough (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	4	8
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	0	0
Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Provision	0	0

North West Leicestershire District Council

- 4.12 In North West Leicestershire District, at the baseline date for this study, there was 1 public site with 1 pitch; 7 private sites with permanent planning permission for 17 pitches; 1 site with temporary planning permission with 6 pitches; 3 sites that are tolerated for planning purposes with 3 pitches; 1 unauthorised site with 7 pitches; 4 private showpeople yards with 23 plots; and 3 Travelling Showpeople yards that are tolerated for planning purposes with 13 plots. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.

Figure 16 - Total amount of authorised provision in North West Leicestershire District (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	7	17
Private sites with temporary planning permission	1	6
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	1	1
Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Provision (authorised)	4	23

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

- 4.13 In Oadby and Wigston Borough, at the baseline date for this study, there were no public sites; no private sites with permanent planning permission; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and no private showpeople yards. Further details can be found in Chapter 6 and **Appendix E**.

Figure 17 - Total amount of authorised provision in Oadby and Wigston Borough (September 2016)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	0	0
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public Sites (Council and Registered Providers)	0	0

Public Transit Provision	0	0
Private Transit Provision	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Provision	0	0

Caravan Count

- ^{4.14} Another source of information available on the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population is the bi-annual Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in England on a specific date in January and July of each year, and reported to DCLG. This is a statistical count of the number of *caravans* on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. With effect from July 2013, DCLG has renamed the ‘Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count’ as the ‘Traveller Caravan Count.’
- ^{4.15} As this count is of caravans and not households, it makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. The count is merely a ‘snapshot in time’ conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise, any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. As such it is not considered appropriate to use the outcomes from the Traveller Caravan Count in the calculation of current and future need as the information collected during the site visits is seen as more robust and fit-for-purpose. However, the Caravan Count data has been used to *support* the identification of the need to provide for transit provision and this is set out in Chapter 7.

5. Stakeholder Engagement

Introduction

- 5.1 To be consistent with the guidance set out in PPTS and the methodology used in other GTAA studies, ORS undertook a stakeholder engagement programme to complement the information gathered through interviews with members of the Travelling Community. This consultation took the form of telephone interviews which were tailored to the role of the individual.
- 5.2 The aim of these interviews was to provide an understanding of: current provision and possible future need; short-term encampments and transit provision; and cross-border issues. Importantly, stakeholders who are in contact with members of the travelling community (who are in bricks and mortar or who are not known to the Councils) were asked if they could inform them that the study is taking place and provide details about how they could participate in a confidential telephone interview with a member of the ORS research team.
- 5.3 Twenty three interviews were completed with Council Officers from the following departments: Planning Policy and Enforcement; Housing; Gypsy and Traveller Liaison and Service Development.

Figure 18 – Interviews completed

Local Authority	Interviews	Departments
Blaby District Council	3	Planning and Community Services
Charnwood Borough Council	3	Planning, Housing and Neighbourhood Services
Harborough District Council	2	Planning and Housing
Leicester City Council	4	Planning, Environmental Health and Parks and Open Spaces
Melton Borough Council	3	Housing and Regulatory Services
North West Leicestershire District Council	5	Planning and Housing
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	3	Planning and Housing

- 5.4 ORS also spoke to wider stakeholders including a representative of MATU, Leicestershire GATE and the Showman's Guild.
- 5.5 In order to engage with housed Travellers ORS also contacted 20 Housing Associations who own and manage accommodation across the City and County. Of those contacted only Nottingham Community HA, Spire Group and Waterloo Housing Group replied and confirmed they do not have contact with the community.

5.6 As stated in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Local Authorities have a duty to cooperate on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries (S.110 Localism Act 2011). In order to explore issues relating to cross boundary working, ORS interviewed a planning officer from 13 neighbouring areas:

- » Corby Borough Council
- » Daventry District Council
- » Erewash District Council
- » Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- » Kettering Borough Council
- » Lichfield District Council
- » Nottinghamshire County Council
- » Rugby Borough Council
- » Rushcliffe Borough Council
- » Rutland County Council
- » South Derbyshire District Council
- » South Kesteven District Council
- » Tamworth Borough Council
- » Warwickshire County Council.

5.7 Nuneaton and Bedworth did not respond to requests to participate in the study.

5.8 Due to issues surrounding data protection, and in order to protect the anonymity of those who took part, this section presents a summary of the views expressed by interviewees and verbatim comments have not been used.

5.9 The first section provides the response from key stakeholders and council officers from the study area and neighbouring authorities. The views expressed in this section of the report represent a balanced summary of the views expressed by stakeholders, and on the views of the individuals concerned, rather than the official policy of their Council or organisation. Following this section, the views of wider stakeholders are presented.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Blaby District Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

5.10 Since the previous GTAA the District has granted planning permission for 23 permanent pitches, 8 transit pitches, and 6 additional caravans on an existing site. There have not been any applications for additional Travelling Showpeople plots since the last GTAA (2013).

5.11 Within the District there are 130 permanent pitches, including a public site at Aston Firs which has 20 pitches. In addition, there are 15 transit pitches and one large Travelling Showpeople plot within the District.

- 5.12 An officer explained that breaches of planning control on sites and retrospective planning applications have reduced, and most Gypsies and Travellers in the area are settled on authorised sites.
- 5.13 Overall, officers believe there is enough accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and explained that a number of sites, which were included in the previous assessment, had since been granted a change of use and are now residential mobile home parks, and officers were of the view that this may result in a reduction in the overall accommodation need.
- 5.14 Furthermore, many Gypsies and Travellers living within the area are thought not to travel and if they do it is only for commuting purposes within the Leicestershire area; therefore, they would not meet the planning definition of Travelling.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.15 Officers were not aware of significant numbers of roadside encampments and one estimated around 2-3 per year. In comparison the numbers are said to be higher in neighbouring Leicester City, and officers could not explain why numbers are so low considering Blaby neighbours the City.
- 5.16 There is private transit provision which is split over three sites and totals 15 pitches.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.17 Officers were not aware of any cross border issues. One officer referred to enforcement action to disperse families from a large unauthorised site in Hinckley. However, the officer thought the families would go to other family sites (not in Blaby) they are familiar with.
- 5.18 Officers were of the view that the joint GTAA and the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment are evidence of cross border working across the Leicestershire authorities. An officer felt it has been beneficial to undertake County-wide assessments, particularly as the process captures the need beyond local boundaries and also neighbours outside Leicestershire.
- 5.19 Planning officers across the County also attend a forum in order to discuss planning issues including accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Future priorities

- 5.20 One officer felt the main priority is to resolve the issues with the site owners through planning consent and legal expansion of the sites.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Charnwood Borough Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.21 Charnwood Borough Council has sought to implement the evidence of need in the 2013 GTAA through a policy based approach for gypsy and traveller sites in the 2015 Core Strategy linked to specific allocations for the delivery of sites through Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) at North East Leicester, West Loughborough and North of Birstall.

- 5.22 An officer explained that the focus has been on securing delivery through detailed master planning work and pre application discussions with the promoters of the SUEs so that provision was accepted as a required part of the planning permission for the overall development which was underpinned by a legally binding Section 106 Agreement. Bringing forward large scale mixed use developments of this type requires the investment of significant resources and inevitably takes a number of years to accomplish which means that delivery will be secured because sites for gypsies and travellers and travelling showmen will come forward as integral parts of the new developments.
- 5.23 In terms of their planning status North East Leicester SUE is the at the most advanced stage of the three SUEs with planning permission secured and a Section 106 Agreement signed. The West Loughborough SUE received a resolution to approve planning permission in September 2015, including in due course a Section 106 Agreement. A planning application has been submitted for the SUE on land North of Birstall and discussions are ongoing concerning detailed aspects of its delivery including a Section 106 Agreement.
- 5.24 Planning permission has been granted for a small site in South Croxton (which has not been implemented). Other than that there have not been any planning applications received from Gypsies and Travellers.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.25 At the time of undertaking the interviews (September 2016) there had been around 6 recorded encampments. These tend to stay in the area for a very short time; mostly overnight. Most use public owned land (e.g. car parks) and are encouraged to move on as quickly as possible.
- 5.26 Charnwood is located on the border with the City and there can be some cross over from Travellers moving from the City into the area and there can be a yo-yo effect. There are some permanent sites on the border within the City and sometimes encampments can arise near to those because they are visiting family or attending social events (weddings and funerals).
- 5.27 The provision of transit pitches will be taken forward through the future Local Plan process based on an assessment of need and having regard to the characteristics of the sites.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.28 Leicester City Council has recently delivered two sites for gypsies and travellers in the north of the city close to the boundary with Charnwood. This may have the effect of reducing demand for provision within that part of Charnwood. In the longer term however officers thought that the identified need for Leicester as identified in the 2013 GTAA would be a challenging target for the City to provide for and if provision is not made then this could give rise to more demand in other Districts including Charnwood.
- 5.29 Undertaking a joint GTAA ensures a consistent approach and this is said to be very useful given the Gypsy and Traveller community is not static and tend to move around. Officers felt that joint working to understand to what extent accommodation need is being met across Leicestershire and this is set out in the Core Strategy.
- 5.30 MATU and the team's expertise and knowledge is said to be invaluable; particularly their ongoing understanding of issues across Leicestershire.

Future priorities

- 5.31 Charnwood's approach to securing delivery at the SUEs through the legally binding Section 106 Agreements has been an effective approach while future provision based on identified needs will take place through the Local Plan with a time horizon through to 2036.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Harborough District Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.32 There is one public site with five pitches. This was provided using Government funding for a family who were on a long-term unauthorised site and had declining health. An officer explained that the District would not look to provide any additional public provision; unless Government funding was available.
- 5.33 The majority of sites are private and permanent. There are not many long-term unauthorised developments in the area; therefore there are no issues with them.
- 5.34 There have been some enforcement issues, and around four years ago the Council placed an injunctive order around the Mere Lane complex to ensure that it does not spread beyond the area that the Council would consider acceptable. An officer explained that a number of pitches had been developed without permission and the Council wanted to take control of the site; thus far, this action has stopped any further development and is thought to have encouraged Gypsies and Travellers to work with the Council to help them regularise the pitches (where the Council can support it). Although the officer said that the Council has a good relationship with residents, there have been some issues relating to newcomers on the site.
- 5.35 The Council's enforcement team undertake quarterly site visits. The last visit was in January/February 2016 and the Mere Lane site was not considered to be fully occupied as some pitches appeared to be redundant; that said, the officer explained that it is difficult to say whether these would be occupied in the future, as sometimes the occupants will leave the pitch, travel and then return. In terms of the amount of caravans, there were some pitches which had more than they are allowed and others that had none at all, therefore when the Council undertook the last caravan count there were more caravans on there than there should have been. More recently, there has been some indication that there has been building work going on on a few pitches, however this had not been investigated by enforcement officers because of issues around officer safety.
- 5.36 The previous GTAA (2013) identified a need for an additional 80 pitches from 2012-31. This was calculated using the base figure of 70 pitches plus population growth combined with movement from sites near the County's border. The figure for 2012-17 was an additional 27 pitches (half of which was for public provision). Since then ten additional pitches have been created.
- 5.37 The Assessment identified a need for an additional 25 additional plots from 2012-31. Since then a number of Travelling Showpeople plots have been granted planning permission; the most recent example is 12-18 plots on one site.
- 5.38 The Local Plan consultation will now be in the summer 2017. An officer did not expect the necessary number of pitches to be found.

- 5.39 On-going DRP Planning is used to allocate sites for Gypsies and Travellers by searching for available sites from various sources (SHLAA sites deemed non-developable, land in public sector ownership).
- 5.40 The District is prioritising the allocation of new sites and the new GTAA. The Council will seek to meet identified needs through site allocations and criteria based enabling policy.
- 5.41 On one large private site there have been applications for pitches which could suggest overcrowding, but the site does not appear to be so.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.42 Most unauthorised encampments occur due to people travelling through the area, who stay no longer than 72 hours on the roadside.
- 5.43 There are currently no transit sites in the area and the 2013 GTAA indicated a need for County-wide transit provision.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.44 There are issues with sites in Northamptonshire that are close to the border. The site on the border of Daventry is close to Market Harborough, so uses the facilities across the border from their site.
- 5.45 There was an issue with a family that frequently moved between sites in three areas: Harborough, Melton and Rutland.
- 5.46 An officer referred to the joint Leicestershire GTAA and felt this demonstrates sufficient cross border working with neighbouring authorities. Harborough District have been involved with a working group of senior officers and councillors from Daventry, Kettering and Harborough.
- 5.47 The District complies with the Duty to Cooperate by aiding each other when needed, and have recently provided Kettering Borough Council with information for its public inquiry and similar help has been given to them.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Leicester City Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.48 In 2015 the City Council developed two public sites with a total of 16 pitches; Greengate Nook and Redhill Nook. These sites provided accommodation for a family who had previously been on a tolerated site and a number of other families who travelled around the City for most of the year, and were causing multiple short-term encampments.
- 5.49 The Council received funding from the HCA to refurbish the Meynells Gorse public site and work was completed in 2015.
- 5.50 There is a yard for Travelling Showpeople in Rushey Mead which is leased by the Showman's Guild from the Council.

- 5.51 An officer explained that it is difficult for Gypsy and Travellers to develop private sites because of the high land values relative to some surrounding districts. Therefore to meet the accommodation need, it is felt that the Council has to provide public sites.

Bricks and Mortar

- 5.52 50 letters were sent to households in bricks and mortar who are known to the Traveller Education service. Letters were also sent to those on the site waiting list who have given addresses. Officers were of the view that there are more Travellers in bricks and mortar than living on a site in the City.
- 5.53 An officer explained that for those Travellers who live in bricks and mortar there are those that have been there for a number of years and who are very happy, and there are those who would prefer sited accommodation. There is therefore a very mixed preference. That said, it was said that many of those who are living in housing would still want to have a caravan parked in the driveway, and some families will still sleep in their caravan (particularly if they have family visiting).

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.54 Although the creation of two permanent sites has led to a reduction of short-term encampments; 34 unauthorised encampments have been recorded so far in 2016, which is a decrease compared to the same period last year of 49 encampments. Nevertheless, officers still felt transit provision is required in the City.
- 5.55 Encampments occur all round (although numbers are higher during the summer) as Leicester City is a popular Traveller location and will visit the area because they:
- » Have an affinity towards Leicester and have family connections.
 - » Have connections to the Gilroes cemetery and will visit loved ones.
 - » Travel to horse fairs and other work/social related events
 - » Visit the area for a holiday; one example given by an officer is a large group of French Travellers who travel around the country during the summer and will stay in Leicester and Leicestershire for around 2-3 weeks.
- 5.56 The City Council cannot plan for the majority of encampments; occasionally the Council is made aware of forthcoming events such as a large funeral and can, to a certain extent, make preparations such as liaising with Highways to explore parking issues. Encampments can be problematic, particularly when they occur on land which attracts public attention.
- 5.57 In order for a transit site to be effective, officers explained that it would have to be located within the City to ensure the police could use powers under Section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to move them on. This power can only be used to direct Travellers onto a site within the same local authority area and not to a site in the County.
- 5.58 Officers agreed that the City should continue to consider the development of a site for Travellers in transit. Previous discussions have indicated that if the City provided a transit site of between 6-12 pitches it would resolve the encampment issue for the majority of the year.

- 5.59 However, they acknowledged that although there are certainly benefits to providing a site, it will be extremely difficult to provide given the lack of available and suitable sites and the inevitable public opposition.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.60 Officers were not aware of any cross border issues. An officer acknowledged that the adjoining authorities are identifying enough sites in their Local Plans to meet their own need.
- 5.61 In terms of cross border working, all officers recognised the benefits of the MATU who organise and chair the multi-authority bi-annual meetings and they felt this gives an overview of what is happening across the area. For the last 12 months fortnightly meetings have been held with stakeholders who have an interest in Traveller issues including accommodation.
- 5.62 In addition, having a consistent approach to the management of encampments was felt to be extremely helpful and was said to be working well.
- 5.63 An officer also referred to the decision to undertake a joint GTAA and felt that this ensures there is a consistent approach to identifying accommodation need across the City and County.

Future priorities

- 5.64 When asked about future priorities an officer explained that new Housing Benefit rules restricts the number of weeks that Travellers can travel abroad, particularly to Ireland. This means that Travellers could potentially lose their entitlement if they do travel, however if they do not travel they could lose their Gypsy status under the planning definition of travelling for planning policy purposes. The Council has discussed the impact of this with certain families and explained that they may have to change their travelling patterns.
- 5.65 Officers agreed that the main priority is to provide a suitable transit site.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Melton Borough Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.66 The previous GTAA identified the following pitch requirements: 2012-2017: 8 permanent pitches plus 2 transit pitches; 2017/22 - 1 permanent pitch; 2022/27 – 3 permanent pitches and 2027/31 – 3 permanent pitches
- 5.67 In 2015 a planning application was granted for a site for 3 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches and in 2016 for 1 permanent pitch. Thus, leaving 5 permanent pitches required before 2017.
- 5.68 The interviews did not identify any concealed households or overcrowding. There is 1 permanent pitch which is currently the subject of a planning appeal.
- 5.69 It was felt that the change in the Planning Definition may reduce the demand for permanent pitches.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.70 Officers were not aware of significant numbers of roadside encampments, and did not feel that transit provision is required in the Borough.

Cross Boundary Issues

- 5.71 Officers were not aware of any cross border issues and movements of Travellers from neighbouring authorities.
- 5.72 They were of the view that there is sufficient cross border working and suggested that the joint funding of MATU and the commissioning of a joint GTAA was evidence of this.

Future priorities

- 5.73 One officer felt the Borough's main priority is to identify suitable sites.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in North West Leicestershire District Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.74 The Council has submitted its Local Plan which includes a Criteria Based policy and commitment to site allocations. However, no new sites were identified as a result of the 'Call for Sites' (February 2016). A new Consultation document will be published in November 2016 and will include around 12 potential sites. The results of the GTAA will be presented to Elected Members, and the Council want to demonstrate to the Planning Inspector that there is a commitment to meeting the need for Gypsy and Travellers and that progress has been made.
- 5.75 Officers explained that since the previous assessment one site which was unauthorised was granted planning permission and another two (which were originally refused) now have planning permission. Therefore, there are now fewer unauthorised sites.
- 5.76 One officer has recently been involved with managing issues relating to a long standing, partially lawful unauthorised site on Netherfield Lane, when a field (which is adjacent to the partially lawful site) was occupied by 30-40 caravans. The Council worked with the landowner who then took action and employed an agency to remove the Travellers from the land. A number of caravans remain on the field, but these are said to be members of the landowner's family who are apparently there in order to prevent anyone else coming onto the field.
- 5.77 An officer explained that when undertaking the Development Plan Document (DPD), the Council identified a few more Traveller sites that the Council was unaware of at the time of the previous GTAA – so the understanding is much better than it was previously.
- 5.78 There has also been a reduction in the amount of Gypsy and Traveller provision overall, as some sites are now residential mobile homes.

- 5.79 Overall, officers believed there to be a lack of accommodation. One officer felt that the level of provision has historically been low and the previous GTAA did come up with a significant need figure. Since then there has been quite a few planning applications and these have been granted permission on appeal because it has been recognised that the area has such a high unmet need. Another officer has been told by a person living within the Traveller community that the lack of accommodation provision is leading to tensions between community members.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.80 Officers interviewed were not involved in managing short-term unauthorised encampments.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.81 Officers were not aware of any cross border issues, and they felt that neighbouring authorities are meeting their need. They did acknowledge the high need in Leicester City, but felt that this was an issue for those neighbouring areas. One officer was of the view that if North West Leicestershire cannot meet the identified need they will have to discuss this with their neighbouring authorities; although this would not happen until they have exhausted all other options.
- 5.82 Officers were of the view that undertaking a joint GTAA and being members of MATU demonstrates a robust and joined-up approach to the management of accommodation for Gypsy and Travellers. This is in addition to the joint Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment and other sub regional pieces of work.
- 5.83 One officer was keen to engage further with Hinckley and Bosworth and South Derbyshire to ensure cross border issues are dealt with appropriately. Another officer felt that there are regular policy discussions with Hinckley and Bosworth and no issues have been raised.
- 5.84 One officer said there is duty to cooperate issues around general housing requirements, but not Traveller accommodation.

Future priorities

- 5.85 The identification of sites was said to be the District's main priority.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.86 Officers confirmed that there are no sites in the Borough. Officers were not aware of any recent enquiries or site applications by Gypsies and Travellers and this led officers to believe there is no demand for accommodation in the District.
- 5.87 Although the previous GTAA identified a need for one site, it was not allocated because there would be no demand to sustain it. If a need was identified it would be difficult to identify a suitable location as the Borough is a very dense, urban area with little open space.

- 5.88 One officer could not explain why there has been no interest from the Gypsy and Traveller community, particularly as the Borough borders Leicester City, which is a popular location amongst the Travelling community.

Bricks and Mortar

- 5.89 The 2011 Census identified 3 bricks and mortar Travellers in Oadby and Wigston. The Housing team deals with a very small number of applications for accommodation assistance (homelessness or choice-based lettings) from Gypsies and Travellers. One officer was aware of one household that had been re-housed in bricks and mortar accommodation, however due to the sensitive nature of the application the officer felt it would be inappropriate to contact this person about the GTAA.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.90 Officers were not aware of significant numbers of roadside encampments. One officer thought that the Brocks Hill Country Park Car Park will sometimes be used by Travellers. It was felt that there are few opportunities for Travellers to camp in the area given that the area is just 9 square miles, and almost all of it is built up.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.91 Although there are currently no cross border issues, it was felt that issues could arise if a neighbouring authority cannot meet its own need.
- 5.92 There are examples of cross border working through a variety of groups which includes planning officers and elected members. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are said to have been meeting the Duty to Cooperate by working with other authorities on a draft policy which aims to identify need for growth in authorities until 2036.

Neighbouring Authorities

- 5.93 The outcomes of the interviews with Officers from Neighbouring Authorities can be found in **Appendix F**.

Response from the Multi Agency Traveller Unit (MATU)

Accommodation Need

- 5.94 There is evidence of some overcrowding on public sites and residents are limited to two caravans on pitches. There are some elderly residents who have grown up children living with them which can become an issue when children get married.
- 5.95 There is a mix of private sites in the area, some are described as small family site sites and there are larger sites that have rented pitches.
- 5.96 A stakeholder explained that over the past ten years the number of Travellers who rent pitches to other Travellers has decreased by around 60-70 pitches and therefore there are fewer private rented pitches on offer. Therefore, families who cannot afford to buy their own plots want a local authority pitch. This has resulted in an unmet need for Local Authority provision.

- 5.97 Travellers are said to prefer populated areas, and private sites are mainly located in the western part of the County. As a result, there is a relatively low demand for provision in the east Leicestershire area; however a stakeholder explained that if a socially rented site was built in that area Travellers would be prepared to move..
- 5.98 The stakeholder said that since the last GTAA the local authorities across Leicestershire have been able to provide additional pitches (16 in Leicester City and 5 in Harborough District) and improve existing accommodation stock (Redevelopment – Aston Firs in (Blaby) and Meynells Gorse in the (City)). The stakeholder also referred to plans to develop sites as part of sustainable urban extensions, for instance there are outline plans to include 4 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 4 Showman Yards in Loughborough and south east Charnwood as part of much larger developments by means of a s106 agreement with the developer. There is a possibility that Melton Borough Council could take a similar approach.
- 5.99 Overall, the stakeholder felt that North West Leicestershire had the most urgent need for new sites especially socially rented and although the City Council have already provided some additional pitches, more will need to be provided to meet future accommodation need. There are a number of private sites across the county with planning permission which are yet to be developed. There are currently no sites in Oadby and Wigston and the stakeholder felt that it would potentially difficult to provide anything in this area because overall need is low and it would be difficult to locate suitable and available pieces of land.

Bricks and Mortar

- 5.100 Many Travellers are said to have moved into bricks and mortar housing because there is a lack of site accommodation. A stakeholder explained that when residing in housing they can suffer from isolation and can find it difficult to maintain their tenancy which often results in eviction or early termination of the tenancy
- 5.101 Living on the roadside is getting evermore difficult and, whereas Travellers used to have a couple of weeks or months stay on a roadside encampment, families are frequently moved on in a few days now. Also, due to limited amount of local authority pitches, a lot of young people (who have lived on the site all their lives) often have to move into housing due to overcrowding or go onto the roadside without having the skills and experience of doing this that their parents had
- 5.102 Travellers tend to settle better in housing if they are able to find a house with a driveway that they can put a caravan on as opposed to a flat.

Short-term Roadside Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.103 The vast majority of encampments are now those travelling through or visiting family in the area. Areas where there are the most unauthorised encampments are North West Leicestershire and Leicester City. Charnwood, Blaby and Melton are all similar. In the last 12 months ‘new’ families (that haven’t been seen in the area before) have been travelling through the area for the first time. The reasons for doing so are unknown.
- 5.104 On average there are around 110 encampments per year. In 2015 there were 149 across the County which is thought to be particularly high, this was partially thought to be caused by the new sites being built. During 2016 there have been fewer encampments and the numbers of have been closer to the average.

The majority of unauthorised encampments occur from Easter through to the end of August, however they can occur throughout the year.

- 5.105 Since the creation of two new sites in Leicester there has been a significant reduction in caravan days (number of caravans multiplied by number of days in situ) this is largely attributed to the fact that Travellers now occupying those sites were long-term roadside all year round previously which would have driven the number of caravan days up.
- 5.106 There is currently only one long term roadside Travelling family who have resided on unauthorised encampments all their lives, they would want to live on a permanent site in North West Leicestershire, primarily because they want to be near to their family who provide their care. They do not want housing and also finding suitable housing near their family has also been difficult.
- 5.107 The stakeholder was of the view that unauthorised encampments would be easier to manage if there was some transit provision, preferably at least one site in Leicestershire County and one in Leicester City; a 12 space transit site would cater for around 91% of unauthorised encampments or a six caravan space site would cater for around 73% of unauthorised encampments. Most unauthorised encampments are small involving 1-2 caravans for a couple of weeks; these could be catered for by having an available transit site.
- 5.108 There have been discussions around the provision of transit sites in both Leicester City and Leicestershire County, however priority has been given to providing permanent sites for those living long term roadside first. There now needs to be a focus on the transit issue.
- 5.109 In terms of the change of the definition of travelling, the stakeholder does not feel this has had an effect yet because it has not been used as a sole reason for refusing planning permission also it has yet to be tested in court.

Cross-border Issues and the Duty to Cooperate

- 5.110 MATU keeps in touch with all its counterparts in neighbouring areas and has regular meetings with Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire occasionally Warwickshire. They keep each other informed about encampments and other issues.
- 5.111 The representative explained that as long as all areas are considering the need for new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and are actively engaging in the Development Plan Process there are no cross border issues to consider. In addition authorities should be working together on the following priorities:
- » Ensure that there at least some public provision (socially rented).
 - » Address the need for transit provision in Leicester City and Leicestershire County

Response from the Showman's Guild (Midland Section)

- 5.112 The Showman's Guild administers one site which is located in Bath Street. The site is said to serve the needs of the Showpeople who want to live in the area and also those who are travelling through the area. The Bath Street site is not overcrowded and the Guild will advertise any available plots.
- 5.113 There are a number of new sites in Lutterworth, which is said to be an area where Showpeople have traditionally wintered. These sites have eased the pressure on the Bath Street site.

^{5.114} The representative felt that Leicestershire is meeting the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople and was not aware of anyone looking for a yard in the area. The representative added that it is always in the interest of the Council to work with the Guild as they can ensure that site owners comply with the rules of the Showman's Guild.

6. Survey of Travelling Communities

Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers

- 6.1 One of the major components of this study was a detailed survey of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population living on sites and yards in the study area. This aimed to identify current households with housing needs and to assess likely future housing need from within existing households, to help judge the need for any future site provision. The household interview questions can be found in **Appendix G** – although the interviews were actually conducted using Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI) tablets.
- 6.2 Through the desk-based research and stakeholder interviews ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites and yards in the study area. Interviews were completed between July and November 2016. Up to 3 attempts were made to interview each household where they were not present when interviewers visited. The tables below identify the sites that ORS staff visited during the course of the fieldwork, and also set out the number of interviews that were completed at each site, together with the reasons why interviews were not completed. All of the site lists have been agreed with each local authority and also include any unimplemented pitches with planning permission.

Blaby District Council

Figure 19 - Sites and yards visited in Blaby District

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
Public Sites			
LCC site, Aston Firs	20	13	2 x refusals, 5 x no contact possible
Private Sites			
Woodfield Stables, Aston Firs	13	1	12 x refusals
Caravan and Castle, Aston Firs	1	0	Told not to visit by the Council
Acorn Cottage, Aston Firs	7	0	Told not to visit by the Council
Land to the rear of Oak Tree Cottage, Aston Firs	11	0	Told not to visit by the Council – 11 x pitches under construction
Rosevale Park, Aston Firs	27	0	Told not to visit by the Council
White Gate Stables, Aston Firs	1	0	Told not to visit by the Council
The Stables, Enderby	1	1	-
Old Coal Yard, Enderby	7	0	7 x no contact possible
Field View Park, Enderby	6	0	6 x no contact possible
Grange Park, Enderby	10	0	Told not to visit by the Council
Beggars Lane, Enderby	15	0	15 x unimplemented pitches
Bumble Bee Gardens, Sharnford	1	0	1 x refusal
Hospital Lane, Blaby	1	1	-

Rose Paddock, Kirby Muxloe	9	0	5 x refusals, 4 x vacancies
Travelling Showpeople			
The Oaklands, Enderby	1	5	-
TOTAL	131	21	

Charnwood Borough Council

Figure 20 - Sites and yards visited in Charnwood Borough

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
Private Sites			
South Croxton Site ¹⁴	1	0	1 x lapsed planning consent
Travelling Showpeople Yards			
Hoton Showmen's Site ¹⁵	20	11	10 x no contact possible, 2 x vacant, 2 x refusals
TOTAL	21	11	

- 6.3 In addition planning consent was granted in August 2016 for a large strategic site on land North East of Leicester. This includes an agreement for the provision of 1.1ha of prepared and serviced land for 4 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 4 Travelling Showperson plots. A resolution for approval was also made in September 2016 for land West of Loughborough – this is expected to provide a permanent site for 4 pitches to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and 4 plots to meet the needs of Travelling Showpeople. As it is not known whether these sites and yards will be developed within the first 5 years of the GTAA they have not been included as components in the study at this time.

Harborough District Council

Figure 21 - Sites and yards visited in Harborough District

Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
Public Sites			
Bonehams Lane, Gilmorton	5	2	1 x refusal, 1 x no contact possible
Private Sites			
Greenacres, Market Harborough	25	12	8 x no contact possible, 5 x refusals
Hill View, Dunton Basset	1	0	1 x no contact possible
Mere Farm, Bitteswell	40	0	35 x no contact possible, 5 x vacant
Quary Farm Stables, North Kilworth	1	1	-
Smithfields, Dunton Basset	1	1	-
Snows Lane, Keyham	2	1	1 x non-Travellers
Walkers Stables, Keyham	1	1	-

¹⁴ It is understood that this planning consent has lapsed as it was not implemented within 3 years of permission being granted.

¹⁵ There were multiple households on some plots.

Woodway Lane, Claybrooke	2	0	2 x unimplemented pitches
Travelling Showpeople			
Greenacres, Market Harborough ¹⁶	1	1	-
James Bond, Lutterworth	6	2	2 x refusals, 2 x non-Travellers, 1 x plot does not exist
Fairacres, Lutterworth	54	35	14 x no contact possible, 5 x vacant, 4 x plot does not exist
Billy Wild, Welham	2	1	1 x no contact possible
Amusement Depot, Lutterworth	1	0	1 x no contact possible
TOTAL	142	57	

Leicester City Council

Figure 22 - Sites and yards visited in Leicester City

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
Public Sites			
Greengate Nook, Leicester	6	3	3 x no contact possible
Meynells Gorse, Leicester	21	14	1 x refusal, 6 x no contact possible
Redhill Nook, Leicester	10	9	1 x no contact possible
Travelling Showpeople Yards			
Bath Street, Leicester	19	7	1 x refusal, 1 x vacant, 10 x no contact possible
TOTAL	56	33	

Melton Borough Council

Figure 23 - Sites and yards visited in Melton Borough

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
Private Sites			
Valley View, Melton Mowbray (1)	2	2	-
Valley View, Melton Mowbray (2)	3	0	3 x unimplemented pitches
Sandy Lane, Melton Mowbray	2	0	2 x unimplemented pitches
Goadby Road, Waltham on the Wolds	1	0	1 x no contact possible
TOTAL	8	2	

North West Leicestershire District Council

Figure 24 - Sites and yards visited in North West Leicestershire District

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
Public Sites			
Station Yard, Hemington	1	1	-

¹⁶ There was one Travelling Showperson plot at this private site.

Private Sites			
Bardon Road, Coalville	2	0	2 x refusals
Forest Field Oakfield Barn, Oakthorpe	1	0	1 x non-Traveller
Land Adjacent To 81 Shortheath Road, Swadlincote	8	1	4 x no contact possible, 3 x non-Travellers
Ravenstone Road	3	3	-
The Ashes, Heather	1	1	-
Toons Scrap Yard, Ellistown	1	0	1 x no contact possible
Altons Nook, Sinope	1	2	-
Temporary Sites			
Aylesbury Gardens, Swepestone	6	4	2 x vacant
Tolerated Sites			
Dorans, Whitwick	1	1	-
The Chalet, Swannington	1	1	-
Ashby Road, Coalville	1	0	1 x no contact possible
Unauthorised Sites			
Midsummer Stables, Hemington	7	2	5 x no contact possible
Travelling Showpeople Yards			
Fair Oak, Swadlincote	9	0	9 x no contact possible
Hemington Park Showmans Site, Hemington	7	7	-
Kelham Bridge Farm, Coalville	4	3	1 x no contact possible
The Haven, Ibstock	3	3	-
Travelling Showpeople Yards - tolerated			
Brook Lane, Thringstone	1	0	1 x no contact possible
Railway Terrace, Swannington	8	8	-
White Gates Farm, Ravenstone	4	4	-
TOTAL	70	41	

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Figure 25 - Sites and yards visited in Oadby and Wigston Borough

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews
There are no sites or yards in Oadby and Wigston	-	-	-
TOTAL	0	0	

Efforts to contact bricks and mortar

- 6.4 ORS applied a rigorous approach to making contact with bricks and mortar households as this is a common issue raised at Local Plan examinations and planning appeals. Contacts were identified through a range of sources including the interviews with people on existing sites and yards, intelligence from the Councils and housing providers, and adverts on social media (including the Friends Families and Travellers Facebook group), as well as writing to households on waiting lists for public sites.

6.5 In addition the following actions were delivered:

- » ORS interviewers attended 2 drop-in sessions that were arranged by GATE that were held on the 14th of September in Market Harborough and on the 22nd of September in Leicester.
- » Staff from the MATU talked with members of the community they were aware with to seek contacts to interview.
- » ORS wrote to households on the waiting list for public sites in Leicester where there was a valid postal address.
- » Traveller Education Officers sent out letters to households that are known to the services.
- » Housing Departments were asked to provide local contacts.
- » Housing Associations were contacted to ask if they could provide contacts.

6.6 At the time of concluding this report a total of 9 contacts had been identified to interview.

7. Current and Future Pitch Provision

Introduction

- 7.1 This section focuses on the additional pitch provision which is needed by the local authorities in the study area currently and to 2036. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also secondary data sources. Whilst the difficulty in making accurate assessments beyond 5 years has been highlighted in previous studies, the approach taken in this study to estimate new household formation has been accepted by Planning Inspectors as the most appropriate methodology to use.
- 7.2 We would note that this section is based upon a combination of the on-site surveys, planning records and stakeholder interviews. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead is used to validate information from planning records or other sources.
- 7.3 This section concentrates not only upon the total additional provision which is required in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit provision.

Planning Definition

- 7.4 As well as assessing housing need, PPTS (2015) requires a GTAA to determine whether households living on sites, yards, encampments and in bricks and mortar fall within the planning definition of a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson. Only households that fall within the planning definition, and those who *may* meet the definition (households where an interview was not completed), will have their housing needs assessed separately from the wider population in the GTAA. The planning definition now excludes those who have ceased to travel permanently.

New Household Formation Rates

- 7.5 Previously, a national household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local Gypsy and Traveller assessments, even though there is no statistical evidence of households growing so quickly. The result has been to inflate both national and local requirements for additional pitches unrealistically. In this context, ORS has prepared a *Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates*. The main conclusions are set out here and the full paper is in **Appendix H**.
- 7.6 Those seeking to provide evidence of high annual net household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers have sometimes sought to rely on increases in the number of caravans, as reflected in caravan counts. However, caravan count data is very unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through demographic analysis.

- 7.7 The Technical Note concludes that in fact, the growth in the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.25% per annum – much less than the 3.00% per annum often assumed, but still greater than in the settled community. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2.00% per annum nationally.
- 7.8 The often assumed 3.00% per annum net household growth rate is unrealistic and would require clear statistical evidence before being used for planning purposes. In practice, the best available evidence supports a national net household growth rate of 1.50% per annum for Gypsies and Travellers. This view has been supported by Planning Inspectors in a number of Decision Notices. The most recent was in relation to an appeal in Doncaster that was issued in November 2016 (Ref: APP/F4410/W/15/3133490) where the agent acting on behalf of the appellant claimed that a rate closer to 3.00% should be used. The Inspector concluded:

In assessing need account also needs to be taken of likely household growth over the coming years. In determining an annual household growth rate the Council relies on the work of Opinions Research Services (ORS), part of Swansea University. ORS's research considers migration, population profiles, births & fertility rates, death rates, household size data and household dissolution rates to determine average household growth rates for gypsies and travellers. The findings indicate that the average annual growth rate is in the order of 1.5% but that a 2.5% figure could be used if local data suggest a relatively youthful population. As the Council has found a strong correlation between Doncaster's gypsy and traveller population age profile and the national picture, a 1.5% annual household growth rate has been used in its 2016 GTANA. Given the rigour of ORS's research and the Council's application of its findings to the local area I accept that a 1.5% figure is justified in the case of Doncaster.

- 7.9 In addition the Technical Note has recently been accepted as a robust academic evidence base and has been published by the Social Research Association in its journal Social Research Practice. The overall purpose of the journal is to encourage and promote high standards of social research for public benefit. It aims to encourage methodological development by giving practitioners the space and the incentive to share their knowledge – see link below.

<http://the-sra.org.uk/journal-social-research-practice/>

- 7.10 ORS assessments take full account of the net local household growth rate per annum for each local authority, calculated on the basis of demographic evidence from the site surveys, and the 'baseline' includes all current authorised households, all households identified as in current need (including concealed households, 5 year need from teenage children, movement from bricks and mortar and those on waiting lists not currently living on a pitch or plot), as well as households living on tolerated unauthorised pitches or plots who are not included as current need. The assessments of future need also take account of modelling projections based on birth and death rates, and in-/out-migration.
- 7.11 Overall, the household growth rate used for the assessment of future needs has been informed by local evidence for each local authority. This demographic evidence has been used to adjust the national growth rate of 1.50% up or down based on the proportion of those aged under 18 in each local authority (by travelling status).

- 7.12 In certain circumstances where the numbers of households and children are low it is not appropriate to apply a percentage rate for new household formation. In these cases a judgement will be made on likely new household formation based on the age and gender of the children. This will be based on the assumption that 50% of likely households to form will stay in the area. This is based on evidence from other GTAAs that ORS have completed across England and Wales.
- 7.13 In addition research by ORS has identified a national growth rate of 1.00% for Travelling Showpeople and this has also been adjusted locally based on site demographics. This is based on the outcomes of interviews that ORS have completed with Travelling Showpeople and a review of household demographics from these interviews. These show a general trend towards there being significantly fewer children and teenagers living on Travelling Showpeople yards.

Breakdown by 5 Year Bands

- 7.14 In addition to tables which set out the overall need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, the overall need has also been broken down by 5 year bands as required by PPTS. The way that this is calculated is by including all current need (from unauthorised pitches, pitches with temporary planning permission, concealed and doubled-up households, 5 year need from older teenage children, and net movement from bricks and mortar) in the first 5 years. Total net new household formation is split across the 5 year bands based on the compound rate of growth that was applied – as opposed to being spread evenly.

Movement to and from Sites and Yards

- 7.15 The GTAA also considers likely in-migration (households requiring accommodation who move into the study area from outside) and out-migration (households moving away from the study area). Site surveys typically identify very small numbers of in-migrant and out-migrant households and the data is not robust enough to extrapolate long-term trends. At the national level, there is nil net migration of Gypsies and Travellers across the UK, but assessments should take into account local migration effects on the basis of the best evidence available.
- 7.16 Evidence drawn from the stakeholder and site/yard interviews has been considered alongside other relevant local circumstances. This evidence indicates that net migration to the sum of zero will be used for the GTAA – which means that net pitch requirement are driven by locally identifiable need rather than speculative modelling assumptions. There were no known likely in-migrant households identified to be included in the needs figures.

Applying the Planning Definition

- 7.17 The outcomes from the questions in the household survey on travelling were used to determine the status of each household against the planning definition in PPTS (2015). This assessment was based on the verbal responses to the questions given to interviewers as it is understood that oral evidence is capable of being sufficient when determining whether households meet the planning definition. Only those households that meet the planning definition, in that they were able to provide information during the household interview that they travel for work purposes, and stay away from their usual place of residence when doing so – or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to education, ill health or old age, form the components of need that will form the baseline of need in the GTAA. Households where an interview was not completed

who **may** meet the planning definition have also been included as a potential additional component of need from unknown households. Need for households that do not meet the planning definition are assessed for illustrative purposes only and to provide evidence to support the SHMA or HEDNA.

Blaby District Council

7.18 Information that was sought from households where an interview was completed allowed each household to be assessed against the planning definition of a Traveller. This included information on whether households have ever travelled; why they have stopped travelling; the reasons that they travel; and whether they plan to travel again in the future. The table below sets out the travelling status of households in Blaby.

Figure 26 – Travelling status of households in Blaby District

Site Status	Meet Planning Definition	Do Not Meet Planning Definition	Unknown
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	1	12	7
Private Sites	2	2	76
Temporary Sites	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites	-	-	-
Sub-Total	3	14	83
Travelling Showpeople			
Public Yards	-	-	-
Private Yards	5	-	-
Temporary Yards	-	-	-
Tolerated Yards	-	-	-
Unauthorised Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	5	0	0
TOTAL	8	14	83

7.19 Figure 26 shows that for Gypsies and Travellers 3 households and for Travelling Showpeople 5 households meet the planning definition of a Traveller - in that they were able to provide information¹⁷ that they travel for work purposes and stay away from their usual place of residence, or have ceased to travel temporarily. A total of 14 Gypsy and Traveller households did not meet the planning definition as they were not able to provide information that they travel away from their usual place of residence for the purpose of work, or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to children in education, ill health or old age. Some did travel for cultural reasons to visit fairs, relatives or friends, and others had ceased to travel permanently – these households did not meet the planning definition.

7.20 The number of households on each site where an interview was not possible are recorded as unknown. The reasons for this included households that refused to be interviewed, households that were not present

¹⁷ The travelling status for one household was identified from documentation supporting a recent planning application

during the fieldwork period – despite up to 3 visits, and sites in Blaby where the Council and the Police advised ORS not to visit due to safety concerns (see Figure 19 for details).

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

- ^{7.21} Following efforts that were made it was possible to interview 1 household living in bricks and mortar in Blaby District. The household do not meet the planning definition but do own land they have been seeking to develop as a site.

Waiting Lists

- ^{7.22} There is one public site in Blaby District. Households on the waiting list with a valid address were sent a letter to ask them to contact ORS if they had any accommodation needs. Despite being written to by the Council, none of these households contacted ORS.
- ^{7.23} Should these households wish to be considered for a tenancy on one of the public sites they may have to provide information on their travelling patterns during the pitch allocation process as and when a pitch becomes available. Leicestershire County Council may also wish to consider reviewing the Allocations Policy for public sites in light of changes to the definition of a Traveller for planning purposes.

Key Demographic Findings

- ^{7.24} Ethnicity data that was captured from 2 of the 3 Gypsy and Traveller households that meet the planning definition of a Traveller indicated that they are both Romany Gypsy households.
- ^{7.25} The households that meet the planning definition comprised 11 residents – 7 adults and 4 children and teenagers aged under 18. This equates to 64% adults and 36% children and teenagers. Whilst this suggests a new household formation rate of 1.50% (when compared to the national average), the household numbers are too small to apply a percentage rate of new household formation so growth will be estimated based on household demographics.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

- ^{7.26} The 3 households who meet the planning definition of Travelling were found on 1 public site and 2 private sites. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 4 additional pitches as a result of new household formation based on the demographics of the households. There are also 15 unimplemented pitches on a site where the owner has made it clear that pitches will be available to rent to meet local need. Therefore 1 of these pitches has been included as a component of supply to meet demand for the first 5 years on the GTAA period only.
- ^{7.27} Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for **3 additional pitches** over the GTAA period.

Figure 27 – Additional need for households in Blaby District that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers Meeting the Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	1
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	1
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Formation from site demographics)	4
Total Future Need	4
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	3

Figure 28 – Additional need for households in Blaby District that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	1	1	1	3

Pitch Needs – Unknown Gypsies and Travellers

- 7.28 There were a large number of sites in Blaby District where the Council and the Police advised not to visit. Therefore, along with a number of refusals to be interviewed and households that were not present during the fieldwork period, it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 83 households. The needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be ethnic Gypsies and Travellers and **may** meet the planning definition.
- 7.29 ORS are of the opinion that it would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether or not households where an interview was not completed meet the planning definition based on the outcomes of households in that local authority where an interview was completed.
- 7.30 However data that has been collected from over 1,800 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015 suggests that nationally approximately 10% of households that have

been interviewed meet the planning definition – and in some local authorities, particularly London Boroughs, 100% of households do not meet the planning definition.

- 7.31 This would suggest that it is likely that only a small proportion of the potential need identified from these households will need new Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed through other means.
- 7.32 Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied to the unknown households the overall level of need could rise by up to 29 from new household formation (this uses a base of the 83 households and a net growth rate of 1.50%¹⁸). There are also 15 unimplemented pitches on a site where the owner has made it clear that pitches will be available to rent to meet local need. Therefore 6 of these pitches have been included as components of supply to meet demand for the first 5 years on the GTAA period only.
- 7.33 Therefore additional need *could* increase by up to a further 23 pitches, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising from older teenagers living in these households (if all 83 unknown pitches are deemed to meet the planning definition). However, as an illustration, if the ORS national average of 10% were to be applied this could be as few as 2 additional pitches. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

- 7.34 There is one Travelling Showperson yard in Blaby District with one plot containing 5 households. All five households meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson. The demographics of the residents suggest that there is no current need and a need for **1 additional plot** through new household formation.

Figure 29 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Blaby District that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople Meeting the Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented plots on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public plots	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	

¹⁸ The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.50% for Gypsies and Travellers which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(Formation based on site demographics)</i>	1
Total Future Need	1
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	1

Figure 30 – Additional need for Travelling Showperson households in Blaby District that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	1	1

Charnwood Borough Council

7.35 Information that was sought from households where an interview was completed allowed each household to be assessed against the planning definition of a Traveller. This included information on whether households have ever travelled; why they have stopped travelling; the reasons that they travel; and whether they plan to travel again in the future. The table below sets out the travelling status of households in Charnwood.

Figure 31 – Travelling status of households in Charnwood Borough 2016-36

Site Status	Meet Planning definition	Do Not Meet Planning Definition	Unknown
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	-	-	-
Private Sites ¹⁹	-	-	-
Temporary Sites	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites	-	-	-
Sub-Total	0	0	0
Travelling Showpeople			
Public Yards	-	-	-
Private Yards	8	3	12
Temporary Yards	-	-	-
Tolerated Yards	-	-	-
Unauthorised Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	8	3	12
TOTAL	8	3	12

7.36 Figure 31 shows that for Gypsies and Travellers no households met the planning definition of a Traveller - in that none were able to provide information that they travel for work purposes and stay away from their usual place of residence, or have ceased to travel temporarily. A total of 8 Travelling Showpeople households meet the planning definition. No Gypsy and Traveller households and 3 Travelling Showpeople households did not meet the planning definition as they were not able to provide information that they travel away from their usual place of residence for the purpose of work, or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to children in education, ill health or old age. Some did travel for cultural reasons to visit fairs, relatives or friends, and others had ceased to travel permanently – these households did not meet the planning definition.

7.37 The number of households on each site where an interview was not possible are recorded as unknown. The reasons for this included households that refused to be interviewed and households that were not present during the fieldwork period – despite up to 3 visits.

¹⁹ It is understood that this planning consent has lapsed as it was not implemented within 3 years of permission being granted.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

- 7.38 Despite efforts that were made it was not possible to interview any households living in bricks and mortar in Charnwood District.

Key Demographic Findings

- 7.39 As there were no Gypsy or Traveller households that meet the planning definition there is no demographic information to report on. The national household formation rate of 1.50% has been used to estimate future need for unknown households.

Proposed New Developments

- 7.40 Planning consent was granted in August 2016 for a large strategic site on land North East of Leicester. This includes an agreement for the provision of 1.1ha of prepared and serviced land for 4 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 4 Travelling Showperson plots. A resolution for approval was also made in September 2016 for land West of Loughborough – once granted planning permission this is expected to provide a permanent site for 4 pitches to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and 4 plots to meet the needs of Travelling Showpeople. As it is not known whether these sites and yards will be developed within the first 5 years of the GTAA they have not been included as components in the study at this time. However the Council should continue to monitor progress with these applications and take account of any supply associated with them when the GTAA is reviewed.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.41 There were no households in Charnwood District that meet the planning definition so there are **no current or future accommodation needs** from this element of the population to include in the GTAA.

Pitch Needs – Unknown Gypsies and Travellers

- 7.42 There were no occupied pitches households in Charnwood where it was not possible to complete an interview so no need associated with unknown households.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

Plot Needs – Travelling Showpeople that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.43 A total of 8 households that were interviewed met the planning definition of Travelling. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 5 additional plots as a result of concealed households or adults and a need for 3 additional plots due to new household formation based on a rate of 1.00% derived from the household demographics.
- 7.44 Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson is for **8 additional plots** over the GTAA period.

Figure 32 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Charnwood Borough that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople Meeting the Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented plots on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	5
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public plots	0
Total Current Need	5
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Household base 13 and formation rate 1.00%)	3
Total Future Need	3
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	8

Figure 33 – Additional need for Travelling Showperson households in Charnwood that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	5	1	1	1	8

Plot Needs – Unknown Showpeople

^{7.45} Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 12 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be Travelling Showpeople and **may** meet the planning definition.

^{7.46} Should further information be available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied the overall level of need *could* rise by up to 3 additional plots from new household formation (this uses a base of the 12 households and a net growth rate of 1.00%²⁰). Therefore additional need *could* increase by up to a further additional 3 plots, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising

²⁰ The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.00% for Travelling Showpeople which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

from older teenagers living in these households. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional plots. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

Harborough District Council

7.47 Information that was sought from households where an interview was completed allowed each household to be assessed against the planning definition of a Traveller. This included information on whether households have ever travelled; why they have stopped travelling; the reasons that they travel; and whether they plan to travel again in the future. The tables below sets out the travelling status of households in Harborough District.

Figure 34 – Travelling status of households in Harborough District

Site Status	Meet Planning Definition	Do Not Meet Planning Definition	Unknown
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	-	2	3
Private Sites	7	9	49
Temporary Sites	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites	-	-	-
Sub-Total	7	11	52
Travelling Showpeople			
Public Yards	-	-	-
Private Yards	30	8	18
Temporary Yards	-	-	-
Tolerated Yards	-	-	-
Unauthorised Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	30	8	18
TOTAL	37	19	70

7.48 Figure 34 shows that for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople 7 households and 30 Travelling Showpeople households meet the planning definition of a Traveller - in that they were able to provide information that they travel for work purposes and stay away from their usual place of residence, or have ceased to travel temporarily. A total of 11 Gypsy and Traveller households and 8 Travelling Showpeople households did not meet the planning definition as they were not able to provide information that they travel away from their usual place of residence for the purpose of work, or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to children in education, ill health or old age. Some did travel for cultural reasons to visit fairs, relatives or friends, and others had ceased to travel permanently – these households did not meet the planning definition.

7.49 The number of households on each site where an interview was not possible are recorded as unknown. The reasons for this included households that refused to be interviewed and households that were not present during the fieldwork period – despite up to 3 visits.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

7.50 Despite efforts that were made it was not possible to interview any households living in bricks and mortar in Harborough District.

Waiting Lists

- 7.51 There is one public site in Harborough District. Households on the waiting list with a valid address were sent a letter to ask them to contact ORS if they had any accommodation needs. Despite being written to by the Council, none of these households contacted ORS.
- 7.52 Should these households wish to be considered for a tenancy on one of the public sites they may have to provide information on their travelling patterns during the pitch allocation process as and when a pitch becomes available. Leicestershire County Council may also wish to consider reviewing the Allocations Policy for public sites in light of changes to the definition of a Traveller for planning purposes.

Key Demographic Findings

- 7.53 Ethnicity data that was captured from the 7 Gypsy and Traveller households that meet the planning definition of a Traveller indicated that 3 are Romany Gypsy, 3 are Irish Traveller and 1 is an English Traveller household.
- 7.54 The households that meet the planning definition comprised 26 residents – 11 adults and 15 children and teenagers aged under 18. This equates to 58% adults and 42% children and teenagers. This suggests a new household formation rate of 1.75%.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.55 The 7 households who meet the planning definition of Travelling were found on 4 private sites. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 1 additional pitch to meet the needs of concealed households or adults, 1 additional pitch to meet the needs of older teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years and 4 additional pitches as a result of new household formation.
- 7.56 Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for **6 additional pitches** over the GTAA period.

Figure 35 – Additional need for households in Harborough District that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers Meeting the Planning definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	1
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	1
Future Need	

Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	1
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 9 and formation rate 1.75%)	4
Total Future Need	5
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	6

Figure 36 – Additional need for households in Harborough District that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	3	1	1	1	6

Pitch Needs – Unknown Gypsies and Travellers

- 7.57 Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 52 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be ethnic Gypsies and Travellers and may meet the planning definition.
- 7.58 ORS are of the opinion that it would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether or not households where an interview was not completed meet the planning definition based on the outcomes of households in that local authority where an interview was completed.
- 7.59 However data that has been collected from over 1,800 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015 suggests that nationally approximately 10% of households that have been interviewed meet the planning definition – and in some local authorities, particularly London Boroughs, 100% of households do not meet the planning definition.
- 7.60 This would suggest that it is likely that only a small proportion of the potential need identified from these households will need new Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed through other means.
- 7.61 Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied to the unknown households, the overall level of need could rise by up to 18 pitches from new household formation (this uses a base of the 52 households and a net growth rate of 1.50%²¹). Therefore additional need could increase by up to a further 18 pitches, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising from older teenagers living in these households (if all 52 unknown pitches are deemed to meet the planning definition). However, as an illustration, if the ORS national average of 10% were to be applied this could be as few as 2 additional pitches. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

²¹ The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.50% for Gypsies and Travellers which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

^{7.62} A total of 30 households that were interviewed met the planning definition of Travelling. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 6 additional plots as a result of concealed households or adults, a need for 8 additional plots for older teenage children in need of a plot of their own in the next 5 years, a need for 2 additional plots for residents on a site that is being sold (James Bond) and a need for 14 additional plots due to new household formation based on a rate of 1.30% derived from the household demographics. Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson is for **8 additional plots** over the GTAA period.

Figure 37 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in Harborough District that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople Meeting the Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented plots on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	6
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public plots	0
Total Current Need	6
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	2
5 year need from older teenage children	8
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Household base 46 and formation rate 1.30%)	14
Total Future Need	24
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	30

Figure 38 – Additional need for Travelling Showperson households in Harborough District that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	Total
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	
	19	3	4	4	30

Plot Needs – Unknown Showpeople

^{7.63} Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 18 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households

still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be Travelling Showpeople and **may** meet the planning definition.

^{7.64} Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied the overall level of need could rise by up to 2 additional plots for households on a yard that is being sold and up to 4 additional plots through new household formation (this uses a base of the 18 households and a net growth rate of 1.00%²²). Therefore additional need could increase by up to a further additional 6 plots, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising from older teenagers living in these households. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 4 additional plots. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

²² The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.00% for Travelling Showpeople which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

Leicester City

7.65 Information that was sought from households where an interview was completed allowed each household to be assessed against the planning definition of a Traveller. This included information on whether households have ever travelled; why they have stopped travelling; the reasons that they travel; and whether they plan to travel again in the future. The table below sets out the travelling status of households in Leicester City.

Figure 39 – Travelling status of households in Leicester City

Site Status	Meets Planning Definition	Does Not Meet Planning Definition	Unknown
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	2	24	11
Private Sites	-	-	-
Temporary Sites	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites	-	-	-
Sub-Total	2	24	11
Travelling Showpeople			
Public Yards	-	-	-
Private Yards ²³	5	2	12
Temporary Yards	-	-	-
Tolerated Yards	-	-	-
Unauthorised Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	5	2	12
TOTAL	7	26	23

7.66 Figure 39 shows that for Gypsies and Travellers 2 households, and for Travelling Showpeople 5 households meet the planning definition of a Traveller in that they were able to provide information that they travel for work purposes and stay away from their usual place of residence, or have ceased to travel temporarily. A total of 24 Gypsy and Traveller households and 2 Travelling Showpeople households did not meet the planning definition as they were not able to provide information that they travel away from their usual place of residence for the purpose of work, or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to children in education, ill health or old age. Some did travel for cultural reasons to visit fairs, relatives or friends, and others had ceased to travel permanently – these households did not meet the planning definition.

7.67 The number of households on each site where an interview was not possible are recorded as unknown. The reasons for this include households that refused to be interviewed and households that were not present during the fieldwork period – despite up to 3 visits.

²³ This includes 2 Travelling Showpeople Households living on a private site.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

- 7.68 Following efforts that were made it was possible to interview 5 households living in bricks and mortar in Leicester City. None meet the planning definition and 1 would like to live on a Council site and has been on the waiting list for over 2 years.

Waiting Lists

- 7.69 There are 3 public sites in Leicester City. At the time of the study there were a total of 38 households on the waiting list. Households on the waiting list with a valid address (i.e. excluding roadside households) were sent a letter to ask them to contact ORS if they had any accommodation needs. Despite being written to none of these households contacted ORS.
- 7.70 Analysis of the waiting list indicated that 6 households are already living on one of the public sites in Leicester, 11 are living in bricks and mortar in Leicester, 4 are living on the roadside in Leicester, 3 are living on sites elsewhere in Leicestershire and 14 are living outside of Leicestershire.
- 7.71 Should these households wish to be considered for a tenancy on one of the public sites they may have to provide information on their travelling patterns during the pitch allocation process as and when a pitch becomes available. Leicestershire County Council may also wish to consider reviewing the Allocations Policy for public sites in light of changes to the definition of a Traveller for planning purposes.

Key Demographic Findings

- 7.72 Ethnicity data that was captured from the 2 Gypsy and Traveller households that meet the planning definition of a Traveller indicated that they are both Romany Gypsies. This may be important when dealing with any planning issues relating to Romany Gypsies and Irish and Scottish Travellers.
- 7.73 The households that meet the planning definition comprised 8 residents – 4 adults and 4 young children. Due to low numbers household formation has been determined by the demographics of the residents as opposed to applying a formation rate.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.74 The 2 households who meet the planning definition of Travelling were found on one of the public sites. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a need for 2 additional pitches as a result of concealed or doubled up households or adults, 2 additional pitches for older teenage children who will be in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years and a need for a further 2 additional pitches due to new household formation. Both households also indicated that they would like to leave the site. This supply will be considered when assessing need for unknown households.
- 7.75 Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for **6 additional pitches** over the GTAA period.

Figure 40 – Additional need for households in Leicester City that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers Meeting the Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	2
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	2
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	2
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Formation from site demographics)	2
Total Future Need	6
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	6

Figure 41 – Additional need for households in Leicester City that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	4	1	1	0	6

Pitch Needs – Unknown Gypsies and Travellers

- 7.76 Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 11 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be ethnic Gypsies and Travellers and **may** meet the planning definition.
- 7.77 ORS are of the opinion that it would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether or not households where an interview was not completed meet the planning definition based on the outcomes of households in that local authority where an interview was completed.
- 7.78 However data that has been collected from over 1,800 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015 suggests that nationally approximately 10% of households that have been interviewed meet the planning definition – and in some local authorities, particularly London Boroughs, 100% of households do not meet the planning definition.

- 7.79 This would suggest that it is likely that only a small proportion of the potential need identified from these households will need new Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed through other means.
- 7.80 Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied to the unknown households, the overall level of need could rise by up to 4 pitches from new household formation (this uses a base of the 11 households and a net growth rate of 1.50%²⁴). There is also potential supply of 1 pitch through a household who stated that they want to move to a Council house, and 2 pitches from the travelling households who have stated they want to leave the site. Therefore additional need could increase by up to a further 1 pitch, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising from older teenagers living in these households (if all 11 unknown pitches are deemed to meet the planning definition). However, as an illustration, if the ORS national average of 10% were to be applied this could be as few as no additional pitches. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

Pitch Needs – Travelling Showpeople that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.81 The 5 households who meet the planning definition of Travelling were found on 1 private Travelling Showperson yard. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is no current or future need for additional plot as a result of concealed or doubled up households or adults, and that there is no further current or future need from older teenage children.
- 7.82 Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson is for **no additional plots** over the GTAA period.

Pitch Needs – Unknown Travelling Showpeople

- 7.83 Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 12 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be Travelling Showpeople and **may** meet the planning definition as defined in PPTS.
- 7.84 Need from the 12 unknown households could be as much as 3 from new household formation. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional plots.

²⁴ The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.50% for Gypsies and Travellers which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

Melton Borough Council

7.85 Information that was sought from households where an interview was completed allowed each household to be assessed against the planning definition of a Traveller. This included information on whether households have ever travelled; why they have stopped travelling; the reasons that they travel; and whether they plan to travel again in the future. The tables below sets out the travelling status of households in Melton.

Figure 42 – Travelling status of households in Melton Borough

Site Status	Meets Planning Definition	Does Not Meet Planning Definition	Unknown
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	-	-	-
Private Sites	3	-	-
Temporary Sites	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites	-	-	-
Sub-Total	3	0	0
Travelling Showpeople			
Public Yards	-	-	-
Private Yards	-	-	-
Temporary Yards	-	-	-
Tolerated Yards	-	-	-
Unauthorised Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	0	0

7.86 Figure 42 shows that for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople 3 households meet the planning definition of a Traveller - in that they were able to provide information that they travel for work purposes and stay away from their usual place of residence, or have ceased to travel temporarily. There were no Travelling Showpeople in Melton Borough. There were also no Gypsy and Traveller households that did not meet the planning definition. There were also no households where an interview was not completed as the remaining pitches were unimplemented at the time of the fieldwork.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

7.87 Following efforts that were made it was possible to interview 1 household living in bricks and mortar in Melton Borough. They do not meet the planning definition but would like to move to a Council site. They are not on the waiting list

Key Demographic Findings

7.88 Ethnicity data that was captured from 2 of the 3 Gypsy and Traveller households that meet the planning definition of a Traveller indicated that they are Romany Gypsies.

7.89 The households that meet the planning definition comprised 5 residents – 3 adults and 2 children and teenagers aged under 18. Due to low numbers household formation will be determined by the demographics of the residents.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

7.90 The 3 households who meet the planning definition of Travelling were found on 2 private sites. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 2 additional pitches to meet the needs older teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years on one of the sites and 1 additional pitch as a result of new household formation on the other site. Both sites have unimplemented pitches to meet these and other future needs during the GTAA period.

7.91 Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for **no additional pitches** over the GTAA period.

Figure 43 – Additional need for households in Melton Borough that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers Meeting the Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	3
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	3
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	2
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Formation from household demographics)	1
Total Future Need	3
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 44 – Additional need for households in Melton Borough that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Pitch Needs – Unknown Gypsies and Travellers

^{7.92} There were no households in Melton where an interview was not completed.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

^{7.93} There were no Travelling Showpeople identified living in Melton Borough.

North West Leicestershire District Council

7.94 Information that was sought from households where an interview was completed allowed each household to be assessed against the planning definition of a Traveller. This included information on whether households have ever travelled; why they have stopped travelling; the reasons that they travel; and whether they plan to travel again in the future. The tables below sets out the travelling status of households in North West Leicestershire District.

Figure 45 – Travelling status of households in North West Leicestershire District

Site Status	Meets Planning Definition	Does Not Meet Planning Definition	Unknown
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	-	1	-
Private Sites	2	5	7
Temporary Sites	-	4	-
Tolerated Sites	-	2	1
Unauthorised Sites	2	-	5
Sub-Total	4	12	13
Travelling Showpeople			
Public Yards	-	-	-
Private Yards	10	3	10
Temporary Yards	-	-	-
Tolerated Yards	4	8	1
Unauthorised Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	14	11	11
TOTAL	18	23	24

7.95 Figure 45 shows that for Gypsies and Travellers 4 households and for Travelling Showpeople 14 households meet the planning definition of a Traveller - in that they were able to provide information that they travel for work purposes and stay away from their usual place of residence, or have ceased to travel temporarily. A total of 12 Gypsy and Traveller households and 11 Travelling Showpeople households did not meet the planning definition as they were not able to provide information that they travel away from their usual place of residence for the purpose of work, or that they have ceased to travel temporarily due to children in education, ill health or old age. Some did travel for cultural reasons to visit fairs, relatives or friends, and others had ceased to travel permanently – these households did not meet the planning definition.

7.96 The number of households on each site where an interview was not possible are recorded as unknown. The reasons for this included households that refused to be interviewed and households that were not present during the fieldwork period – despite up to 3 visits.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

7.97 Following efforts that were made it was possible to interview 3 households living in bricks and mortar in North West Leicestershire District. Whilst 2 households did meet the planning definition they stated that

they are happy living in bricks and mortar and have no plans to move. The remaining household did not meet the planning definition but also said that they are happy to stay in bricks and mortar.

Waiting Lists

- 7.98 There is one public site in North West Leicestershire District with 1 pitch. Households on the waiting list with a valid address were sent a letter to ask them to contact ORS if they had any accommodation needs. Despite being written to by the Council, none of these households contacted ORS.
- 7.99 Should these households wish to be considered for a tenancy on one of the public sites they may have to provide information on their travelling patterns during the pitch allocation process as and when a pitch becomes available. Leicestershire County Council may also wish to consider reviewing the Allocations Policy for public sites in light of changes to the definition of a Traveller for planning purposes.

Key Demographic Findings

- 7.100 Ethnicity data that was captured from the 4 Gypsy and Traveller households that meet the planning definition of a Traveller indicated that 2 are Romany Gypsy and 2 are English Traveller households.
- 7.101 The households that meet the planning definition comprised 16 residents – 9 adults and 7 children and teenagers aged under 18. Due to low numbers household formation has been determined through the demographics of the residents.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.102 The 4 households who meet the planning definition of Travelling were found on 1 private site and 1 unauthorised site. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need from the 2 unauthorised pitches, for 1 additional pitch to meet the needs of concealed households or adults, and 3 additional pitches as a result of new household formation.
- 7.103 Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for **6 additional pitches** over the GTAA period.

Figure 46 – Additional need for households in North West Leicestershire District that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers Meeting the Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	2
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	1
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0

Total Current Need	3
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Formation from household demographics)	3
Total Future Need	3
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	6

Figure 47 – Additional need for households in North West Leicestershire District that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	3	1	1	1	6

Pitch Needs – Unknown Gypsies and Travellers

- ^{7.104} Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 13 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be ethnic Gypsies and Travellers and **may** meet the planning definition.
- ^{7.105} ORS are of the opinion that it would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether or not households where an interview was not completed meet the planning definition based on the outcomes of households in that local authority where an interview was completed.
- ^{7.106} However data that has been collected from over 1,800 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015 suggests that nationally approximately 10% of households that have been interviewed meet the planning definition – and in some local authorities, particularly London Boroughs, 100% of households do not meet the planning definition.
- ^{7.107} This would suggest that it is likely that only a small proportion of the potential need identified from these households will need new Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed through other means.
- ^{7.108} Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied to the unknown households, the overall level of need could rise by up to 5 pitches that are currently unauthorised and by up to 5 pitches from new household formation (this uses a base of the 13 households and a net growth rate of 1.50%²⁵). Therefore additional need could increase by up to a further 10 pitches, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising from older teenagers living in these

²⁵ The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.50% for Gypsies and Travellers which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

households (if all 13 unknown pitches are deemed to meet the planning definition). However, as an illustration, if the ORS national average of 10% were to be applied this could be as few as 1 additional pitch. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

^{7.109} A total of 14 households that were interviewed met the planning definition of Travelling. Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 7 additional plots as a result of concealed households or adults, a need for 7 additional plots for older teenage children in need of a plot of their own in the next 5 years, a need for 6 additional plots due to new household formation based on a rate of 1.25% derived from the household demographics.

^{7.110} Therefore, the overall level of additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson is for **20 additional plots** over the GTAA period.

Figure 48 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople households in North West Leicestershire District that meet the Planning Definition 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople Meeting the Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented plots on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	7
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public plots	0
Total Current Need	7
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	7
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Household base 19 and formation rate 1.25%)	6
Total Future Need	13
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	20

Figure 49 – Additional need for Travelling Showperson households in North West Leicestershire District that meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-21	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	15	1	2	2	20

Plot Needs – Unknown Showpeople

- ^{7.111} Whilst it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a total of 11 households as they either refused to be interviewed, or were not on site at the time of the fieldwork, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be Travelling Showpeople and may meet the planning definition.
- ^{7.112} Should further information be made available to the Council that will allow for the planning definition to be applied the overall level of need could rise by up to 3 additional plots through new household formation (this uses a base of the 1 households and a net growth rate of 1.00%²⁶). Therefore additional need could increase by up to a further additional 3 plots, plus any concealed adult households or 5 year need arising from older teenagers living in these households. If the ORS national average of 70% were applied this could result in a need for 2 additional plots. Tables setting out the components of need for unknown households can be found in **Appendix C**.

²⁶ The ORS *Technical Note on Population and Household Growth* has identified a national growth rate of 1.00% for Travelling Showpeople which has been applied in the absence of further demographic information about these households.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

^{7.113} There are no Gypsy or Traveller sites or Travelling Showpeople yards in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The 2011 Census only identified 3 households living in bricks and mortar who stated that they were Gypsies or Irish Travellers and none of these came forward to be interviewed during the fieldwork period. As such there is **no need for any new pitches or plots** in Oadby and Wigston Borough. This is consistent with the previous GTAA.

Transit Requirements – All Local Authorities

^{7.114}When determining the potential need for transit provision the assessment has looked at the recommendations from previous GTAAs, data from the DCLG Caravan Count, the outcomes of the stakeholder interviews, records on numbers of unauthorised encampments provided by MATU, and the potential wider issues related to PPTS (2015).

Previous GTAAs

^{7.115}The 2013 GTAA for Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland County Council identified an outstanding need for up to 63 transit pitches across the study area – 43 in Leicestershire local authorities and 20 in Leicester City. This was based on a review of the recommendations of the 2007 GTAA and any new provision that had been granted planning permission.

^{7.116}The 2007 GTAA used a methodology that looked at figures from the DCLG Caravan Count between 2001 and 2006 and added a further allowance “to take account of the need for excess capacity for sites to function effectively and to allow for possible site cleaning and repair”. The caravan capacity requirement of 100 caravan spaces was set for the period 2006 to 2011 with no further spaces for 2011 to 2016 because “the extent of travelling is unlikely to rise further in the future”.

^{7.117}The 2013 GTAA misinterpreted the outcomes of the 2007 study as a need for up to 100 transit *pitches*, as opposed to a need for up to 100 *caravan spaces*. It is understood that this was then wrongly translated into an outstanding requirement for up to 63 transit pitches when it should have been for up to 63 *caravan spaces*.

Figure 50 – Previous GTAA transit requirements (from 2013 GTAA Table 1.11)

Local Authority	Transit Pitch Requirement in 2007 GTAA	Transit Pitch Provision Since 2007	Outstanding Transit Pitch Requirement
Blaby	Up to 10	28	0
Charnwood	Up to 10	0	Up to 10
Harborough	Up to 10	4	Up to 6
Leicester City	Up to 20	0	Up to 20
Melton	Up to 10	3	Up to 7
NW Leicestershire	Up to 20	0	Up to 20
Oadby and Wigston	0	0	0
TOTAL	Up to 100	36	Up to 63

Stakeholder Interviews and Local Data

^{7.118}There are currently no public transit sites in Leicester City or in Leicestershire. Whilst there are a number of private transit sites in Blaby, Harborough and Melton (as well as in Hinckley and Bosworth that are not part of the current GTAA) they cannot be used to manage unauthorised encampments as the Police cannot use any formal powers under Section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994) to move caravans on unauthorised encampments on to private transit sites. This form of action is only allowed when there are vacant caravan spaces on public transit sites.

^{7.119} Information from the majority of the stakeholder interviews suggested that there are low levels of unauthorised encampments in most local authorities in the study area, and that most are short-term visits to family or friends; transient and simply passing through; or from a small number of groups moving around an area. A summary of the outcomes from the Stakeholder interviews with local authorities in the study area can be seen below. Given that MATU are responsible for managing unauthorised encampments on behalf of local authorities in Leicestershire it is unsurprising that many officers were not aware of them:

Blaby District Council

Officers were not aware of significant numbers of roadside encampments and one estimated around 2-3 per year. There is transit provision which is split over three sites.

Charnwood Borough Council

At the time of undertaking the interviews there had been around 6 recorded encampments. These tend to stay in the area for a very short time; mostly overnight. Most use publically owned land like car parks and are encouraged to move on as quickly as possible.

Harborough District Council

Most unauthorised encampments occur due to people travelling through the area, who stay no longer than 72 hours on the roadside. There are no transit sites.

Leicester City Council

Although the creation of two permanent sites has led to a reduction of short-term encampments, officers felt there is still a need for transit provision for those Travellers passing through the area; 34 unauthorised encampments have been recorded so far for 2016 which is a decrease compared to the same period last year of 49 encampments.

To a certain extent this is a seasonal issue and there are higher numbers during the summer period; but it tends to happen all year round as Leicester City is a popular location amongst the Traveller community.

Melton Borough Council

Officers were not aware of significant numbers of roadside encampments. However, the Caravan Count does indicate that there are a number of unauthorised encampments in Melton.

NW Leicestershire District Council

Officers interviewed were not involved in managing short-term unauthorised encampments.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Officers were not aware of significant any roadside encampments.

^{7.120} However information from an interview with a representative from MATU; additional information provided by MATU following a review of more detailed data on unauthorised encampments; and more recent

discussions with local authorities in Leicestershire; the following observations in relation to transit need in the study area can be set out:

- » That whilst the provision of new permanent public pitches in Leicester City has had a positive impact on levels of unauthorised roadside encampments in the city, it is felt that there is still a need for some public transit provision.
- » That overall levels of encampments across Leicestershire have remained fairly static in recent years.
- » That there is still a need for public transit provision to address current and sustained levels of encampments based on historic data.
- » That there is not a need for formal public provision in all local authorities in Leicestershire.
- » That based on the broad location of recorded encampments, any transit provision that is recommended should be considered on land that is available and accessible in the NE, NW and South of the County.
- » That whilst it would be preferable to have 2 or 3 sites spread across the County, 1 site somewhere in Leicestershire would potentially have a positive effect on the management of unauthorised encampments.

DCLG Traveller Caravan Count

^{7.121} Whilst it is considered to be a comprehensive national dataset on numbers of authorised and unauthorised caravans across England, it is acknowledged that the Traveller Caravan Count is a count of caravans and not households. It also does not record the reasons for unauthorised caravans. This makes it very difficult to interpret in relation to assessing future need because it does not count pitches or resident households. The count is also only a twice yearly (January and July) ‘snapshot in time’ conducted by local authorities on a specific day, and any caravans on unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates are not recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count are not included. As such it is not considered appropriate to solely use the outcomes from the Traveller Caravan Count in the assessment of future transit provision. It does however provide valuable historic and trend data on whether there are instances of unauthorised caravans in local authority areas.

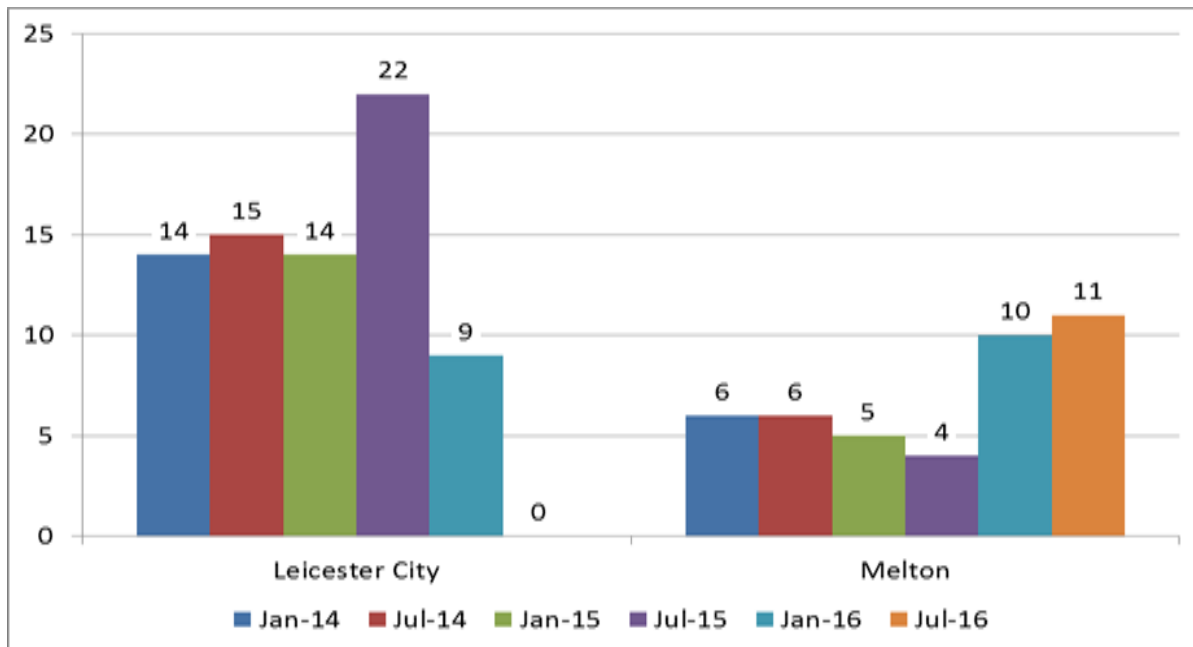
^{7.122} Data from the past 6 Traveller Caravan Counts (from January 2014 to July 2016) shows that there were very low numbers or no non-tolerated unauthorised caravans on land not owned by Travellers recorded in a number of local authorities in the study area – these were Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

^{7.123} The majority of non-tolerated caravans on land not owned by Travellers during this period were counted in Leicester City and Melton Borough Council. However, as set out above this is just a snapshot and does not give a full picture of unauthorised encampments and potential need for transit provision across the study area.

^{7.124} Looking back at data from the Traveller Caravan Count over the 10 year period from 2006 to 2016 also shows historic high numbers of unauthorised caravans on land not owned by Travellers in North West Leicestershire between 2007 and 2011, although low numbers were recorded in more recent years.

^{7.125} Data from the Traveller Caravan Count also shows higher numbers of encampments in Leicester City and Melton in recent years, although historically there were high numbers in North West Leicestershire between 2007-2010 but these have significantly reduced in recent years.

Figure 51 – Traveller Caravan Count data – non-tolerated caravans on land not owner by Travellers (2014-2016)



MATU Data

^{7.126} Whilst the data from the Traveller Caravan Count only provides a snap-shot of the levels of unauthorised caravans, data from MATU covers all recorded encampments throughout the course of the year, together with details about the numbers of caravans and the length of stay.

^{7.127} This shows that between 1997 and 2016 a total of 1,711 unauthorised encampments were recorded across Leicestershire (including Hinckley and Bosworth) and Leicester City, with a general trend showing an increase from 2008 onwards.

^{7.128} When broken down by individual local authorities over the same time period it can be seen that the highest number of unauthorised encampments were recorded in NW Leicestershire (453), Leicester City (453), Charnwood (183), Melton (180) and Hinckley and Bosworth (172). The lowest number of unauthorised encampments were recorded in Oadby & Wigston (25).

^{7.129} Looking at more recent data for the period 2011-2016 again shows that the highest number of unauthorised encampments were recorded in Leicester City (248) and NW Leicestershire (184).

^{7.130} MATU also collect data on the number of caravans that make up each encampment that they record. This shows that almost three quarters (73.2%) of all encampments are made up of 6 or less caravans, and that the vast majority (91.5%) of encampments are made up of 12 or less caravans. This would suggest that transit sites providing between 6 and 12 caravan spaces would accommodate the vast majority of unauthorised encampments in the study area.

Figure 52 – Total number of unauthorised encampments recorded by MATU (1997-2016)

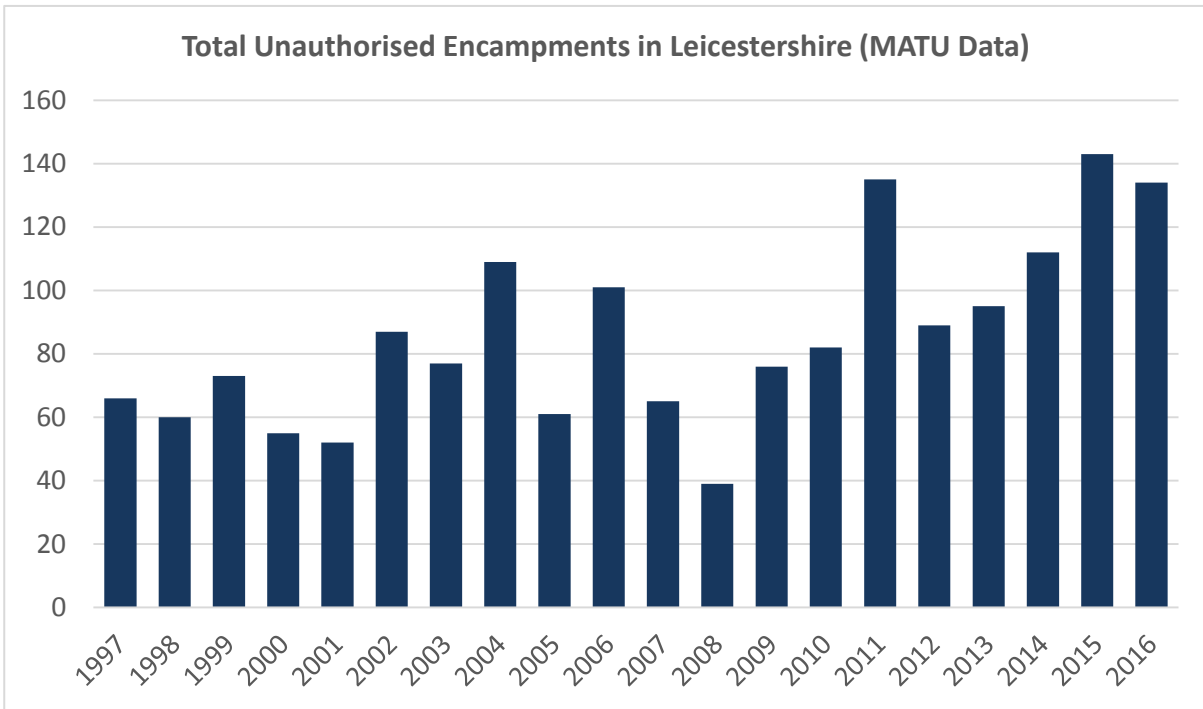


Figure 53 – Total number of unauthorised encampments recorded by MATU by Local Authority (1997-2016)

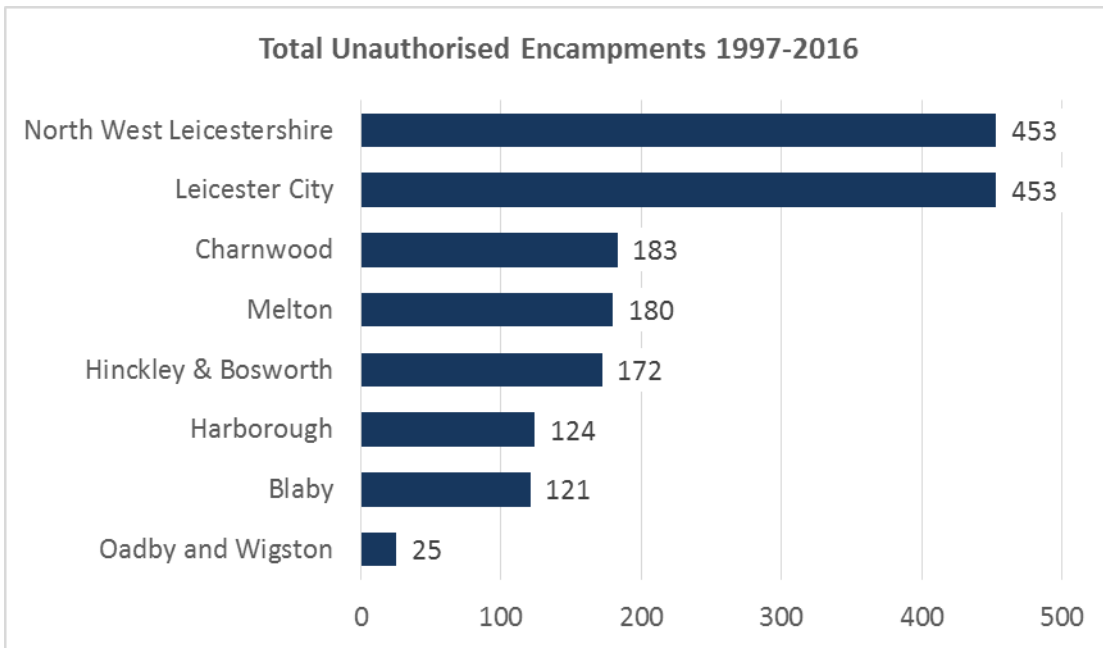


Figure 54 – Total number of unauthorised encampments recorded by MATU by Local Authority (2011-2016)

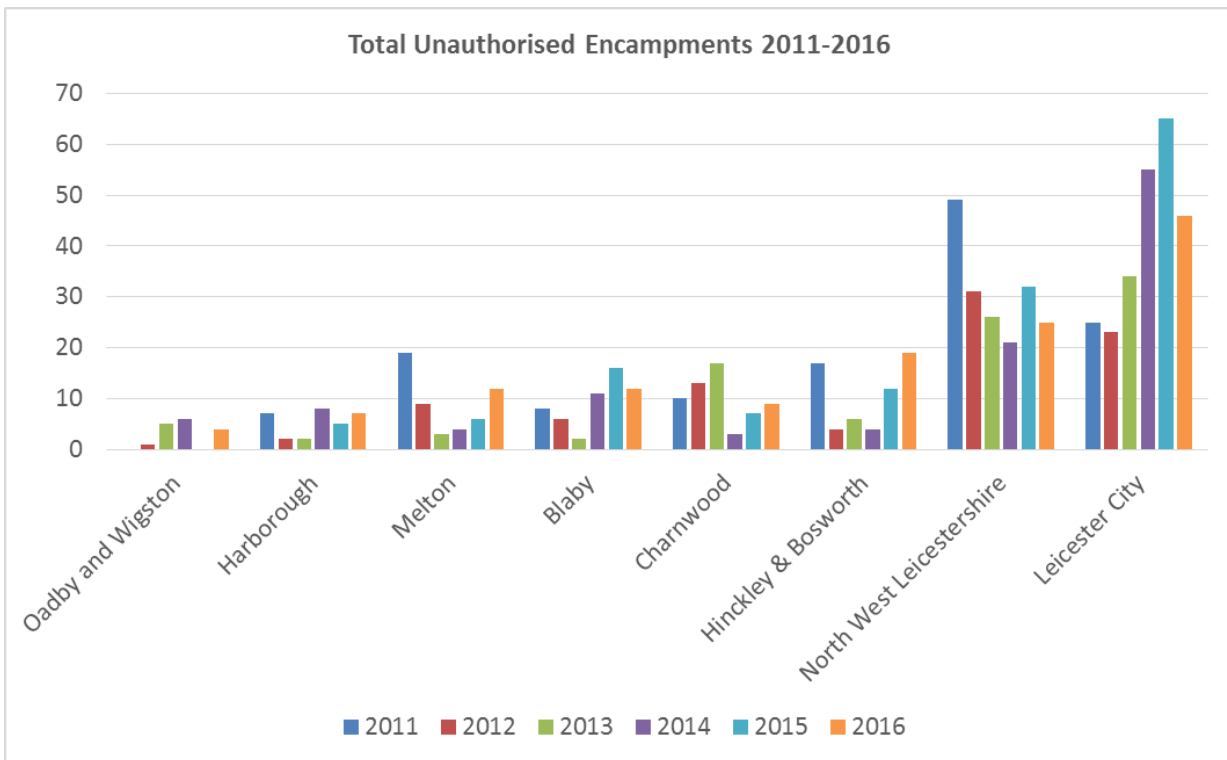
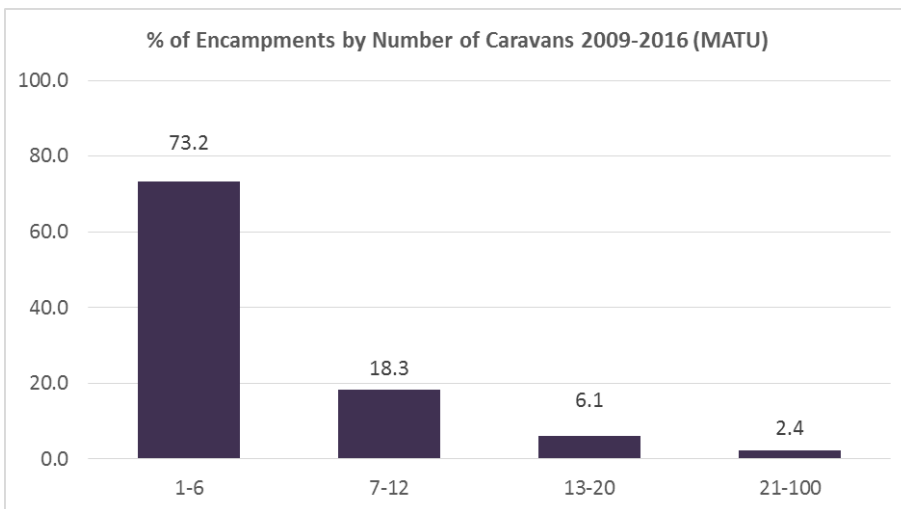


Figure 55 – % of Encampments by Number of Caravans (2009-2016)



Potential Implications of PPTS (2015)

^{7.131} It has been suggested that there will need to be an increase in transit provision across the country as a result of PPTS (2015) leading to more households travelling. This may well be the case but it will take some time for any robust evidence to be available to substantiate these claims. As such the use of historic evidence to make an assessment of future transit need is not recommended at this time. Any recommendation for future transit provision will need to make use of a robust post-PPTS (2015) evidence base.

Transit Recommendations

- ^{7.132} The recommendations for public transit provision set out in the previous GTAA should be acknowledged as evidence of need for additional transit provision in Leicester City and Leicestershire, but the level of provision needs to be reviewed.
- ^{7.133} Based on a combination of a review of the outcomes of previous GTAA, Traveller Caravan Count Data and intelligence from MATU and other stakeholders, there is a current need for a minimum of 12 caravan spaces (or managed equivalent²⁷) in Leicester City, and a minimum of 36 caravan spaces (or managed equivalent) spread over 2-3 sites elsewhere in Leicestershire. This is founded on a conclusion that levels of unauthorised encampments are sustained based on current and historic data; a recalculation of caravan spaces requirements from the 2013 GTAA; and evidence that over 90% of recorded encampments in the area between 2009 and 2016 comprised 12 or less caravans.
- ^{7.134} As far as suggested locations for the transit provision (or managed equivalent) across Leicestershire are concerned an initial review should be completed of potential sites that are deliverable in the short-term. The data suggests that the need is greatest in the North West of the county and the City and that transit provision should be prioritised in these locations. Further provision will be required elsewhere in Leicestershire taking account of where higher numbers of encampments have been recorded; the strategic transport network; and the overall geography of the county. However the deliverability of new sites in the short-term should be seen as the most important consideration.
- ^{7.135} The recommendation for the provision of public transit sites needs to be balanced off against the use of managed approaches to dealing with unauthorised encampments as opposed to infrastructure provision. This could include continued use of tolerated stopping or the introduction of Negotiated Stopping Agreements for short-term encampments along with formal public transit sites. A positive review about the use of Negotiated Stopping Agreements in the Leeds area was published in January 2017.
- ^{7.136} Each local authority should also consider a review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments in the future, once there is a robust post-PPTS (2015) evidence base. This will establish whether there is a need for and further investment in formal transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- ^{7.137} Temporary stopping places can be also made available at times of increased demand due to fairs or cultural celebrations that are attended by Gypsies and Travellers. A charge may be levied as determined by the local authority although they only need to provide basic facilities including: a cold water supply; portaloos; sewerage disposal point and refuse disposal facilities.
- ^{7.138} Overall it is recommended that close liaison with MATU is needed in regard with the delivery of Transit provision and the management of unauthorised encampments.

²⁷ For example the use of management-based approaches or Negotiated Stopping Agreements.

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Amenity block/shed	A building where basic plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC, sink) are provided.
Bricks and mortar	Mainstream housing.
Caravan	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.
Chalet	A single storey residential unit which can be dismantled. Sometimes referred to as mobile homes.
Concealed household	Households, living within other households, who are unable to set up separate family units.
Doubling-Up	Where there are more than the permitted number of caravans on a pitch or plot.
Emergency Stopping Place	A temporary site with limited facilities to be occupied by Gypsies and Travellers while they travel.
Green Belt	A land use designation used to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas; prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another; assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.
GTAA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
Household formation	The process where individuals form separate households. This is normally through adult children setting up their own household.
In-migration	Movement into or come to live in a region or community
Local Plans	Local Authority spatial planning documents that can include specific policies and/or site allocations for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
Out-migration	Movement from one region or community in order to settle in another.
Personal planning permission	A private site where the planning permission specifies who can occupy the site and doesn't allow transfer of ownership.
Pitch/plot	Area of land on a site/development generally home to one household. Can be varying sizes and have varying caravan numbers. Pitches refer to Gypsy and Traveller sites and Plots to Travelling Showpeople yards.
Private site	An authorised site owned privately. Can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied

	and rented pitches.
Site	An area of land on which Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are accommodated in caravans/chalets/vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches/plots.
Social/Public/Council Site	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Housing Provider.
Temporary planning permission	A private site with planning permission for a fixed period of time.
Tolerated site/yard	Long-term tolerated sites or yards where enforcement action is not expedient and a certificate of lawful use would be granted if sought.
Transit provision	Site intended for short stays and containing a range of facilities. There is normally a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
Unauthorised Development	Caravans on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers and without planning permission.
Unauthorised Encampment	Caravans on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers and without planning permission.
Waiting list	Record held by the local authority or site managers of applications to live on a site.
Yard	A name often used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site.

Appendix B: Local Plan Policies

Blaby District Council Local Plan (Core Strategy) Development Plan Document – February 2013

Policy CS9 - Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

Strategic objectives

i) To provide the appropriate quantity and mix of housing to meet the needs of the District’s current and future populations; and

ii) To protect the important areas of the District’s natural environment (species and habitats), landscape and geology and to improve biodiversity, wildlife habitats and corridors through the design of new developments and the management of existing areas by working with partners.

To ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have access to suitable accommodation, the following minimum provision will be made between 2012 and 2029:

	2012-2017	2017-2022	2022-2027	2027-2029
Permanent Residential Pitches	20	23	26	12
Plots for Travelling Showpeople	1	1	1	1

Provision will be made through a combination of the development management process and the Allocations, Designations and Development Management DPD, taking into account the most up-to-date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. A five year supply of deliverable and developable sites or broad locations for the rest of the plan period will also be identified. Sites for new and extensions to existing Gypsy and Traveller sites should meet all of the following requirements:

- a) located within reasonable distance to a settlement and has access to a range of services;
- b) avoid significant adverse impact on landscape, countryside and the built environment including by reason of its scale, prominence or layout. Sensitive landscaping and screening will be required to ameliorate any adverse visual impacts. New development should be in accordance with the ‘Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites, Good Practice Guide’;
- c) capable of being accessed without detriment to highway safety and adequate parking, turning and servicing space is provided;
- d) of appropriate scale in relation to the settlement to which it relates, and its local services and infrastructure;
- e) capable of providing satisfactory living conditions for residents without hazards / nuisance caused by (amongst other things) flooding, noise or land contamination;
- f) capable of implementation without causing unacceptable nuisance to existing neighbours by virtue of noise and other disturbance caused by movement of vehicles to and from the site.

The above criteria will be used to guide land supply allocations and to provide a basis for decisions on planning applications.

7.9.1 The EMRP identifies pitch requirements for the District to 2012, informed by the Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (2007) (GTAA). However, beyond 2012 the EMRP requires that

GTAA's are updated to provide evidence to inform Local Plans. An ongoing increase of 3% compound growth per year for household formation beyond 2012 should be assumed, with a growth rate of 1.5% for Travelling Showpeople.

7.9.2 The GTAA is currently being 'refreshed' to ensure that the evidence of need remains up-to-date as required by National and Regional policy. The Interim Report for Blaby District Council (September 2012) provides a refreshed assessment of the need for pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, and plots for Travelling Showpeople by applying the assumed growth rates above to the end of the plan period. The pitch and plot requirements in Policy CS9 reflect the findings of this report.

7.9.3 Since 2006 the Council has provided a considerable number of sites for Gypsy and Travellers as indicated in the table below:

	Permanent Pitches	Transit Caravan Capacity	Plots for Showpeople Families	Number of Temporary Pitches (Dec 2011)
Total	49	30	0	0

Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Provision (April 2006 – December 2011)

7.9.4 Proposals for Gypsy and Traveller pitches or plots for Travelling Showpeople will be supported within the District where the proposal meets the criteria in Policy CS9, taking into account other material considerations.

7.9.5 The GTAA recommends that new site provision should cater for the variety of needs and preferences which results from the diversity of the local Gypsy and Traveller population (i.e. a variety of tenure, site size, location and design). It also indicates that a series of small sites seems more likely to meet both needs and preferences than a single large site.

Charnwood Borough Council Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy – November 2015

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

5.32 We need to consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the same way as those for the rest of our community. This means assessing their needs within Charnwood Borough and identifying land that can be developed to meet that need.

GYSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Gypsies and travellers have a distinct set of housing needs based on their nomadic lifestyle. This is a defining characteristic of the community, but they are a diverse group comprising distinct sub groups each with their own culture and travelling behaviour, and each with their own distinct needs for accommodation. Different types of sites are needed, including: Permanent sites: which provide for the long term accommodation needs of travellers who may remain at a single location for an extended period of time Transit sites: which provide for short stays often related to traditional travelling routes; and Travelling showpeople sites: which provide long term accommodation for showpeople and that are used for the storage of large pieces of fairground equipment and gantries, particularly over the winter period.

5.33 Every year a fair is held in Loughborough Town Centre in November. During this time the town temporarily becomes home to a large number of showpeople. There is a site for travelling showpeople at Hoton and planning permission has been granted for a permanent gypsy and traveller site at South Croxton. However, unauthorised encampments frequently occur within Charnwood, mainly in and around Loughborough, but also along the A6, near Wymeswold and around Anstey. The number of unauthorised encampments (44 between March 2005 and November

2012) and our evidence suggests there is a need for transit sites.

5.34 A Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment has been prepared in partnership with other authorities in Leicestershire to help us understand their accommodation needs. The assessment found that there is a local need to provide permanent pitches, stop over locations (transit pitches) and sites for travelling showpeople, large enough to accommodate the storage of equipment.

5.35 Taking into account the findings of the Assessment, additional advice from the Multi Agency Traveller Unit and the findings of the Council's Scrutiny Panel, we will need to provide a total of at least 8 permanent pitches, up to 10 transit pitches and 16 plots for showpeople by 2031. 42 Charnwood Local Plan 2011 - 2028 Core Strategy Adopted November 2015 Chapter 5: Meeting Our Housing Needs

5.36 There is an opportunity to positively plan for sites as a part of each of our allocated sustainable urban extensions at north east of Leicester and west of Loughborough and sites for showpeople as part of our three strategic housing developments. This approach will give people living on these sites good access to main roads and services and provide an opportunity to plan for a new settled and gypsy or traveller community at the same time. We will also identify sites in our Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document. We will consider land in our ownership as part of this process and ask our other public sector partners to do the same.

Policy CS 5 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

We will support sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople that are:

- closely related to a town or village;
- appropriate in scale;
- well-related to local infrastructure and services, including safe and convenient access to the road network; and
- do not cause significant detrimental impact to the existing community.

We will meet the need for at least 8 permanent pitches, 10 transit pitches and 16 plots for showpeople by 2028 by:

- requiring a site for at least 4 permanent pitches at each of our allocated sustainable urban extensions in accordance with Policies CS19 and CS22;
- requiring a site for at least 4 showpeople plots at each of our strategic housing developments in accordance with Policies CS19, CS20 and CS22;
- allocating a site for at least 4 showpeople plots in our Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document; and
- allocating one or more sites for at least 10 transit pitches in total in our Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document.

Harborough District Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2006 – 2028 – November 2011

Policy CS4: Providing for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs

Introduction

5.36 The Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) provides detailed information about current demographic characteristics and estimates of future accommodation and housing needs.

5.37 Travelling Showpeople do not share the same culture or traditions as Gypsy and Travellers. They are distinguished by their occupation and have a distinctive lifestyle and culture derived from travelling to provide fairs and amusements and associated services. In planning terms 'plots' for Showpeople are often larger than Gypsy and

Traveller pitches due to the storage and maintenance of equipment essential to their business practices.

5.38 Harborough District is already home to well established Gypsy and Traveller sites at Greenacres, to the north west of Market Harborough and Mere Farm, Bitteswell. Established Showpeople sites are also located around the Lutterworth area.

5.39 Table 7 (below) indicates the number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots, permitted between 2006 and (September) 2010.

Table 7: Planning permissions for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches within Harborough District 2007 to 2010

	Permanent Pitches	Transit Caravan Capacity	Plots for Showpeople Families
Total	26	14	26

Policy CS4: Providing for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs

To ensure that Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople groups have access to suitable accommodation; the following minimum provision will be made between 2006 and 2016 through a combination of the development control process and the Allocations DPD:

- 30 Gypsy and Traveller permanent residential pitches;
- Capacity for up to 10 transit Gypsy and Traveller caravans; and
- 29 Plots for Travelling Showpeople families.

Provision after 2016, will be identified within future Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (or alternative future assessments of local need).

Proposals for new and extensions to residential only, Gypsy and Traveller sites (including transit sites) will be granted planning permission providing the site:

- i) Is located within a reasonable distance to a settlement and has access to a range of services;
- ii) Is proportionate to the scale of the nearest settlement, its local services and infrastructure;
- iii) Has suitable highway access, and is not detrimental to public safety;
- iv) Can provide appropriate mitigation measures, such as landscape screening, to prevent any against potential adverse impacts on the character and appearance of the existing locality and neighbouring uses; and
- v) Does not put the health and safety of occupants at risk through unsafe access to sites, unacceptable noise levels from existing land uses, unacceptable levels of contaminated land, or flood risk.

In addition, proposals for travelling showpeople will be granted planning permission providing the site:

- vi) Is used exclusively for residential, storage and maintenance purposes only (i.e. no on-site commercial activity will be permitted);
- vii) Does not create a significant noise or visual disturbance upon the existing land uses within the surrounding area; via the movement of vehicles and maintenance of equipment.

All applications for new sites and extensions/refurbishments of existing sites should conform to current good practice design guidelines.

Explanation

5.40 The Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland Gypsies’ and Travellers’ Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) sets clear targets for the District to identify land for additional pitch provision. The GTAA recommends that new site provision should cater for the variety of needs and preferences which result from the diversity of the local Gypsy and Traveller population (i.e. a variety of tenure, site size, location and design). The assessment also states that a series of small sites seems more likely to meet both needs and preferences than a single large site.

5.41 The GTAA also states that new site provision should seek to meet Gypsy and Traveller preferences as well as needs so that sites will be fully used and deter future unauthorised development. According to the assessment there is a preference for ‘edge of settlement’ locations along with private family owned sites. Harborough District Council Core Strategy 39

5.42 The Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites; Good Practice Guide, states that sites should ideally consist of up to 15 pitches in capacity unless there is clear evidence to suggest that a larger site is preferred by the local Gypsy or Traveller community.

Leicester City Local Development Framework Core Strategy – July 2014

SITES FOR GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE

4.4.56 An assessment carried out in 2007 identified the number of pitches required to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Leicester City, the Leicestershire Districts and Boroughs and Rutland County Council.

4.4.57 The Accommodation Needs Assessment established a requirement for 24 residential pitches, 10 transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 3 plots for travelling showpeople by 2012 to meet the need arising in the City, in addition to the existing provision. An ongoing increase in pitch provision of 3% compound growth per year for household increase and 1.5% growth per year for Travelling Showpeople is assumed. The identification of sites will be a matter for the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.

The following Policy CS9 meets:

- Spatial Objective 2: To meet the needs of diverse communities; and
- One Leicester priorities: Planning for people not cars, improving wellbeing and health.

CS POLICY 9. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER AND SHOWPEOPLE ACCOMMODATION

When considering proposals for sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show People, regard will be given to the assessment of need and the level of existing provision.

Sites for transit and residential pitches will be identified in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD2 to meet need as set out in the following table:

Date	Residential pitches	Transit pitches	Pitches for Travelling showpeople
2007-2012	24	10	3
2016	27	11	
2021	31	13	
2026	36	15	4

In addition to the relevant National guidance, the following considerations will be taken into account in the determination of locations for gypsy and traveller sites and sites for travelling showpeople:

- a) There should be safe and convenient vehicular and pedestrian access to the site;
- b) The site must be large enough to provide for adequate on site facilities for parking, storage, play and residential amenity dependent on the number of pitches;
- c) There should be convenient access to schools, shops and other local facilities, preferably pedestrian, cycle or by public transport;
- d) The site should be able to be landscaped and screened to provide privacy for occupiers and maintain visual amenity; and
- e) It should have no significant detrimental impact upon the residential amenity of adjoining properties or neighbouring land.

Melton Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan – November 2016

Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers

5.10 Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

5.10.1 Definitions for Gypsies and Travellers vary across pieces of legislation. The definition used in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) (August 2015) is: “Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.”

5.10.2 Gypsies and Travellers mainly live on pitches. Pitches are permanent authorised sites either provided by Local Authorities or owned by Gypsies and Travellers themselves. Pitches can be large enough to accommodate a single static caravan and a touring caravan. They often also have a day room, with water and electric supply, to provide utility washing and bathroom facilities. Pitches in rural areas can often be a lot larger and may accommodate many caravans.

5.10.3 Transit sites are authorised sites which are used for short stays by Gypsies and Travellers. The sites are provided on a permanent basis and have basic amenities and services, which include water supply, shared toilets, washing facilities/utility room, and waste disposal.

5.10.4 As evidenced in the Leicestershire Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment 2016, Melton’s permanent pitch requirement from April 2016 to March 2021 is 2 permanent residential pitches, and between April 2021 and March 2026 it is 1 permanent residential pitch. There is no further requirement for any pitches from April 2026 through to 2036.

5.10.5 There has been no identified need through the GTAA 2016 for any transit (temporary) pitch provision or plots for showpeople for Melton between April 2016 through to 2036.

5.10.6 National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires all Local Authorities to set targets for new pitches and plots. Local Authorities must also identify and maintain a five-year supply of sites in order to meet their targets for both new permanent residential and transit pitches.

5.10.7 Therefore, to be compliant with National Planning Policy, we have set out how the identified need for Gypsies and Travellers pitch requirements will be met.

5.10.8 Planning permission was granted on 23/04/2015 for 3 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches as an extension to the existing Valley View site on Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray. Work on these pitches has started and so the

planning permission has been activated. Planning permission was granted for a further 2 pitches on Sandy Lane, Melton Mowbray on 28/07/2016 which is also implemented. The owner of this site stated to the consultants who undertook the GTAA 2016, that they intend to sell the site with planning permission for the 2 pitches.

5.10.9 Due to the granting of these planning applications, the need identified in the GTAA 2016 is already being met, so no further pitches need to be found for the whole of the plan period up to 2036.

5.10.10 The GTAA 2016 states “it has been suggested that there will need to be an increase in transit provision across the country as a result of changes to PPTS leading to more households travelling. Any recommendation for future transit provision will need to make use of a robust post-PPTS 2015 evidence base. A review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments should be undertaken in autumn 2018 once there is a new 3 year evidence base following the changes to PPTS in August 2015”.

5.10.11 The Council therefore commits to undertaking the appropriate evidence base review in autumn 2018.

Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers

The most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (currently GTAA 2016) will be used as a basis for determining planning applications, together with the criteria within the most up to date Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. All applications would need the support of an evidenced need.

We will support sites for Gypsies and Travellers that:

- 1. facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community; and**
- 2. are appropriate in scale, well designed, and provide suitable landscaping and boundary treatments; and**
- 3. provide an acceptable living environment for occupiers and are free from flooding, pollution, hazards or other adverse impacts on standards of living; and**
- 4. are well-related to local infrastructure and services of a nearby town or village, including safe and convenient access to the road network; and**
- 5. promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community.**

North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan Publication Version – June 2016

PROVISION FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE

7.45 In helping to provide decent housing for all, we must also meet the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople. The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) (March 2012), which relates to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, sets out the Government’s planning policy and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

Policy H7: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

(1) Provision will be made to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople between 2012- 2031 for a minimum of:

- 2012 – 2017: 27 pitches plus 20 transit pitches
- 2017 – 2022: 11 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
- 2022- 2027: 14 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople

- 2027- 2031: 16 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople

- (2) The required provision will be identified through the production of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document, taking into account the most-up-to-date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodations Needs Assessment.
- (3) A five year supply of deliverable sites will be identified as well as a supply of developable sites or broad locations for the following years. The following criteria will be used to guide the site allocation process, and for the purposes of considering planning applications for such sites.
- (4) Proposals for new sites or extensions to existing sites should meet the following requirements:
- (a) Be located with reasonable access to a range of services, such as shops, schools, welfare facilities or public transport
 - (b) Be proportionate to the scale of the nearest settlement, its local services and infrastructure
 - (c) Have suitable highway access, and is not detrimental to public highway safety
 - (d) Provides for adequate on-site parking and turning of vehicles as well as appropriate facilities for servicing and storage
 - (e) Be capable of being provided with adequate services including water supply, power, drainage, sewage disposal, and waste disposal facilities
 - (f) Be compatible with landscape, environment, heritage and biodiversity as well as the physical and visual character of the area,
 - (g) Be compatible with the amenities of neighbouring properties and land uses.
- (5) Authorised, existing and new, sites will be safeguarded for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople groups unless they are no longer required to meet an identified need.
- (6) Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.

7.46 The Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland County Council Gypsy and Traveller's Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) (2007) identified the existing level of provision and provided a reliable estimate of future needs for the period 2006-2016. However the PPTS requires the use of a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs. Local authorities should also provide a five year supply of deliverable sites against these locally set targets, as well as a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6 to 10 and where possible years 11 to 15.

7.47 In light of this, and to ensure that evidence is up to date, a 2013 refresh of the original 2007 GTAA Study has been undertaken. This has assessed the need for pitches and plots for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople respectively, up to 2031, taking into account any unmet need identified in the initial GTAA. These GTAA requirements for the period 2012-2031 are set out in the policy above. This study also identified that a significant proportion of new accommodation provided should be for social rented pitches.

7.48 In light of the time that has passed since the 2013 refresh was prepared and published it is considered beneficial for this work to be updated in order to ensure a robust evidence base is maintained. Therefore we, along with Leicester City Council and the majority of the other Leicestershire authorities, are seeking to commission consultants to complete a new GTAA, for which the policy accommodates.

7.49 The amount of accommodation needed for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople may be small in comparison to wider housing needs but the Council has a responsibility to address the need. Permitting new pitches to meet need will help avoid unauthorised encampments and developments.

7.50 In order to provide for a range of sites to meet identified need the local authority is committed to producing a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan. When developing this planning document and its policies the authority, under its duty to co-operate obligations, may need to discuss the distribution of pitch provision with neighbouring local authorities if it is found that the district's need cannot be fully met within its boundaries.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document - September 2010

Core Strategy Policy 13 Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites

The Council will allocate land through the Allocations Development Plan Document for at least 1 residential pitch for Gypsies and Travellers. The following criteria should be applied in the determination of proposals for new or existing Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites:

- **be reasonably accessible, by a range of transport modes, to essential local services and facilities including shops, schools and doctors' surgeries**
- **preference would be given to sites which are within or adjacent to the Leicester Principal Urban Area** • **there is safe and appropriate access to the highway network, with adequate provision for parking and servicing of vehicles;**
- **is, or can be, served by adequate water and sewerage facilities where possible;**
- **is not located within Flood Zones 2 or 3, is not on contaminated land or within an area of poor ambient air quality; • is capable of sensitive visual integration into existing surroundings;**
- **would not adversely impact upon environmentally sensitive areas or areas of heritage and landscape character importance; and**
- **would not have an unacceptable impact on adjoining neighbours and land uses.**

All proposals for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople site development should be in accordance with current National design guidance where possible and/or appropriate.

This policy will assist in the delivery of Spatial Objective 7: A Balanced Housing Market, Spatial Objective 9: An Accessible Borough, Spatial Objective 10: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Spatial Objective 11: Empowering a Safe Community

7.40 It is important to provide for the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the wider context of meeting identified local housing needs. Definitions for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can be found in the glossary.

7.41 In order to assess these needs, a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland County Council was carried out. This provided the evidence necessary to inform the development of policy in the now revoked East Midlands Regional Plan.

7.42 For Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment identified a need arising for 1 residential pitch. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment defines a pitch as an 'area of land on a Gypsy and Traveller caravan site developed for a single family'. The location of a site to meet this need will be identified through the Allocations Development Plan Document. 88 Core Strategy Part of the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Local Development Framework.

7.43 In relation to Travelling Showpeople there is no net additional requirement in the Borough identified at this time.

7.44 The Core Strategy must also contain a criteria based policy for the provision of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites. This should be used to guide the allocation of sites to meet identified accommodation needs and unexpected demand. The policy should seek to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in sustainable locations with access to a range of essential services such as education, healthcare, welfare, shops, water and sewerage facilities where possible (such as connection to the main sewer or through provision of a septic tank). The

location of the site should not result in unacceptable living conditions for its occupants such as contaminated land, poor ambient air quality or being within an area liable to flooding.

7.45 Where permission is granted, appropriate conditions or planning obligations are likely to be used to ensure occupation of the site is restricted to those persons genuinely falling within the appropriate definition of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. In addition, proposals should be in accordance with guidelines contained in Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites, Good Practice Guide (CLG May 2008).

7.46 The Council will give preference to locations firstly within, and then adjacent to the Leicester Principal Urban Area in line with Core Strategy Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.

7.47 Core Strategy Policy 8 Climate Change and Renewable Energy requires new residential development to demonstrate how it reflects current nationally prescribed sustainable buildings standards for energy efficiency. Gypsy and Traveller sites are defined as residential development. It would be unreasonable to expect residential caravans to accord with Policy 8 on measures to combat climate change and promote use of renewable energy. However, proposals for any permanent dwellings will be subject to Core Strategy Policy.

Appendix C: Unknown Households

Blaby District Council

Figure 52 – Additional need for unknown households in Blaby District - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Unknown	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented plots on new sites	6
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	6
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-up/Over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Households on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
New household formation (Base number of households 83 and formation rate 1.50%)	29
Total Future Needs	29
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	23

Figure 53 – Additional need for unknown households in Blaby by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	7	8	8	23

Figure 54 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Blaby District - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Unknown	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0

Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(No current or future need from 1 household)</i>	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 55 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Blaby District by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Charnwood Borough Council

Figure 56 – Additional need for unknown households in Charnwood Borough - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Unknown	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	0
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No unknown households in Charnwood)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 57 – Additional need for unknown households in Charnwood by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 58 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Charnwood Borough - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Unknown	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented plots on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-up/Over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Households on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
New household formation (Household base 12 and formation rate 1.00%)	3
Total Future Needs	3
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	3

Figure 59 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Charnwood Borough by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	1	1	1	3

Harborough District Council

Figure 60 – Additional need for unknown households in Harborough District - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Unknown	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	0
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 52 and formation rate 1.50%)	18
Total Future Need	18
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	18

Figure 61 – Additional need for unknown households in Harborough District by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	4	4	5	5	18

Figure 62 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Harborough District - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Unknown	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	2
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(Base number of households 18 and formation rate 1.00%)</i>	4
Total Future Need	6
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	6

Figure 63 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Harborough District by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	3	1	1	1	6

Leicester City

Figure 64 – Additional need for unknown households in Leicester City - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Unknown	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	0
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	1
Out-migration	2
Total Supply	3
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 11 and formation rate 1.50%)	4
Total Future Need	4
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	1

Figure 65 – Additional need for unknown households in Leicester City by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	
	-1	1	1	1	2

Figure 66 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Leicester City - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Unknown	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(Base number of households 12 and formation rate 1.00%)</i>	3
Total Future Need	3
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	3

Figure 67 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Leicester City by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	1	1	1	3

Melton Borough Council

Figure 68 – Additional need for unknown households in Melton Borough - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Unknown	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	0
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No unknown households in Melton)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 69 – Additional need for unknown households in Melton Borough by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 70 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Melton Borough - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Unknown	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No unknown Showpeople in Melton)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 71 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in Melton Borough by 5 Year Periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

North West Leicestershire District Council

Figure 72 – Additional need for unknown households in North West Leicestershire District - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Unknown	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	0
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	5
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	5
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 13 and formation rate 1.50%)	5
Total Future Need	5
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	10

Figure 73 – Additional need for unknown households in North West Leicestershire District by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	6	1	1	2	10

Figure 74 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in North West Leicestershire District - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Unknown	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(Base number of households 11 and formation rate 1.00%)</i>	3
Total Future Need	3
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	3

Figure 75 – Additional need for unknown Travelling Showpeople in North West Leicestershire District by 5 Year Periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	1	1	1	3

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

There are no Gypsy or Traveller sites or Travelling Showpeople yards in Oadby and Wigston.

Appendix D: Households Not Meeting Planning Definition

Blaby District Council

Figure 76 – Additional need for Households in Blaby District that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	9
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	9
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	5
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	5
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	2
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 21 and formation rate 1.70%)	8
Total Future Need	10
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	6

Figure 77 – Additional need for households in Blaby District that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	2	2	2	6

Figure 78 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Blaby District that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(There are no Travelling Showpeople in Blaby that do not meet the planning definition)</i>	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 79 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Blaby District that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Charnwood Borough Council

Figure 80 – Additional need for households in Charnwood Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No households that do not meet the planning definition)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 81 – Additional need for households in Charnwood Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 82 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Charnwood Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0

Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	1
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	1
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(No additional need from 3 households)</i>	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	1

Figure 83 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Charnwood Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	1	0	0	0	1

Harborough District Council

Figure 84 – Additional need for households in Harborough District that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	10
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	10
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	6
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 25 and formation rate 1.85%)	11
Total Future Need	17
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	27

Figure 85 – Additional need for households in Harborough District that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	18	3	3	3	27

Figure 86 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Harborough District that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	2
Households on unauthorised encampments	0

Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	2
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(Formation from household demographics)</i>	4
Total Future Need	4
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	4

Figure 87 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Harborough District that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	1	1	1	1	4

Leicester City

Figure 88 – Additional need for households in Leicester City that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	1
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	1
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	1
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	1
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	9
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Base number of households 25 and formation rate 2.00%)	12
Total Future Need	21
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	21

Figure 89 – Additional need for households in Leicester City that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	11	3	3	4	21

Figure 90 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Leicester City that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation <i>(No new household formation)</i>	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 91 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Leicester City that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Melton Borough Council

Figure 92 – Additional need for households in Melton Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No new household formation)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 93 – Additional need for households in Melton Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 94 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Melton Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0

Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No Travelling Showpeople)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 95 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in Melton Borough that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

North West Leicestershire District Council

Figure 96 – Additional need for households in North West Leicestershire District that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available vacant public and private pitches	0
Unimplemented pitches on new sites	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	4
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (Formation from site demographics)	2
Total Future Need	6
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	6

Figure 97 – Additional need for households in North West Leicestershire District that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	
	4	1	0	1	6

Figure 98 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in North West Leicestershire District that do not meet the Planning Definition - 2016-2036

Travelling Showpeople - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available vacant public and private plots	0
Unimplemented pitches on new yards	0
Vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0

Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/doubling-up/over-crowding	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public yards	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0
5 year need from older teenage children	0
In-migration	0
Net new household formation (No current or future needs)	0
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 99 – Additional need for Travelling Showpeople in North West Leicestershire District that do not meet the Planning Definition by 5 year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	Total
	0	0	0	0	0

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

There are no Gypsy or Traveller sites or Travelling Showpeople yards in Oadby and Wigston.

Appendix E: Site and Yard Lists (September 2016)

Blaby District

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
LCC site, Aston Firs, Sapcote	20	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
Acorn Cottage, Aston Firs, Sapcote	7	-
Beggars Lane, Enderby	15	-
Caravan and Castle, Aston Firs	1	-
Field View Park, Enderby	6	-
Grange Park, Enderby	10	-
Hospital Lane, Blaby	1	-
Land to the rear of Oak Tree Cottage, Aston Firs	11	-
Old Coal Yard, Enderby	7	-
Rose Paddock, Kirby Muxloe	9	-
Rosevale Park, Aston Firs	27	-
Bumble Bee Gardens, Sharnford	1	-
The Stables, Enderby	1	-
White Gate Stables, Aston Firs	1	-
Woodfield Stables, Aston Firs	13	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Developments		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	130	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
The Oaklands, Enderby	1	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	1	0
Transit Provision pitches		
Rear of Oak Tree Cottage, Sapcote	2	-
Kirk Lane, Enderby	5	-
Rosevale Park, Sapcote	8	-
TOTAL TRANSIT PROVISION	15	0

Charnwood Borough

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
South Croxton Site ²⁸	1	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Developments		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	1	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
Hoton Showmen's Site	20	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	20	0
Transit Provision		
None	-	-

²⁸ It is understood that this site was not implemented and that the planning permission has expired.

Harborough District

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
Bonehams Lane, Gilmorton	5	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		-
Greenacres, Market Harborough	25	-
Mere Farm, Bitteswell	40	-
Woodway Lane, Claybrooke Parva	2	-
Snows Lane, Keyham	2	-
Smithfields, Dunton Basset	1	-
Hill View, Dunton Basset	1	-
Quary Farm Stables, North Kilworth	1	-
Walkers Stables, Keyham	1	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Developments		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	78	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
Amusement Depot, Lutterworth	1	-
Billy Wild, Welham	2	-
Fairacres, Lutterworth	54	-
Greenacres, Market Harborough	1	-
James Bond, Lutterworth	6	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	63	0
Transit Provision		
None	-	-

Leicester City

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
Greengate Nook, Leicester	6	-
Meynells Gorse, Leicester	21	-
Redhill Nook, Leicester	10	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Developments		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	37	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
Bath Street, Leicester	19	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	19	0
Transit Provision		
None	-	-

Melton Borough

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
Valley View, Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray (1)	2	-
Valley View, Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray (2)	3	--
Sandy Lane, Melton Mowbray	2	-
Goadby Road, Waltham On The Wolds	1	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Developments		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	8	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	0	0
Transit Provision		
None	-	-

North West Leicestershire District

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
Station Yard, Hemington	1	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
Altons Nook, Sinope	1	-
Bardon Road, Coalville	2	-
Forest Field Oakfield Barn, Oakthorpe	8	-
Land Adjacent To 81 Shortheath Road, Swadlincote	8	-
Ravenstone Road	3	-
The Ashes, Heather	1	-
Toons Scrap Yard, Ellistown	1	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
Aylesbury Gardens, Sweystone	6	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
Ashby Road, Coalville	-	1
Dorans, Whitwick	-	1
The Chalet, Swannington	-	1
Unauthorised Developments		
Midsummer Stables, Hemington	-	7
TOTAL PITCHES	24	10
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
Fair Oak, Swadlincote	9	-
Hemington Park Showmans Site, Hemington	7	-
Kelham Bridge Farm, Coalville	4	-
The Haven, Ibstock	3	-
Tolerated Travelling Showpeople Yards		
Brook Lane, Thringstone	-	1
Railway Terrace, Swannington	-	8
White Gates Farm, Ravenstone	-	4
TOTAL PLOTS	23	13
Transit Provision		
None	-	-

Oadby and Wigston Borough

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Developments		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	0	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	0	0
Transit Provision		
None	-	-

Appendix F: Interviews with Neighbouring Local Authorities

Corby Borough Council

With regard to overall **accommodation need** in Corby, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The North Northamptonshire GTAA update was published in 2011. For Corby this identified a need for one permanent residential site during the period 2011-22, to provide a total of 19 pitches by 2022. At 2014 the Borough's supply consisted of 22 residential pitches; thereby exceeding the identified requirement to 2022. The GTAA update identified a zero requirement for transit pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for Corby.
- » Policy 31 within the emerging Joint Core Strategy seeks to meet the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople as outlined within the GTAA update in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework; this policy also outlines criteria against which new site allocations and applications for planning permission should be considered.
- » There are currently 22 residential Gypsy and Traveller pitches within the Borough [10 at Dunlop Close; eight at Brookfield; three at Ashley Road, Middleton (personal permission); and one at Little Meadow, Cottingham]. This exceeds the requirements of the emerging Joint Core Strategy based on the GTAA update. There is occasional short-term overcrowding and concealed households on Dunlop Close – mostly due to familial dispute/visitations.
- » The GTAA update takes account of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople currently in bricks and mortar accommodation seeking residential pitches, which is reflected within the pitch requirements. The need for additional bricks and mortar accommodation is estimated to be one dwelling per year for North Northamptonshire, over the period 2017-22. No individual requirement is identified for Corby.
- » There is only small numbers of short term unauthorised encampments. This is mainly seasonal and involved families passing through the area; economic travellers (selling products in the area; and visiting families). The GTAA update identifies a zero requirement for transit pitches in Corby.
- » The priority in Corby is to maintain provision and monitor any increases in unauthorised encampments

With regard to the subject of **cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » There are considered to be no significant cross-border issues in relation to neighbouring local authorities that affect Corby.

- » Corby works within the North Northamptonshire Housing Market Area and the Duty to Cooperate is satisfied through the Joint Core Strategy for North Northamptonshire.

Erewash Borough Council

With regard to overall **accommodation need** in Erewash, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » Erewash Borough took part in the Derbyshire GTAA assessment which was published in autumn 2015 (Adopted in July, but due to outstanding objections from some client councils, the GTAA wasn't released until the autumn). For Erewash this identified a need for one additional residential pitch in the next 20 years which was consistent with the previous GTAA, therefore Erewash did not need to make any changes to their Local Plan Document.
- » There is currently one Gypsy and Traveller pitch and the officer explained that historically Travellers have not chosen to settle in the area.
- » There are few short-term roadside encampments; however, these are not said to cause any issues as they are usually short-term and last a maximum of 1 or 2 nights. The officer explained that the M1 and A52 crosses the area and are on the strategic road network and some Gypsy and Travellers may decide to stay in the area when they are on route to their final destination.

With regard to the subject of **cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » There are considered to be no significant cross-border issues in relation to neighbouring local authorities that affect Erewash.
- » The officer explained that surrounding areas (Derby City and South Derbyshire) have large existing Traveller populations and as a result the future accommodation need is considerably high. The officer had not been informed by those planning authorities that they have any specific issues to meet their need and is under the impression that these areas will be looking to meet their own accommodation need. The officer was aware that Derby City are currently having their Local Plan examined by a Planning Inspector and believed they have accepted the assessed level of need and have made provision accordingly within their draft document. South Derbyshire are proposing to produce a Gypsy and Traveller site DPD to show how they are planning to meet the GTAA's needs figure for the District.
- » Although both authorities accepted the results of the GTAA they both challenged the GTAA methodology and felt that it had led to an inflation of the need figures.
- » One of the ways the study tried to deal with this issue, and similar to the approach of Strategic Housing Market Assessment, was to split the County into three geographic zones and because of that there is an emphasis on the authorities within those areas working together.
- » Although the need identified for Erewash is very low, the officer did not rule out providing transit provision and explained that the GTAA concluded that the County required

stopping places but did not identify any geographical locations rather it provided geographical guidelines. It was agreed that the Councils should work together on this issue. The officer was not aware that these discussions have taken place.

- » In terms of working together in the future, one of the GTAA recommendations was to set up a working group which would monitor the progress of the authorities and to maintain good links with the Travelling community.
- » The officer added that undertaking a county wide GTAA is important, but stressed that the authorities will need to take into account other factors such as Strategic Housing Market areas which do not fall within county boundaries.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

With regard to overall accommodation need in Hinckley and Bosworth, the views of stakeholders interviewed as part of the HBB GTAA were as follows:

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

- » Most stakeholders were of the view that the current accommodation is of a good quality and agreed that the sites are well managed.
- » When asked if there is a sufficient amount of provision, stakeholders feel that the Council has increased supply by granting a number of planning permissions.
- » Despite these efforts, most stakeholders agreed that more accommodation was required. It was acknowledged that some of the sites which have planning permission have not yet been developed. Also, stakeholders are aware that there are some empty pitches on the current sites, but it was accepted that these could not count toward supply because it would be difficult to trace the owners of these pitches.
- » When asked about the future accommodation needs of the community, some stakeholders feel that all local authorities, including the Council, should provide some public provision for those Gypsy and Travellers who cannot afford to buy a site or a pitch.
- » There is one unauthorised development: the Good Friday site. An officer explained that they have been exploring alternative provision for the families who live on the site and would hope that, if they do have to vacate the site by the end of 2016, they could be accommodated on alternative site provision within the borough or neighbouring areas.
- » Unauthorised encampments are thought to have decreased in recent years and it is believed that this is down to a number of factors including: the number of applications which have been passed by HBB; an increase in supply in neighbouring areas; Travellers migrating to the south of the area (Travellers were attracted to Blaby and there was a rise in planning applications, this has since tailed off).
- » When asked if there was a need for transit provision, most stakeholders feel it could be beneficial to have some provision that serves the Borough. One stakeholder suggested provision in the City, and North and South of the Borough.

With regard to the subject of cross border issues and the Duty to Cooperate, the views of stakeholders interviewed were as follows:

- » All stakeholders were of the view that the Council is complying with the Duty to Cooperate. Most agreed that Gypsy and Traveller community within the borough is very local, and felt the only cross border issue is with Blaby District and the Ashton Firs site which is on the Hinckley border.
- » Stakeholders referred to the Multi Agency Traveller Unit (MATU) which works across the County and enables issues such as unauthorised encampments to be dealt with at a County level and gives a better picture of what is happening on a Leicestershire-wide basis.

Kettering Borough Council

With regard to overall accommodation need in Kettering, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » At the time of the GTAA update in 2011, there were 50 pitches in the Borough. Kettering undertook a GTAA study in 2008 and an update in 2011; further “need” research (based on the GTAA) in preparation for a series of appeals has identified a need for an additional 14 pitches for the period 2011-2016, and 11 pitches for the period 2016-21. The Council has granted permission for an additional 18 pitches. As such, an over-provision has been made for the first five years of the GTAA, leaving a requirement for 7 pitches to be made for the period 2016-21. The Council is looking at meeting this requirement through site acquisition and/or the allocation of land in the Kettering Borough Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan. The Borough has two public sites, one of 7 pitches, and the other of 15 pitches. By 2021 there should be a total of 75 pitches.
- » There have been two planning appeals (April and August) and another delayed until February 2017, the Borough has been updating their understanding of the accommodation needs to demonstrate whether these are being met.
- » Based on the advice provided by the County Traveller Unit the Borough is not looking to provide any transit provision at this stage because it would be used for permanent residential purposes.

With regard to the subject of cross border issues and the Duty to Cooperate, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » There is a concentration of pitches in the Braybrooke area; which is close to the Daventry and Harborough district boundary. A number of appeals have an impact on the land in the Braybrooke area, which is a small village with very limited facilities. As such, officers from Kettering and Harborough District have met up and agreed to support each other and provide information in order to coordinate their approaches. There is also a large site at Greenacres in Harborough which they have consulted about as there is a risk that the families are leaving that site and moving on to other unauthorised sites.
- » The officer felt that the relationship with Daventry could be improved, particularly as there is a large site with 27 pitches at Justin park which borders Harborough and Kettering, but lies within Daventry.
- » The officer explained that some families that have moved into Kettering originate from Harborough, but this is down to choice and availability, rather than the Council not

meeting their needs. Harborough are looking at the results for the GTAA to see how they can meet their own needs and the officer is confident that they will respond to its accommodation need.

- » This officer felt that Kettering is complying with the duty to cooperate, as is shown by the ongoing relationship with Harborough to ensure that further sites are located in a sustainable location. There needs to be more work with Daventry

Lichfield District Council

With regard to overall **accommodation need** in Lichfield, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » Lichfield is currently preparing its Local Plan Allocations document which is the second part of the Local Plan for Lichfield District and follows the Local Plan Strategy which was adopted in February 2015. In terms of Gypsy and Travellers the officer interviewed is responsible for preparing the Methodology and final Local Plan Allocations Plan Document for publication in November 2016.
- » Lichfield undertook a joint GTAA study with Tamworth Borough Council in 2012 and the study identified a need for five additional residential pitches between 2012-28 and advised that transit pitches would need to be assessed separately. This built on the previous South Staffordshire and North Warwickshire GTAA which was undertaken in 2008 and identified a need for 14 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 5 transit pitches up to 2028 which informs the current Local Plan policy. Since 2008 seven pitches (across two sites) have been delivered through windfall planning applications. Both sites are currently underutilised, however, the Council still aims to meet the pitch targets identified in the Local Plan which is in keeping with the agreed approach for the Local Plan Allocations document. In view of this, an update of evidence was not considered necessary.
- » The Council has undertaken a thorough 'call for sites' process, however no sites have been forthcoming. As result the Council has taken a proactive response in trying to find suitable potential sites, in keeping with the Local Plan Strategy Policy H3. The area of search is located in and around the District's most sustainable settlements as well as the A5/A38 corridors. The officer has looked into whether any land in this area, including land located in the green belt, can be released.
- » Two recent planning applications (from Travellers living outside of the area) have been refused primarily because they were situated in the green belt and lack of conformity with policy H3.
- » Short-term roadside encampments occur in the area; are usually short-term and last a maximum of 1 or 2 weeks. The officer said that there were six encampments in 2015 and felt that most Gypsy and Travellers may decide to stay in the area when they are on route to their final destination. The A38 runs through the area and the officer felt that those who move through the area are heading to Derby or locations along the A5. The Council still aims to meet the need for 5 transit pitches identified in the Local Plan and the officer felt that this is a priority particularly due the damage caused on employment sites as a result of some of the encampments.

With regard to the subject **of cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The officer was not aware of any significant cross-border issues in relation to neighbouring local authorities that affect Lichfield and felt that the area was meeting its Duty to Cooperate and explained that they have been contacted by one other authority, however their different respective timescales meant that joint working would not be possible. Otherwise LDC has not been contacted by its neighbours to suggest that there are any cross border issues that they will need to consider.
- » The officer added that, despite the lack of submission, the Council takes a proactive approach and will continue to do so through the identification of sites to meet the pitch targets identified in the Local Plan. Ultimately however, even when suitable sites have been identified this approach will inevitably depend on the willingness of the landowner. In addition following the policy assessment of sites, the findings will need to be presented to Elected Members before publishing the Local Plan Allocations document.

Newark and Sherwood District Council

Whilst not formally approached during the stakeholder interviews as a neighbouring local authority, Officers from Newark and Sherwood District Council contacted Officers at Melton Borough Council to confirm that they do not have any expectation of Melton BC providing them with any pitch capacity as part of their Development Plan Review.

Rugby Borough Council

An officer from Rugby Borough Council provided the following response:

- » Much of the movements are between Nuneaton with a number of sites sitting on the border of the two authorities with four existing sites being split between the two areas. Arc4 were engaged by Nuneaton Borough Council to undertake an updated GTAA and Rugby Borough Council have asked to be kept informed of its progress and to hold further discussions about the assessment.

Rushcliffe Borough Council

With regard to overall **accommodation need** in Rushcliffe, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The Nottingham authorities' have adopted a consistent GTAA methodology and have chosen to partner with authorities according to the Strategic Market Housing Assessment area. As a result Rushcliffe was part of the South Nottinghamshire GTAA which was completed in January 2016. The study identified a need for an additional four pitches up to 2028, 3 of which falls within the first five year period. The Council has an adopted core strategy in 2014 and there were two major allocations for mixed use development, where their respective policies requires provision for Gypsy and Travellers which have not yet been forthcoming. Received an Outline application for one site which identifies an area of land for gypsy and traveller provision for an unspecified number of pitches.

- » There is no public provision but there are three private sites; There is a site with 4 pitches at Radcliffe on Trent, there is a one pitch site at East Leake and one pitch at Sutton Bonington. There are no yards for Travelling Showpeople.
- » In terms of why the population is so small, the officer explained that before 2009 there were no Gypsy and Traveller pitches and felt that traditionally Travellers hadn't chosen to settle in the area because it is predominantly green belt land and land values are high. Therefore, the need figure is comparatively lower than some of the other Nottinghamshire authorities (particularly Newark who are in the Nottingham Outer Housing Market Area) who have a larger long established Traveller community.
- » Few short-term roadside encampments occur in the area and they are described as being ad-hoc and have not been identified as a major issue.

With regard to the subject of **cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The officer was not aware of any cross border issues. In terms of the Duty to Cooperate, the officer felt that Rushcliffe is meeting the Duty to cooperate and referred to one of the sites in the area where the Traveller originated from the Leicestershire area.
- » The officer explained that all the Nottinghamshire authorities are looking to meet the need within their own borders and went onto point out that meeting the targets for more general housing is more difficult to achieve and poses a much greater issue in terms of the Duty to Cooperate.

Rutland County Council

With regard to overall **accommodation need** in Rutland, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » Rutland undertook a joint GTAA with South Kesteven District Council in 2016 and the study identified a need in Rutland for 13 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 10 Travelling Showpeople plots between 2016-36. The officer explained that the short-term need identified in the GTAA may have recently been met by granting permission for four additional pitches on an existing site. The officer explained that the Council will be exploring ways of meeting the TSP need through the review of the Local Plan which is an on-going piece of work. There is a criteria-based policy in the adopted Core Strategy which is thought to be working well.
- » There are two Gypsy and Traveller sites, one of which is a family site of 8 pitches and the other is a single pitch. There are two TSP sites and both have recently been granted planning permission for additional plots.
- » There are occasional short-term encampments which can last 1 or 2 nights and there have not been any increases in recent years. The A1 does run through the area for a few miles but the officer felt this does not cause encampments in any great numbers and if they do they are there for a short period of time. The officer confirmed that the Council will not be providing any formal transit provision but are considering the 'negotiated stopping' model as developed by Leeds City Council.

With regard to the subject of **cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The officer was not aware of any significant cross-border issues in relation to neighbouring local authorities and, although the officer could not comment on the extent to which neighbouring local authorities are meeting their need, it was felt that neighbouring authorities are liaising with each other.
- » The officer added that the Council takes a proactive approach and will continue to use its criteria based policy to assess sites as and when any come forward.

South Derbyshire Council

With regard to overall **accommodation need** in South Derbyshire, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » Part One of the Local Plan was adopted in June 2016 (this includes a Criteria Based Policy); at the time of the interview the District is working on Part 2. South Derbyshire took part in the Derbyshire-wide GTAA assessment which was published in autumn 2015 (and one before that in 2008). For South Derbyshire this identified a need for a need for 14 additional permanent residential pitches in the first five years (2014-2019). In the next fifteen years the GTAA identified a need for 24 additional pitches. At the time of the interview the Council had provided 7 additional pitches (all with the exception of one pitch have been delivered on existing sites). The officer was also aware of a person who is interested in developing a site in the area.
- » The GTAA identified a need for 8 additional Travelling Showpeople Plots which have been allocated in Bolsover, where there are two big existing yards.
- » There are 82 pitches and a further 8 caravans. There are two public sites which have a total of 37 pitches and 6 transit pitches. The officer said there can be vacancies on these sites, because only certain families will use the sites. There are 45 pitches on private sites. The officer was aware of one tolerated site.
- » There were 14 short-term encampments during 2016. The officer was not aware of any 'hotspots' and they take place on (on a mixture of private land, SDDC land and DCC land).

With regard to the subject of **cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The officer has been made aware of one family who moves between neighbouring authorities, but this is within Derbyshire (not Leicestershire).
- » There are considered to be no significant cross-border issues in relation to neighbouring local authorities that affect South Derbyshire. The officer felt there was good communication with Leicestershire neighbours (when required) and explained that officers will talk directly with the dedicated team which deal with Illegal Encampments in Leicestershire when necessary.

South Kesteven Council

With regard to overall accommodation need in South Kesteven, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » Within South Kesteven there is one County Council site which is managed by the local authority and has approximately twelve pitches. There are two privately owned sites (27 and 12 pitches). There is also one yard for Travelling Showpeople and one yard for ex travelling show people, both privately owned. There is also one long term unauthorised site in Bourne.
- » In terms of short-term unauthorised encampments, the figures are generally considered to be low and are mainly Travellers who are moving through the area, quite often at the time of the Appleby Fair. Where they do occur they are usually in an isolated area (A1 layby) or green lane and are short-term (one night) and are mostly tolerated.
- » A GTAA was carried out in 2009 and the authority have met all their arising Gypsy and Traveller need until 2017, through the Core Strategy. In order to provide an evidence base for their Local Plan (2011-2036) they have recently commissioned a joint study, with Rutland County Council (the findings of which were not available at the time of the interview).

With regard to the subject of cross border issues and the Duty to Cooperate, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » The officer was not aware of any cross-border issues with neighbouring boroughs and has worked with Rutland to carry out a joint Accommodation Needs Assessment. The area shares a border with Melton who have also recently carried out a study.
- » In terms of meeting the Duty to Co-operate the officer explained that there are no issues resulting from movement between neighbouring authorities, and any future need for Gypsy and Travellers will arise from its own population and will be met within the local authority area.

Tamworth Borough Council

With regard to overall accommodation need in Tamworth, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » There is currently no specific provision for Gypsy and Travellers. Tamworth Borough Council undertook a joint GTAA study with Lichfield in 2012 and the study identified a need for one pitch for a household currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation, which should be provided in the first five years of the Local Plan period (2012-28).
- » The need to provide one pitch is included within Tamworth's Local Plan which was adopted in 2016 and the Council has undertaken a 'Call for Sites' process which did not identify any suitable land. The Borough will shortly be undertaking its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and will undertake another 'Call for Sites' as part of that work.

- » The officer was not aware of any recent planning applications or unauthorised developments and explained that historically there has been very little demand for sites. Should an application be received it would be assessed against the Criteria Based Policy.
- » Short-term movements through the area are said to be rare and the officer referred to the previous GTAA that did not identify a need for transit provision.

With regard to the subject of **cross border issues** and the **Duty to Cooperate**, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » It will not be straightforward to meet the need for a single pitch particularly as the Borough is small and landlocked by its neighbouring areas. The Borough has initiated discussions with neighbouring boroughs to examine whether they could meet this need. However, Lichfield is not in a position to assist and are currently undertaking Gypsy and Traveller allocations work with a view to meeting its own need for an additional 14 pitches. North Warwickshire has already met their own need through a planning application so are not looking to allocate any further land.
- » The officer was not aware of any cross-border issues with its Leicestershire neighbours but added that once the SHLAA is completed it is likely that the Borough will need to discuss this issue again with its neighbours (Lichfield and North Warwickshire).
- » Going forward, the officer suggested that when undertaking the site assessment process authorities should adopt a shared methodology to ensure a consistent approach is followed.

Warwickshire County Council

With regard to overall accommodation need in Warwickshire, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » Local authorities in Warwickshire have either undertaken their own GTAAs or have undertaken them jointly with neighbouring authorities. Due to the changes in the definition in planning terms for Gypsies and Travellers, a number of councils across Warwickshire are currently updating their GTAAs.
- » Across the County Council's area there is an estimated need for 60-70 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 34-40 pitches in terms of transit provision. Little additional need has been evidenced for plots for Travelling Showpeople.
- » There are 4 public sites in the County Council's area:
- » Alvecote, North Warwickshire managed by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) – 17 pitches;
- » Griff Hollows site, Nuneaton managed by WCC – 23 pitches;
- » Pathlow site, Stratford managed by WCC – 30 pitches;
- » Woodside Site managed by Rugby Borough Council – number of pitches on request from Rugby Borough Council.
- » The majority of public sites are full and in the main meet the local need, but applications for pitches have been received from outside of the County Council's area e.g.

Leicestershire and Lancashire. There are no issues relating to overcrowding and some sites have vacancies; one site has a high turnover due to the site location which is close to a busy railway line.

- » There are a significant number of private Gypsy and Traveller sites and this will increase as there are a number of new private sites with planning permission which have yet to be developed. There is one Travelling Showpeople yard which may need to be expanded; this expansion is needed for equipment, not for accommodation.
- » It has been evidenced that there are Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who now live in bricks and mortar in the area. The County Council operates a Gypsy and Traveller Support Service to help those living in bricks and mortar and sites in the area.
- » The County Council is not a housing authority and therefore does not have to provide accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople. The district and borough councils handle planning applications for new sites; the County Council will be consulted when new sites are proposed in or near to the area it covers.
- » There are some unauthorised developments which are tolerated and sites with temporary planning permission across the County. These types of sites are dealt with by the borough and district councils.
- » There are significant numbers of short-term encampments across the area (141 encampments 2015/16) and they are regular occurrences. Encampments occur throughout the year and are more normally due to Travellers attending family events e.g. weddings and/or they are travelling through the area looking for opportunities to work.
- » The County Council has planning permission for 12 emergency stopping places in the North of the County which is currently being Judicially Reviewed and there is temporary planning for 12 pitches in the South of the County. The County Council is looking to gain permanent planning permission on the 12 pitches in the South of the district in the future.

With regard to the subject of cross border issues and the Duty to Cooperate, the views of the officer interviewed were as follows:

- » There are considered to be no significant cross-border issues between Warwickshire County Council's boundaries and neighbouring local authorities. However, it is hoped that by working in greater partnership, both within the County and with neighbouring authorities, the sharing of information/intelligence could be beneficial and improve services being provided.
- » There is a history of joint working across the area on the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- » The County Council attends meetings under the Duty to Cooperate with councils both inside and outside of its area.

Appendix G: Household Interview Questions

GTAA Questionnaire



INTERVIEWER: Good Morning/afternoon/evening. My name is < > from Opinion Research Services, working on behalf of < > Council.

The Council are undertaking a study of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs assessment in this area. This is needed to make sure that accommodation needs are properly assessed and to get a better understanding of the needs of the Travelling Community.

The Council need to try and speak with every Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople household in the area to make sure that the assessment of need is accurate.

Your household will not be identified and all the information collected will be anonymous and will only be used to help understand the needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households.

You do not have to answer all the questions but the more information you can provide the better the survey will be. The survey will take around 10-15 minutes to complete.

For each question, put a cross in the appropriate box like this . Mark only one box for each question unless otherwise instructed. If you mark the wrong box, fill in the box and cross the correct one.

A General Information

A1 Name of planning authority:
INTERVIEWER please write in

A2 Date/time of site visit(s):
INTERVIEWER please write in

A3 Name of interviewer:
INTERVIEWER please write in

A4 Address and pitch number:
INTERVIEWER please write in

A5 Type of accommodation:
INTERVIEWER please cross one box only

Council Private Unauthorised Bricks and Mortar

A6 Name of Family:
INTERVIEWER please write in

A7 Ethnicity of Family:
INTERVIEWER please cross one box only

Romany Gypsy Irish Traveller Scots Gypsy or Traveller Show Person
New Traveller English Traveller Welsh Gypsy Non-Traveller
Other (please specify)

A8 Number of units on the pitch:
INTERVIEWER please write in

Mobile homes Touring Caravans Day Rooms Other (please specify)

A9 How long have you lived here? If you have moved in the past 5 years, where did you move from? *INTERVIEWER: Please write in below*

Years	Months	If you have moved in the past 5 years, where did you move from?
-------	--------	---

A10 Did you live here out of your own choice or because there was no other option? If there was no other option, why? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only*

Choice No option If no option, why?

A11 Is this site suitable for your household? If so why and if not why not? (For example close to schools, work, healthcare, family and friends etc.) *INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only*

Yes No Reasons (please specify)

A12 How many separate families or unmarried adults live on this pitch? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

B Demographics

B1 Demographics — Household 1 *INTERVIEWER: Please write-in*

Person 1		Person 2		Person 3	
Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age

Complete additional forms for each household on pitch *INTERVIEWER: Please write-in*

Person 4		Person 5		Person 6		Person 7		Person 8	
Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age

C Accommodation Needs

C1 How many families or unmarried adults living on this pitch are in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Other Please specify

C2 How many of your children will need a home of their own in the next 5 years as a result of getting married or leaving home? If they live here now, will they want to stay on this site? If not, where would they wish to move? (e.g. other site, in bricks and mortar etc.) If they do not live on this site, would they want to move on this site or another local site if they could get a pitch? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Other Please specify

Details (Please specify)

D		Waiting List								
D1	Is anyone living here on the waiting list for a pitch in this area? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	Continue to D2						
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	Go to D4						
D2	How many people living here are on the waiting list for a pitch in this area? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Please specify)									
	Details (Please specify)									
D3	How long have they been on the waiting list? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-2 years	2+ years					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	Other (Please specify)									
	Details (Please specify)									
D4	If they are not on the waiting list, do any of the people living here want to be on the waiting list? If they do not want to be on the waiting list, why not? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please specify)							
	Details (Please specify)									
E		Future Accommodation Needs								
E1	Do you plan to move from this site in the next 5 years? If so, why? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	If yes →	Continue to E2						
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If no →	Go to F1						
				If so, why? (please specify)						
E2	Where would you move to? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	Another site in this area	A site in another council	Bricks and mortar in this area	Bricks and mortar in another council	Other (Please specify)					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	Please specify									
E3	If you want to move would you prefer to buy a private pitch or site, or rent a pitch on a public or private site? <i>INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only</i>									
	Private buy	Private rent	Public rent							
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							

E4 Can you afford to buy a private pitch or site? INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

Yes No

F Travelling

F1 How many trips, living in a caravan or trailer, have you or members of your family made away from your permanent base in the last 12 months? INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

0 1 2 3 4 5+

↓
Go to F6

Continue to F2

F2 If you or members of your family have travelled in the last 12 months, which family members travelled? INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

All the family Adult males Other

F3 What was the main reason for travelling? INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

Work Holidays Visiting family Fairs Other

F4 At what time of year do you or family members usually travel? And for how long? INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

All year Summer Winter

F5 Where do you or family members usually stay when they are travelling? INTERVIEWER: Please cross all boxes that apply

Transit sites Roadside Friends/family Other

F6 INTERVIEWER: Ask F6 — F8 ONLY if F1 = 0. Otherwise, go to F9

Have you or family members ever travelled? INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

Yes → Continue to F7
No → Go to F9

F7 When did you or family members stop travelling? INTERVIEWER: Please write in

F8 Why do you not travel anymore? INTERVIEWER: Cross all boxes that apply & probe for details

Children in school Ill health Old age Settled now Nowhere to stop No work opportunities Other

F9 Do family members plan to travel in the future?

INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

- Yes → Continue to F10
No → Go to G1

F10 When, and for what purpose do they plan to travel?

Details

G

Bricks & Mortar Contacts

G1 Contacts for Bricks and Mortar interviews? *INTERVIEWER: Please write in*

Details

G2 Any other information about this site or your accommodation needs?

INTERVIEWER: Please write in

Details (e.g. can current and future needs be met by expanding or intensifying the existing site?)

G3 Site/Pitch plan? Any concerns? *INTERVIEWER: Please sketch & write in*

Sketch of Site/Pitch — any concerns?

INTERVIEWER: May I also take your name, telephone number and address? ORS may wish to contact you to confirm that this interview took place. These details will only be used for this purpose and will not be passed onto anyone else.

Respondent's Name.....

Respondent's Telephone.....

Respondent's Email.....

INTERVIEWER: Thank you for your time and help completing this questionnaire

INTERVIEWERS DECLARATION:

I certify that I have conducted this interview personally with the person named above in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct

Interviewers Signature:

Appendix H: ORS Technical Note



Technical Note

Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates

August 26th 2015

Opinion Research Services
Spin-out company of Swansea University



As with all our studies, this research is subject to Opinion Research Services' Standard Terms and Conditions of Contract.

Any press release or publication of this research requires the advance approval of ORS. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy or misrepresentation.

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Household Growth Rates

Abstract and conclusions

1. National and local household formation and growth rates are important components of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments, but little detailed work has been done to assess their likely scale. Nonetheless, nationally, a net growth rate of 3% per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local assessments – even though there is actually no statistical evidence of households growing so quickly. The result has been to inflate both national and local requirements for additional pitches unrealistically.
2. Those seeking to provide evidence of high annual net household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers have sometimes sought to rely on increases in the number of caravans, as reflected in caravan counts. However, caravan count data are unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through demographic analysis (which, of course, is used to assess housing needs in the settled community).
3. The growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.25% per annum – a rate which is much less than the 3% per annum often assumed, but still at least four times greater than in the general population. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2% per annum nationally.
4. The often assumed 3% per annum net household growth rate is unrealistic and would require clear statistical evidence before being used for planning purposes. In practice, the best available evidence supports a national net household growth rate of 1.5% per annum for Gypsies and Travellers.
5. Some local authorities might perhaps allow for a household growth rate of up to 2.5% per annum, to provide a ‘margin’ if their populations are relatively youthful; but in areas where on-site surveys indicate that there are fewer children in the Gypsy and Traveller communities, the lower estimate of 1.5% per annum should be used for planning purposes.

Introduction

6. The rate of household growth is a key element in all housing assessments, including Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments. Compared with the general population, the relative youthfulness of many Gypsy and Traveller populations means that their birth rates are likely to generate higher-than-average population growth, and proportionately higher *gross* household formation rates. However, while their *gross* rate of household growth might be high, Gypsy and Traveller communities’ future accommodation needs are, in practice, affected by any reduction in the number of households due to dissolution and/or by movements in/out of the area and/or by transfers into other forms of housing. Therefore, the *net* rate of household growth is the *gross* rate of formation *minus* any reductions in households due to such factors. Of course, it is the *net* rate that is important in determining future accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers.

7. In this context, it is a matter of concern that many Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments have not distinguished *gross* and *net* growth rates nor provided evidence for their assumed rates of household increase. These deficiencies are particularly important because when assumed growth rates are unrealistically high, and then compounded over a number of planning years, they can yield exaggerated projections of accommodation needs and misdirect public policy. Nonetheless, assessments and guidance documents have assumed 'standard' *net* growth rates of about 3% without sufficiently recognising either the range of factors impacting on the *gross* household growth rates or the implications of unrealistic assumptions when projected forward on a compound basis year by year.
8. For example, in a study for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister ('Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller Sites in England', 2003), Pat Niner concluded that *net* growth rates as high as 2%-3% per annum should be assumed. Similarly, the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) (which continued to be quoted after their abolition was announced in 2010) used *net* growth rates of 3% per annum without providing any evidence to justify the figure (For example, 'Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the East of England: A Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England July 2009').
9. However, the guidance of the Department of Communities and Local Government ('Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments: Guidance', 2007) was much clearer in saying that:

The 3% family formation growth rate is used here as an example only. The appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local survey, information from agencies working directly with local Gypsy and Traveller communities, and trends identified from figures previously given for the caravan count. [In footnote 6, page 25]
10. The guidance emphasises that local information and trends should always be taken into account – because the *gross* rate of household growth is moderated by reductions in households through dissolution and/or by households moving into bricks and mortar housing or moving to other areas. In other words, even if 3% is plausible as a *gross* growth rate, it is subject to moderation through such reductions in households through dissolution or moves. It is the resulting *net* household growth rate that matters for planning purposes in assessing future accommodation needs.
11. The current guidance also recognises that assessments should use local evidence for *net* future household growth rates. A letter from the Minister for Communities and Local Government (Brandon Lewis MP), to Andrew Selous MP (placed in the House of Commons library on March 26th 2014) said:

I can confirm that the annual growth rate figure of 3% does not represent national planning policy.

The previous Administration's guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure. The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority's own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the 3% growth rate figure.'

12. Therefore, while there are many assessments where a national Gypsy and Traveller household growth rate of 3% per annum has been assumed (on the basis of 'standard' precedent and/or guidance), there is little to justify this position and it conflicts with current planning guidance. In this context, this document seeks to integrate available evidence about *net* household growth rates in order to provide a more robust basis for future assessments.

Compound growth

13. The assumed rate of household growth is crucially important for Gypsy and Traveller studies because for future planning purposes it is projected over time on a compound basis – so errors are progressively enlarged. For example, if an assumed 3% *net* growth rate is compounded each year then the implication is that the number of households will double in only 23.5 years; whereas if a *net* compound rate of 1.5% is used then the doubling of household numbers would take 46.5 years. The table below shows the impact of a range of compound growth rates.

Table 1
Compound Growth Rates and Time Taken for Number of Households to Double

Household Growth Rate per Annum	Time Taken for Household to Double
3.00%	23.5 years
2.75%	25.5 years
2.50%	28 years
2.25%	31 years
2.00%	35 years
1.75%	40 years
1.50%	46.5 years

14. The above analysis is vivid enough, but another illustration of how different rates of household growth impact on total numbers over time is shown in the table below – which uses a baseline of 100 households while applying different compound growth rates over time. After 5 years, the difference between a 1.5% growth rate and a 3% growth rate is only 8 households (116 minus 108); but with a 20-year projection the difference is 46 households (181 minus 135).

Table 2
Growth in Households Over time from a Baseline of 100 Households

Household Growth Rate per Annum	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	50 years	100 years
3.00%	116	134	156	181	438	1,922
2.75%	115	131	150	172	388	1,507
2.50%	113	128	145	164	344	1,181
2.25%	112	125	140	156	304	925
2.00%	110	122	135	149	269	724
1.75%	109	119	130	141	238	567
1.50%	108	116	125	135	211	443

15. In summary, the assumed rate of household growth is crucially important because any exaggerations are magnified when the rate is projected over time on a compound basis. As we have shown, when compounded and projected over the years, a 3% annual rate of household growth implies much larger future Gypsy and Traveller accommodation requirements than a 1.5% per annum rate.

Caravan counts

16. Those seeking to demonstrate national Gypsy and Traveller household growth rates of 3% or more per annum have, in some cases, relied on increases in the number of caravans (as reflected in caravan counts) as their evidence. For example, some planning agents have suggested using 5-year trends in the national caravan count as an indication of the general rate of Gypsy and Traveller household growth. For example, the count from July 2008 to July 2013 shows a growth of 19% in the number of caravans on-site – which is equivalent to an average annual compound growth rate of 3.5%. So, *if plausible*, this approach could justify using a 3% or higher annual household growth rate in projections of future needs.
17. However, caravan count data are unreliable and erratic. For example, the July 2013 caravan count was distorted by the inclusion of 1,000 caravans (5% of the total in England) recorded at a Christian event near Weston-Super-Mare in North Somerset. Not only was this only an estimated number, but there were no checks carried out to establish how many caravans were occupied by Gypsies and Travellers. Therefore, the resulting count overstates the Gypsy and Traveller population and also the rate of household growth.
18. ORS has applied the caravan-counting methodology hypothetically to calculate the implied national household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers over the last 15 years, and the outcomes are shown in the table below. The January 2013 count suggests an average annual growth rate of 1.6% over five years, while the July 2013 count gives an average 5-year rate of 3.5%; likewise a study benchmarked at January 2004 would yield a growth rate of 1%, while one benchmarked at January 2008 would imply a 5% rate of growth. Clearly any model as erratic as this is not appropriate for future planning.

Table 3
National CLG Caravan Count July 1998 to July 2014 with Growth Rates (Source: CLG)

Date	Number of caravans	5 year growth in caravans	Percentage growth over 5 years	Annual over last 5 years.
Jan 2015	20,123	1,735	9.54%	1.84%
July 2014	20,035	2,598	14.90%	2.81%
Jan 2014	19,503	1,638	9.17%	1.77%
July 2013	20,911	3,339	19.00%	3.54%
Jan 2013	19,359	1,515	8.49%	1.64%
Jul 2012	19,261	2,112	12.32%	2.35%
Jan 2012	18,746	2,135	12.85%	2.45%
Jul 2011	18,571	2,258	13.84%	2.63%
Jan 2011	18,383	2,637	16.75%	3.15%
Jul 2010	18,134	2,271	14.32%	2.71%
Jan 2010	18,370	3,001	19.53%	3.63%
Jul 2009	17,437	2,318	15.33%	2.89%
Jan 2009	17,865	3,503	24.39%	4.46%
Jul 2008	17,572	2,872	19.54%	3.63%
Jan 2008	17,844	3,895	27.92%	5.05%

Jul 2007	17,149	2,948	20.76%	3.84%
Jan 2007	16,611	2,893	21.09%	3.90%
Jul 2006	16,313	2,511	18.19%	3.40%
Jan 2006	15,746	2,352	17.56%	3.29%
Jul 2005	15,863	2,098	15.24%	2.88%
Jan 2005	15,369	1,970	14.70%	2.78%
Jul 2004	15,119	2,110	16.22%	3.05%
Jan 2004	14,362	817	6.03%	1.18%
Jul 2003	14,700			
Jan 2003	13,949			
Jul 2002	14,201			
Jan 2002	13,718			
Jul 2001	13,802			
Jan 2001	13,394			
Jul 2000	13,765			
Jan 2000	13,399			
Jan 1999	13,009			
Jul 1998	13,545			

19. The annual rate of growth in the number of caravans varies from slightly over 1% to just over 5% per annum. We would note that if longer time periods are used the figures do become more stable. Over the 36 year period 1979 (the start of the caravan counts) to 2015 the compound growth rate in caravan numbers has been 2.5% per annum.
20. However, there is no reason to assume that these widely varying rates correspond with similar rates of increase in the household population. In fact, the highest rates of caravan growth occurred between 2006 and 2009, when the first wave of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments were being undertaken – so it seems plausible that the assessments prompted the inclusion of additional sites and caravans (which may have been there, but not counted previously). Counting caravan numbers is very poor proxy for Gypsy and Traveller household growth. Caravans counted are not always occupied by Gypsy and Traveller families and numbers of caravans held by families may increase generally as affluence and economic conditions improve, (but without a growth in households)
21. There is no reason to believe that the varying rates of increase in the number of caravans are matched by similar growth rates in the household population. The caravan count is not an appropriate planning guide and the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through demographic analysis – which should consider both population and household growth rates. This approach is not appropriate to needs studies for the following reasons:

Modelling population growth

Introduction

22. The basic equation for calculating the rate of Gypsy and Traveller population growth seems simple: start with the base population and then calculate the average increase/decrease by allowing for births, deaths and in-/out-migration. Nevertheless, deriving satisfactory estimates is difficult because the evidence is often tenuous – so, in this context, ORS has modelled the growth of the national Gypsy and Traveller population based on the most likely birth and death rates, and by using PopGroup (the leading software for

population and household forecasting). To do so, we have supplemented the available national statistical sources with data derived locally (from our own surveys) and in some cases from international research. None of the supplementary data are beyond question, and none will stand alone; but, when taken together they have cumulative force. In any case the approach we adopt is more critically self-aware than simply adopting 'standard' rates on the basis of precedent.

Migration effects

23. Population growth is affected by national net migration and local migration (as Gypsies and Travellers move from one area to another). In terms of national migration, the population of Gypsies and Travellers is relatively fixed, with little international migration. It is in principle possible for Irish Travellers (based in Ireland) to move to the UK, but there is no evidence of this happening to a significant extent and the vast majority of Irish Travellers were born in the UK or are long-term residents. In relation to local migration effects, Gypsies and Travellers can and do move between local authorities – but in each case the in-migration to one area is matched by an out-migration from another area. Since it is difficult to estimate the net effect of such movements over local plan periods, ORS normally assumes that there will be nil net migration to/from an area. Nonetheless, where it is possible to estimate specific in-/out- migration effects, we take account of them, while distinguishing between migration and household formation effects.

Population profile

24. The main source for the rate of Gypsy and Traveller population growth is the UK 2011 Census. In some cases the data can be supplemented by ORS's own household survey data which is derived from more than 2,000 face-to-face interviews with Gypsies and Travellers since 2012. The ethnicity question in the 2011 census included for the first time 'Gypsy and Irish Traveller' as a specific category. While non-response bias probably means that the size of the population was underestimated, the age profile the census provides is not necessarily distorted and matches the profile derived from ORS's extensive household surveys.
25. The age profile is important, as the table below (derived from census data) shows. Even assuming zero deaths in the population, achieving an annual population growth of 3% (that is, doubling in size every 23.5 years) would require half of the "year one" population to be aged under 23.5 years. When deaths are accounted for (at a rate of 0.5% per annum), to achieve the same rate of growth, a population of Gypsies and Travellers would need about half its members to be aged under 16 years. In fact, though, the 2011 census shows that the midway age point for the national Gypsy and Traveller population is 26 years – so the population could not possibly double in 23.5 years.

Table 4

Age Profile for the Gypsy and Traveller Community in England (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Age Group	Number of People	Cumulative Percentage
Age 0 to 4	5,725	10.4
Age 5 to 7	3,219	16.3
Age 8 to 9	2,006	19.9
Age 10 to 14	5,431	29.8
Age 15	1,089	31.8
Age 16 to 17	2,145	35.7
Age 18 to 19	1,750	38.9

Age 20 to 24	4,464	47.1
Age 25 to 29	4,189	54.7
Age 30 to 34	3,833	61.7
Age 35 to 39	3,779	68.5
Age 40 to 44	3,828	75.5
Age 45 to 49	3,547	82.0
Age 50 to 54	2,811	87.1
Age 55 to 59	2,074	90.9
Age 60 to 64	1,758	94.1
Age 65 to 69	1,215	96.3
Age 70 to 74	905	97.9
Age 75 to 79	594	99.0
Age 80 to 84	303	99.6
Age 85 and over	230	100.0

Birth and fertility rates

26. The table above provides a way of understanding the rate of population growth through births. The table shows that surviving children aged 0-4 years comprise 10.4% of the Gypsy and Traveller population – which means that, on average, 2.1% of the total population was born each year (over the last 5 years). The same estimate is confirmed if we consider that those aged 0-14 comprise 29.8% of the Gypsy and Traveller population – which also means that almost exactly 2% of the population was born each year. (Deaths during infancy will have minimal impact within the early age groups, so the data provides the best basis for estimating of the birth rate for the Gypsy and Traveller population.)
27. The total fertility rate (TFR) for the whole UK population is just below 2 – which means that on average each woman can be expected to have just less than two children who reach adulthood. We know of only one estimate of the fertility rates of the UK Gypsy and Traveller community. This is contained in the book, ‘Ethnic identity and inequalities in Britain: The dynamics of diversity’ by Dr Stephen Jivraj and Professor Ludi Simpson published in May 2015. This draws on the 2011 Census data and provides an estimated total fertility rate of 2.75 for the Gypsy and traveller community
28. ORS’s have been able to examine our own survey data to investigate the fertility rate of Gypsy and Traveller women. The ORS data shows that, on average, Gypsy and Traveller women aged 32 years have 2.5 children (but, because the children of mothers above this age point tend to leave home progressively, full TFRs were not completed). On this basis it is reasonable to assume an average of three children per woman during her lifetime which would be consistent with the evidence from the 2011 Census of a figure of around 2.75 children per woman. In any case, the TFR for women aged 24 years is 1.5 children, which is significantly short of the number needed to double the population in 23.5 years – and therefore certainly implies a net growth rate of less than 3% per annum.

Death rates

29. Although the above data imply an annual growth rate through births of about 2%, the death rate has also to be taken into account – which means that the *net* population growth cannot conceivably achieve 2% per

annum. In England and Wales there are nearly half-a-million deaths each year – about 0.85% of the total population of 56.1 million in 2011. If this death rate is applied to the Gypsy and Traveller community then the resulting projected growth rate is in the region of 1.15%-1.25% per annum.

30. However, the Gypsy and Traveller population is significantly younger than average and may be expected to have a lower percentage death rate overall (even though a smaller than average proportion of the population lives beyond 68 to 70 years). While there can be no certainty, an assumed death rate of around 0.5% to 0.6% per annum would imply a net population growth rate of around 1.5% per annum.
31. Even though the population is younger and has a lower death rate than average, Gypsies and Travellers are less likely than average to live beyond 68 to 70 years. Whereas the average life expectancy across the whole population of the UK is currently just over 80 years, a Sheffield University study found that Gypsy and Traveller life expectancy is about 10-12 years less than average (Parry et al (2004) 'The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers: Report of Department of Health Inequalities in Health Research Initiative', University of Sheffield). Therefore, in our population growth modelling we have used a conservative estimate of average life expectancy as 72 years – which is entirely consistent with the lower-than-average number of Gypsies and Travellers aged over 70 years in the 2011 census (and also in ORS's own survey data). On the basis of the Sheffield study, we could have supposed a life expectancy of only 68, but we have been cautious in our approach.

Modelling outputs

32. If we assume a TFR of 3 and an average life expectancy of 72 years for Gypsies and Travellers, then the modelling projects the population to increase by 66% over the next 40 years – implying a population compound growth rate of 1.25% per annum (well below the 3% per annum often assumed). If we assume that Gypsy and Traveller life expectancy increases to 77 years by 2050, then the projected population growth rate rises to nearly 1.5% per annum. To generate an 'upper range' rate of population growth, we have assumed a TFR of 4 and an average life expectancy rising to 77 over the next 40 years – which then yields an 'upper range' growth rate of 1.9% per annum. We should note, though, that national TFR rates of 4 are currently found only in sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan, so it is an implausible assumption.
33. There are indications that these modelling outputs are well founded. For example, in the ONS's 2012-based Sub-National Population Projections the projected population growth rate for England to 2037 is 0.6% per annum, of which 60% is due to natural change and 40% due to migration. Therefore, the natural population growth rate for England is almost exactly 0.35% per annum – meaning that our estimate of the Gypsy and Traveller population growth rate is four times greater than that of the general population of England.
34. The ORS Gypsy and Traveller findings are also supported by data for comparable populations around the world. As noted, on the basis of sophisticated analysis, Hungary is planning for its Roma population to grow at around 2.0% per annum, but the underlying demographic growth is typically closer to 1.5% per annum. The World Bank estimates that the populations of Bolivia, Cambodia, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines and Venezuela (countries with high birth rates and improving life expectancy) all show population growth rates of around 1.7% per annum. Therefore, in the context of national data, ORS's modelling and plausible international comparisons, it is implausible to assume a net 3% annual growth rate for the Gypsy and Traveller population.

Household growth

35. In addition to population growth influencing the number of households, the size of households also affects the number. Hence, population and household growth rates do not necessarily match directly, mainly due to the current tendency for people to live in smaller (childless or single person) households (including, of course, older people (following divorce or as surviving partners)). Based on such factors, the CLG 2012-based projections convert current population data to a projected household growth rate of 0.85% per annum (compared with a population growth rate of 0.6% per annum).
36. Because the Gypsy and Traveller population is relatively young and has many single parent households, a 1.5% annual population growth could yield higher-than-average household growth rates, particularly if average household sizes fall or if younger-than-average households form. However, while there is evidence that Gypsy and Traveller households already form at an earlier age than in the general population, the scope for a more rapid rate of growth, through even earlier household formation, is limited.
37. Based on the 2011 census, the table below compares the age of household representatives in English households with those in Gypsy and Traveller households – showing that the latter has many more household representatives aged under-25 years. In the general English population 3.6% of household representatives are aged 16-24, compared with 8.7% in the Gypsy and Traveller population. Because the census includes both housed and on-site Gypsies and Travellers without differentiation, it is not possible to know if there are different formation rates on sites and in housing. However, ORS's survey data (for sites in areas such as Central Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Essex, Gloucestershire and a number of authorities in Hertfordshire) shows that about 10% of Gypsy and Traveller households have household representatives aged under-25 years.

Table 5

Age of Head of Household (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Age of household representative	All households in England		Gypsy and Traveller households in England	
	Number of households	Percentage of households	Number of households	Percentage of households
Age 24 and under	790,974	3.6%	1,698	8.7%
Age 25 to 34	3,158,258	14.3%	4,232	21.7%
Age 35 to 49	6,563,651	29.7%	6,899	35.5%
Age 50 to 64	5,828,761	26.4%	4,310	22.2%
Age 65 to 74	2,764,474	12.5%	1,473	7.6%
Age 75 to 84	2,097,807	9.5%	682	3.5%
Age 85 and over	859,443	3.9%	164	0.8%
Total	22,063,368	100%	19,458	100%

38. The following table shows that the proportion of single person Gypsy and Traveller households is not dissimilar to the wider population of England; but there are more lone parents, fewer couples without children, and fewer households with non-dependent children amongst Gypsies and Travellers. This data suggest that Gypsy and Traveller households form at an earlier age than the general population.

Table 6
Household Type (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Household Type	All households in England		Gypsy and Traveller households in England	
	Number of households	Percentage of households	Number of households	Percentage of households
Single person	6,666,493	30.3%	5,741	29.5%
Couple with no children	5,681,847	25.7%	2345	12.1%
Couple with dependent children	4,266,670	19.3%	3683	18.9%
Couple with non-dependent children	1,342,841	6.1%	822	4.2%
Lone parent: Dependent children	1,573,255	7.1%	3,949	20.3%
Lone parent: All children non-dependent	766,569	3.5%	795	4.1%
Other households	1,765,693	8.0%	2,123	10.9%
Total	22,063,368	100%	19,458	100%

39. ORS's own site survey data is broadly compatible with the data above. We have found that: around 50% of pitches have dependent children compared with 45% in the census; there is a high proportion of lone parents; and about a fifth of Gypsy and Traveller households appear to be single person households. One possible explanation for the census finding a higher proportion of single person households than the ORS surveys is that many older households are living in bricks and mortar housing (perhaps for health-related reasons).
40. ORS's on-site surveys have also found more female than male residents. It is possible that some single person households were men linked to lone parent females and unwilling to take part in the surveys. A further possible factor is that at any time about 10% of the male Gypsy and Traveller population is in prison – an inference drawn from the fact that about 5% of the male prison population identify themselves as Gypsies and Travellers ('People in Prison: Gypsies, Romany and Travellers', Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons, February 2004) – which implies that around 4,000 Gypsies and Travellers are in prison. Given that almost all of the 4,000 people are male and that there are around 200,000 Gypsies and Travellers in total, this equates to about 4% of the total male population, but closer to 10% of the adult male population.
41. The key point, though, is that since 20% of Gypsy and Traveller households are lone parents, and up to 30% are single persons, there is limited potential for further reductions in average household size to increase current household formation rates significantly – and there is no reason to think that earlier household formations or increasing divorce rates will in the medium term affect household formation rates. While there are differences with the general population, a 1.5% per annum Gypsy and Traveller population

growth rate is likely to lead to a household growth rate of 1.5% per annum – more than the 0.85% for the English population as a whole, but much less than the often assumed 3% rate for Gypsies and Travellers.

Household dissolution rates

42. Finally, consideration of household dissolution rates also suggests that the net household growth rate for Gypsies and Travellers is very unlikely to reach 3% per annum (as often assumed). The table below, derived from ORS's mainstream strategic housing market assessments, shows that generally household dissolution rates are between 1.0% and 1.7% per annum. London is different because people tend to move out upon retirement, rather than remaining in London until death. To adopt a 1.0% dissolution rate as a standard guide nationally would be too low, because it means that average households will live for 70 years after formation. A 1.5% dissolution rate would be a more plausible as a national guide, implying that average households live for 47 years after formation.

Table 7
Annual Dissolution Rates (Source: SHMAs undertaken by ORS)

Area	Annual projected household dissolution	Number of households	Percentage
Greater London	25,000	3,266,173	0.77%
Blaenau Gwent	468.2	30,416	1.54%
Bradford	3,355	199,296	1.68%
Ceredigion	348	31,562	1.10%
Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon, Teignbridge and Torbay	4,318	254,084	1.70%
Neath Port Talbot	1,352	57,609	2.34%
Norwich, South Norfolk and Broadland	1,626	166,464	0.98%
Suffolk Coastal	633	53,558	1.18%
Monmouthshire Newport Torfaen	1,420	137,929	1.03%

43. The 1.5% dissolution rate is important because the death rate is a key factor in moderating the *gross* household growth rate. Significantly, applying a 1.5% dissolution rate to a 3% *gross* household growth formation rate yields a *net* rate of 1.5% per annum – which ORS considers is a realistic figure for the Gypsy and Traveller population and which is in line with other demographic information. After all, based on the dissolution rate, a *net* household formation rate of 3% per annum would require a 4.5% per annum *gross* formation rate (which in turn would require extremely unrealistic assumptions about birth rates).

Summary conclusions

44. Future Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs have typically been over-estimated because population and household growth rates have been projected on the basis of assumed 3% per annum net growth rates.
45. Unreliable caravan counts have been used to support the supposed growth rate, but there is no reason to suppose that the rate of increase in caravans corresponds to the annual growth of the Gypsy and Traveller population or households.

46. The growth of the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.25% per annum – which is still four times greater than in the settled community. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that the net national Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth is above 2% per annum nationally. The often assumed 3% net household growth rate per annum for Gypsies and Travellers is unrealistic.
47. The best available evidence suggests that the net annual Gypsy and Traveller household growth rate is 1.5% per annum. The often assumed 3% per annum net rate is unrealistic. Some local authorities might allow for a household growth rate of up to 2.5% per annum, to provide a ‘margin’ if their populations are relatively youthful; but in areas where on-site surveys indicate that there are fewer children in the Gypsy and Traveller population, the lower estimate of 1.5% per annum should be used.