



Sefton Council



Sefton Council
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation
Assessment (GTAA)

Final Report
October 2022



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1. Executive Summary

Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 The primary objective of this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation for Sefton Council (the Council).
- 1.2 As well as updating previous GTAAs, the GTAA provides a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of Local Plan Policies and, where appropriate, the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the period 2021 to 2041, to meet the 15-year requirements set out in the Government’s Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), and the Council’s Local Plan review period. The outcomes of this study supersede the outcomes of any previous GTAAs for Sefton Council.
- 1.3 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Sefton through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews and engagement with members of the travelling community living on all known sites, yards, and encampments. A total of 35 interviews or proxy interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers living on sites in Sefton – there were no Travelling Showpeople identified living in Sefton. A total of 7 stakeholder interviews were also completed.
- 1.4 The fieldwork for the study was completed between August 2021 and November 2021, and the baseline date for the study is November 2021.

Key Findings

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.5 Overall, the pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers for the period 2021-2041 are set out below. Needs are set out for those households that met the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller; for any undetermined households¹ where an interview was not able to be completed due to households not being present despite up to three visits to each site who may meet the planning definition; and for those households that did not meet the planning definition – although this is no longer a requirement for a GTAA.
- 1.6 Only the need from those households who met the planning definition and from those of the undetermined households who subsequently demonstrate that they meet it should be formally considered as need arising from the GTAA. The need arising from households that meet the planning definition should be addressed through site allocation/intensification/expansion through Local Plan Policies, as appropriate.
- 1.7 The Council will need to carefully consider how to address any need associated with undetermined households, from potential windfall sites, and potential need from bricks and

¹See Paragraph 3.28 for further information on undetermined households.

mortar. In terms of Local Plan Policies, the Council should continue to use the existing Criteria-Based Policies in their adopted Local Plan (as suggested in PPTS) for any undetermined households, as well as to deal with any windfall applications.

- 1.8 In general terms, the need for those households who did not meet the planning definition should be addressed as part of general housing need and through separate Local Plan Policies. This approach is specifically referenced in the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF). Paragraph 61 of the NPPF sets out that in determining the minimum number of homes needed, strategic plans should be based upon a local housing need assessment conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. Paragraph 62 then states that [emphasis added] *‘Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, **travellers**, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes’*. The footnote to this section states that *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document.’*
- 1.9 It is recognised that the Council have a Local Plan that was adopted in April 2017. The findings of this report should therefore be considered as part of future housing mix and type within the context of the assessment of overall housing need in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.10 There were 23 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Sefton that met the planning definition; 2 undetermined households that may meet the planning definition; and 19 households that did not meet the planning definition.
- 1.11 There is a need for **22 pitches for households that meet the planning definition**. This is made up of 3 concealed or doubled-up households or single adults; 9 teenagers who will need a pitch of their own in the next 5 years; and 10 from new household formation, using a rate of 1.75% derived from the household demographics².
- 1.12 There is a need for **3 pitches for undetermined households**. This is made up of 2 unauthorised pitches³ and 1 pitch from new household formation, using the ORS national formation rate of 1.50%.
- 1.13 Whilst not now a requirement to include in a GTAA, there is a need for **13 pitches for households that did not meet the planning definition**. This is made up of 4 concealed or doubled-up households or single adults; 4 teenagers in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years; and 5 from new household formation, derived from the household demographics.
- 1.14 It should also be noted that there are 7 pitches on a private site that the owner has indicated would be made available to meet need from family members living on a public site. If confirmed, these will reduce the current need from households that met the planning definition by 5 to 17 pitches and will reduce the current need from households that did not meet the planning definition by 2 to 11 pitches.

² See Chapter 7 for further information on new household formation.

³ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

- 1.15 The Council also have an allocation in their Local Plan (HC5.2) for 3 pitches at Land south west of Red Rose Caravan Park, and an allocation (HC5.1) for 8 pitches at Land north east of Red Rose Caravan Park. Both sites do not currently have planning permission. If granted planning permission and developed these sites could also contribute towards meeting local need in Sefton.
- 1.16 Figure 1 summarises the identified need and Figure 2 breaks this down by 5-year periods.

Figure 1 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton (2021-41)

Status	2021-2041
Meet Planning Definition	22
Undetermined	3
Do not meet Planning Definition	13

Figure 2 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that met the Planning Definition by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	12	3	4	3	22

Figure 3 – Need for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	2	0	1	0	3

Figure 4 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that did not meet the Planning Definition by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	8	1	3	1	13

Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

- 1.17 There are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Sefton and there is no current or future identified need for plots.

Transit Recommendations

- 1.18 The Sefton Local Plan site allocation (HC5.3) for 6 public transit pitches at 'Land at New Causeway, Ince Blundell' does not currently have planning permission and has not yet been implemented.
- 1.19 Due to low numbers of unauthorised encampments, and an undeveloped transit site at New Causeway, that is allocated in the Local Plan, it is not recommended that there is a need for any additional transit provision in Sefton at this time.
- 1.20 The situation relating to levels of unauthorised encampments should continue to be monitored. As well as information on the size and duration of the encampments, this monitoring should also seek to gather information from residents on the reasons for their stay in the local area; whether they have a permanent base or where they have travelled from; and whether they have any need or preference to settle permanently in the local area. This information could be collected as part of a Welfare Assessment (or similar).
- 1.21 It is recommended that a review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments, including the monitoring referred to above, should be undertaken on a Sefton-wide basis. This

will establish whether there is a need for investment in any further transit provision or emergency stopping places, or whether a managed approach is preferable.

- 1.22 In the short-term the Council should continue to use its current approach when dealing with unauthorised encampments and management-based approaches such as negotiated stopping agreements could also be considered.
- 1.23 The term ‘negotiated stopping’ is used to describe agreed short-term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not describe permanent ‘built’ transit sites but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the Council and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides. See www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk for further information.
- 1.24 Temporary stopping places can be 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.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The primary objective of this 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 Sefton. The outcomes of the study will supersede the outcomes of the previous Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments completed in Sefton.
- 2.2 The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 1985, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015, the Housing and Planning Act (2016), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, and online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).
- 2.3 The GTAA provides a robust assessment of need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the study area. It is a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of the Council's Local Plan Policies and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots covering the period 2021 to 2041 to meet the 15-year requirements of the PPTS, and the any future review of the Local Plan. As well as identifying current and future permanent accommodation needs, it also seeks to identify 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 (and Travelling Showpeople) Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA).
- 2.5 The baseline date for the study is November 2021, which was when the household interviews were completed.

Definitions

- 2.6 The 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).

The Planning Definition in PPTS (2015)

- 2.7 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 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)

- 2.8 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 no longer falls under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing accommodation need in a GTAA.

Definition of Travelling

- 2.9 One of the most important questions that GTAA’s 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’.
- 2.10 **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.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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*.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.

- 2.15 **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.
- 2.16 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, or for seeking work, 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 holidays and visiting friends or relatives. It will not cover those who commute to work daily from a permanent place of residence (see APP/E2205/C/15/3137477).
- 2.17 It may also be that within a household some family members travel for nomadic purposes on a regular basis, but other family members stay at home to look after children in education, or other dependents with health problems etc. In these circumstances the household unit would be defined as travelling under the planning definition.
- 2.18 Households will also fall under the planning definition if they can demonstrate that they have ceased to travel temporarily as a result of their own or their family's or dependants' educational, health needs or old age. In order to have ceased to travel temporarily these households will need to demonstrate that they have travelled for work in the past. In addition, households will also have to demonstrate that they plan to travel again for work in the future.
- 2.19 This approach was endorsed by a Planning Inspector in Decision Notice for an appeal in East Hertfordshire (Appeal Ref: APP/J1915/W/16/3145267) that was issued in December 2016. 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.

- 2.20 This was further reinforced in a more recent Decision Notice for an appeal in Norfolk that was issued in February 2018 (Ref: APP/V2635/W/17/3180533) that stated:

As discussed during the hearing, although the PPTS does not spell this [the planning definition] out, it has been established in case law (R v South Hams DC 1994) that the nomadism must have an economic purpose. In other words, gypsies and travellers wander or travel for the purposes of making or seeking their livelihood.

Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

- 2.21 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 Act, 1985
- » Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), 2015
- » The Housing and Planning Act, 2016
- » National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021
- » Planning Practice Guidance⁴ (PPG)

- 2.22 In addition, Case Law, Ministerial Statements, the outcomes of Local Plan Examinations and Planning Appeals, and Judicial Reviews need to be taken into consideration. Relevant examples have been included in this report.

- 2.23 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.

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015

- 2.24 PPTS (2015), sets out the direction of Government policy. As well as introducing 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.*

⁴ With particular reference to the sections on *Housing needs of different groups* (May 2021).

- » *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.*

2.25 In practice, the document states that (PPTS Paragraph 9):

- » *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.*

2.26 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.*

2.27 Local Authorities now have a duty to ensure a 5-year land supply to meet the identified needs for Traveller sites. However, PPTS 2015 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.*

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

- 2.28 The most recent version of the National Planning Policy Framework was issued in July 2021. Paragraph 61 of the NPPF sets out that in determining the minimum number of homes needed, strategic plans should be based upon a local housing need assessment conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance.
- 2.29 Paragraph 62 then states that [emphasis added] *‘Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, **travellers**, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes’*. The footnote to this section states that *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document.’*
- 2.30 This essentially sets out that the needs of households that meet the planning definition should be assessed under the PPTS and that the needs of households that are not found to meet the planning definition should be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of an area.
- 2.31 In an Appeal Decision that was published in March 2020 for an appeal in Central Bedfordshire (APP/P0240/C/18/3213822) the Inspector concluded in relation to the then Paragraph 61 of the NPPF (now paragraph 62) that:

It seems to me that this wording makes clear that it is only those meeting that definition that should be included in an assessment of need for ‘planning definition’ travellers and that gypsies who have ceased travelling should be counted and provided for elsewhere and this is the approach proposed in the emerging LP. This does not, of course mean that these gypsies should be allocated ‘bricks and mortar’ type housing. They will also need a suitable supply of caravan sites to meet their needs.

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill (2022)

- 2.32 Among other things, this Bill seeks to make provision about town and country planning. Whilst there is currently no specific reference to changes to policy and guidance for Gypsies and Travellers, the Council may need to consider the outcomes of any changes to planning legislation that may impact on the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Lisa Smith v The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government [2021]

- 2.33 In June 2021 Mr Justice Pepperall handed down judgment in *Lisa Smith v The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and others* [2021]. The case concerned whether the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers contained in Annex 1 of the PPTS (2015) is discriminatory against Travellers who are settled and who no longer travel for work. Mr Justice Pepperall dismissed the claim and found the PPTS planning definition to be lawful. The outcomes of this judgement have been taken to the Court of Appeal and a further judgement is expected later in 2022.

- 2.34 This further supports Paragraphs 61 and 62 of the NPPF that requires a separate assessment of need for Travellers who do not meet the PPTS planning definition, and that this need should be addressed through the Local Plan, potentially through separate Local Plan policies to the Gypsy and Traveller Policy.

3. Methodology

Background

- 3.1 Over the past 10 years, Opinion Research Services (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 changes to PPTS in August 2015, the Housing and Planning Act (2016), the NPPF (2021), and online PPG. It has also responded 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.
- 3.3 ORS would note that since the changes to the PPTS in August 2015 the ORS GTAA methodology has been repeatedly found to be sound and robust, including through Local Plan Examinations in Bedford, Cambridge, Castle Point, Central Bedfordshire, Cheltenham, Cotswold, Daventry, East Hertfordshire, Gloucester, Maldon, Milton Keynes, Newham, Runnymede, South Cambridgeshire, South Northamptonshire, Tewkesbury, and Waverley.
- 3.4 The Inspector for the Sefton Local Plan also found the evidence base in relation to Gypsies and Travellers to be sound in his Inspection Report that was issued in March 2017. He concluded:
- 'The need for gypsy and traveller accommodation is identified in a recent subregional needs assessment, which appears robust, and policy HC5 proposes to meet in full the small unmet need. The extensions to the established Council-run site at Formby would have minimal impact on the Green Belt or other constraints. The two small new sites are not well contained but, with suitable boundary treatment, the harm to the Green Belt and landscape would be modest and the loss of high-quality agricultural land would be limited. Having regard to the identified need, the sustainability objectives of the Plan, the absence of overriding constraints and no evidence of better alternative sites, these allocations satisfy the exceptional circumstances test of national policy.'*
- 3.5 A recent Appeal Decision for a Hearing in Central Bedfordshire (APP/P0240/C/18/3213822) that was issued in March 2020 concluded:
- '...whilst there have been some queries in previous appeal decisions over the conclusions of other GTAAs produced by ORS, the methodology, which takes into account the revisions made in 2015 to the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), has nevertheless been accepted by Inspectors in a considerable number of Local Plan Examinations.'*

- 3.6 The Inspector for the East Herts District Plan also found the evidence base in relation to Gypsies and Travellers to be sound in her Inspection Report that was issued in July 2018. She concluded:

'The need of the travelling community has been carefully and robustly assessed and locations to meet identified needs have been allocated for the plan period. Policy HOU9 sets out the need for 5 permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers... the approach to the provision of housing is comprehensive, positively prepared, appropriate to the needs of the area and consistent with national policy.'

- 3.7 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.

Glossary of Terms/Acronyms

- 3.8 A Glossary of Terms/Acronyms can be found in **Appendix A**.

Desk-Based Review

- 3.9 ORS collated a range of secondary data that was used to support the study. This included:

- » Census data.
- » Traveller Caravan Count data.
- » Records of unauthorised sites/encampments.
- » Information on planning applications/appeals.
- » Information on enforcement actions.
- » Existing Needs Assessments and other relevant local studies.
- » Existing national and local policy, guidance, and best practice.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.10 Engagement was undertaken with key Council Officers from Sefton through telephone interviews. A total of 3 interviews were completed with Council Officers from the study area.

Working Collaboratively with Neighbouring Planning Authorities

- 3.11 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. Officers from Liverpool were contacted but did not participate. Again, a detailed topic guide was agreed with the Council.

- » Knowsley.
- » St Helens.
- » West Lancashire.
- » Wirral.

Survey of Travelling Communities

- 3.12 As a result of travel and social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19 a 2-stage methodology was used to complete the site and yard fieldwork.
- 3.13 Through the desk-based research and the stakeholder interviews, ORS sought to identify all authorised, unauthorised sites/yards and encampments and other sites in the study area and attempted to complete an interview with the residents on all occupied pitches and plots. In order to gather the robust information needed to assess households against the planning definition of a Traveller, up to 3 attempts were made to interview households where it was not initially possible to conduct an interview because they were not available at the time.
- 3.14 Our experience suggests that an attempt to interview households on all pitches is more robust. A sample-based approach often leads to an under-estimate of need – and is an approach which is regularly challenged by the Planning Inspectorate and at Planning Appeals.
- 3.15 ORS worked closely with the Council to ensure that the interviews would collect all the necessary information to support the study. The site interview questions that were used (see **Appendix E**) have been updated to take account of past changes to PPTS and to collect the information ORS feel is necessary to apply the planning definition. All interviews were completed by members of our dedicated team of experienced Researchers who work on our GTAA studies across England and Wales. Researchers attempted to conduct 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. Researchers 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.
- 3.16 Researchers 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.
- 3.17 Where it was not possible to undertake an interview, Researchers sought to capture as much information as possible about each pitch through a proxy interview from sources including neighbouring residents and site management (if present).

Stage 1 – Telephone Interviews (August-September 2021)

- 3.18 The first phase of the fieldwork involved Researchers from ORS attempting to complete interviews over the telephone with residents living on sites and yards. This is an approach that ORS have followed in all of our GTAAs that have been completed since the COVID-19 restrictions were introduced. Contact details were sought through local stakeholders including site owners; by contacting Planning Agents known to operate in the local area; and by sending letters to residents asking them to contact ORS to complete an interview – including follow-up letters. The wording of the letter that ORS currently used has been agreed with members of the Travelling Community and asks households to call ORS Researchers to complete an interview over the telephone. During interviews ORS Researchers also ask households if they have family or friends living on sites in the area and ask them to pass on our contact details and to encourage them to call us.

Stage 2 – Social Distanced Engagement (October-November 2021)

- 3.19 When the initial phase of telephone interviews had been completed, ORS sought to complete social distanced engagement with households on sites where it had not been possible to complete interviews over the telephone. ORS completed a detailed COVID-19 Risk Assessment that allowed for limited fieldwork activities to resume in some parts of England. At the time of this study this allowed socially-distanced visits to sites to complete household interviews.

Engagement with Bricks and Mortar Households

- 3.20 The 2011 Census recorded just 10 households that identified as either Gypsies or Irish Travellers who lived in a house or bungalow Sefton, and just 8 who lived in a flat or maisonette.
- 3.21 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; information from housing registers; and other local knowledge from stakeholders. Through this approach the GTAA endeavoured to do everything to give households living in bricks and mortar the opportunity to make their views known.
- 3.22 As a rule, ORS do not make any assumptions on the overall needs from household in bricks and mortar based on the outcomes of any interviews that are completed, 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. ORS work on the assumption that all those wishing to move will make their views known to us based on the wide range of publicity put in place.

Timing of the Fieldwork

- 3.23 ORS are fully aware of the transient nature of many travelling communities and subsequent seasonal variations in site and yard occupancy. ORS would normally aim to complete fieldwork during the non-travelling season, and also avoid days of known local or national events. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the fieldwork was completed between August and November 2021 and Researchers were able to collect information on the residents on all occupied sites.

Applying the Planning Definition

- 3.24 The primary change to PPTS (2015) in relation to the assessment of need was the change to 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. Since the PPTS was issued in 2015, a number of relevant appeal decisions have been issued by the Planning Inspectorate on how the planning definition should be applied (see Paragraphs 2.20 and 2.21 for examples) – these support the view that households need to be able to demonstrate that they travel for work purposes, or for seeking work, 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.
- 3.25 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.

3.26 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 work purposes, or for seeking work, 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. This included information on the type of work that is undertaken; which family members travelled for work; the times of year that family members travel for work; the duration of trips for work; and where family members stay when travelling away from home for work.

3.27 Households that need to be considered in the GTAA fall under one of three 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 formally 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.

3.28 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. This is consistent with the requirements of the NPPF (2021) and the Council's brief for completion of the GTAA.

Undetermined Households

3.29 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 assessed as part of the GTAA where they are believed to be 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 an additional need figure over and above the need identified for households that do meet the planning definition.

- 3.30 The estimate seeks to identify potential current and future need from any pitches known to be temporary or unauthorised, and through new household formation. For the latter, the ORS national rate of 1.50% has been used as the demographics of residents are unknown. More information about the evidence for and validity and robustness of this rate is set out in Chapter 7 below.
- 3.31 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 wider assessments of housing need.
- 3.32 ORS believe it would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether households where an interview was not completed meet the planning definition based on the outcomes of households where an interview was completed.
- 3.33 However, data that has been collected from over 5,000 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015 suggests that overall, approximately 30% of households who have been interviewed meet the planning definition (this rises to 70% for Travelling Showpeople based on over 400 interviews that have been completed across a number of local authorities) – and in some local authorities, no households meet the planning definition.
- 3.34 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 14,000 Gypsy and Traveller pitches in England and ORS have spoken with households on approximately 30% of them at a representative range of sites. Approximately 30% of this sample met the 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.
- 3.35 This would also suggest that it is likely that only a proportion of the potential need identified from undetermined households will need conditioned Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed separately in the Local Plan.
- 3.36 The ORS methodology to address the need arising from undetermined households was supported by the Planning Inspector for a Local Plan Examination for Maldon District Council, Essex. In his Report that was published on 29th June 2017 he concluded:

The Council's stance is that any need arising from 'unknowns' should be a matter left to the planning application process. Modifications to Policy H6 have been put forward by the Council setting out criteria for such a purpose, which I consider further below. To my mind, that is an appropriate approach. While there remains a possibility that up to 10 further pitches may be needed, that cannot be said to represent identified need. It would be unreasonable to demand that the Plan provide for needs that have not been established to exist.

Households that Do Not Meet the Planning Definition

- 3.37 Households who do not travel for work now fall outside the planning definition of a Traveller. However Romany Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers may be able to claim a right to culturally

appropriate accommodation under the Equality Act (2010) as a result of their protected characteristics. In addition, provisions set out in the Housing and Planning Act (2016) now 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 Guidance⁵ 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 and will form a subset of the wider need arising from households residing in caravans. This is echoed in the NPPF (July 2021).

- 3.38 Paragraph 62 of the NPPF states that [emphasis added] *‘Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, **travellers**, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes’*. The footnote to this section states that *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document.’*

Calculating Current and Future Need

- 3.39 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.

Supply of Pitches

- 3.40 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 bricks and mortar housing.
 - » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area (out-migration).
- 3.41 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

⁵ *Draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs for caravans and houseboats*. DCLG (March 2016).

be used to meet any current and future need from the family living on the site. See Chapter 7 that sets out how potential supply has been addressed in this GTAA.

Current Need

3.42 The second stage was to identify components of current need, which is not necessarily the need for new pitches because they may be able to be addressed by space already available in the study area. 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).
- » Teenage children in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years.
- » In-migration/roadside.
- » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites.
- » Households in need on waiting lists for public sites.

3.43 ORS are also increasingly identifying households and adult household members who have been forced to leave sites due to over-crowding or exceeding planning conditions on the number of caravans permitted on sites. Nationally, these households are typically living on the roadside or doubling-up on pitches in neighbouring local authorities. ORS include these households as components of hidden need and term them *displaced in-migration*.

Future Need

3.44 The final stage was to identify components of future need. This includes the following four components:

- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions.
- » New household formation.

3.45 Household formation rates are often the subject of challenge at appeals or examinations. ORS firmly believe that any household formation rates should use a robust local evidence base, rather than simply relying on national precedent. The approach taken is set out in more detail in Chapter 7 of this report.

3.46 All of these components of supply and need are presented in tabular format which identify the overall net need for current and future accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This has proven to be a robust model for identifying needs. The residential and transit pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are identified separately, to 2041 as required by national policy and the Council's brief for the study. The current Sefton Local Plan period is until 2030.

Pitch Turnover

3.47 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 approach frequently ends up significantly under-estimating need as, in the majority of cases,

vacant pitches on sites are not available to meet any local need, as set out below. 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.

3.48 In addition, Best Practice for Assessing the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers⁶ produced jointly in June 2016 by 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.

3.49 As such, other than current vacant pitches on sites that are known to be available, or pitches that are known to become available through the household interviews, pitch turnover has not been considered as a component of supply in this GTAA.

Transit Provision

3.50 GTAA studies require the identification of demand for transit provision. 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 can be developed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers as they move through different areas.

- » **Transit sites** - full facilities where Gypsies and Travellers might live temporarily (for up to three months) – for example, to work locally, for holidays or to visit family and friends.
- » **Emergency stopping places** - more limited facilities.
- » **Temporary sites and stopping places** - only temporary facilities to cater for an event.
- » **Negotiated stopping places** - agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time.

3.51 Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through on the way to somewhere else. A transit site

⁶ See www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/resources/ for details.

typically has a restriction on the length of stay of usually around 12 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity, and amenity blocks.

- 3.52 An alternative to, or in addition to, a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.
- 3.53 Another alternative is ‘negotiated stopping’. The term ‘negotiated stopping’ is used to describe agreed short-term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not describe permanent ‘built’ transit sites but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the authority and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides.
- 3.54 Temporary stopping places can be 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.
- 3.55 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Section 62a) is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62a of the Act allows the police to direct trespassers to remove themselves and their vehicles and property from any land where a suitable transit pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same local authority area (or within the county in two-tier local authority areas).
- 3.56 In future, consideration should also have to be given to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act which was given Royal Assent in June 2022. Part 4 of the Act gives the Police additional powers to deal with unauthorised encampments through new offences relating to residing on land without consent in or with a vehicle and new powers in relation to the seizure of property.
- 3.57 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 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)⁷ Traveller Caravan Count. The outcomes of discussions with Council Officers and with Officers from neighbouring planning authorities were also taken into consideration when determining this element of need in the study area.

⁷ Formerly the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

4. Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Sites & 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 size⁸. 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 tenants (similar to social housing).
- 4.3 The alternative to a public residential site is a private residential site and yard for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, respectively. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and 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 types of sites due to its mobile nature, as described more fully in Chapter 3 above. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum occupancy 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.

⁸ Whilst it has now been withdrawn, *Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites* recommended that, as a general guide, an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a large trailer [a static caravan or park home for example] and touring caravan, parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area.

- 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 landowner, 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.

Sites and Yards in Sefton

- 4.6 In Sefton, at the base date for the GTAA, there was 1 public site (20 pitches); 3 private sites with permanent planning permission (22 pitches); no private sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; 1 unauthorised site (2 pitches)⁹; and no Travelling Showmen’s yards. So there are 2 sites (8 pitches – HC5.1 and 3 pitches – HC5.2) and 1 public transit site (6 pitches – HC5.4) that are allocated in the Local Plan that do not have planning permission. See **Appendix D** for further details.

Figure 5 - Total amount of provision in Sefton (November 2021)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Public sites	1	20
Private with permanent planning permission	3	22
Private with temporary planning permission	0	0
Tolerated pitches	0	0
Unauthorised sites/pitches	1	2
Public transit sites	0	0
Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
TOTAL	5	44

DLUHC Traveller Caravan Count

- 4.7 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 DLUHC. This is a statistical count of the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. With effect from July 2013, it was renamed the Traveller Caravan Count due to the inclusion of data on Travelling Showpeople. 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 whether there is a need to provide for transit provision and this is set out later in this report.

⁹ This is allocated site HC5.1, for which temporary planning permission has expired.

5. Stakeholder Engagement

Introduction

- 5.1 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; transit provision; and cross-border issues.
- 5.3 A total of four interviews were undertaken with Council Officers from the study area.
- 5.4 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 Officers from 4 neighbouring local authorities (officers from Liverpool did not participate although asked):
- » Knowsley Borough Council.
 - » St. Helens Borough Council.
 - » West Lancashire Borough Council.
 - » Wirral Council.
- 5.5 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. 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, and not the official policy of their Council or organisation.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Sefton

Accommodation Needs

- 5.6 Following the previous GTAA, the Council's Local Plan in 2017 includes a policy for Gypsies and Travellers which allocates three permanent sites and one transit site, and further sets out criteria for the assessment of planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation on other sites. One of these allocations extends the Council owned site Red Rose Caravan Park and giving a direct provision of pitches. Furthermore, this site is well managed and the standards of accommodation are constantly monitored, and deficiencies addressed accordingly. As far as the Council is aware, there are no Travelling Showpeople in Sefton.
- 5.7 In terms of provision for Sefton Council, there are 5 sites, 3 reflecting allocations, two granted on appeal. (However, the temporary permission on one of these allocated sites has expired and not yet been renewed, and the transit site allocation and one other allocation has not yet been taken forward).

- 5.8 The previous GTAA completed by the Council indicates that the short-term requirement should be treated as a minimum, and that the demand for pitches is reviewed at least every 5 years in order to determine the minimum requirement change. Hence there is a need for an updated GTAA. Further, there have been minor issues in providing provision, as the Council lost an appeal in 2021 on an unallocated site, with a key reason being cited as a lack of vacancies. Moreover, the Council's public site is regularly full so it can be difficult to accommodate new families. A potential solution for unauthorised encampments arising from lack of space has been suggested in consideration given to developing a transit site for short term stays, which has facilities and would be available for short term bookings.
- 5.9 The Council is unaware of any Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople currently living in Bricks and Mortar housing, although other officers such as Health Visitors and Education Officers may be able to identify Travellers living in bricks and mortar. Furthermore, the Council is not aware of any overcrowding/concealed households.

Short-term Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.10 Since 2020 in Sefton, there has been at least one initially unauthorised site which has had a Stop Notice and 2 Enforcement Notices served, although since granted planning permission on appeal. Sefton experiences fairly regular short term unauthorised encampments, although these are generally seasonal – notably in the summer months. This may relate to Irish Travellers coming through the Port of Liverpool to visit family.
- 5.11 Planning permission for the public transit site allocation in the current Local Plan for Sefton Council has not been applied for yet.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.12 There are few cross-border issues. As mentioned, there are families that may come from the Port of Liverpool who form short-term unauthorised encampments, while one family are understood to have originated from a neighbouring local authority where they could not find anywhere to settle.
- 5.13 Current understanding is that any Gypsies and Travellers who travel from a neighbouring authority into Sefton, and vice versa, would not want to share sites, even if such provision was made.
- 5.14 It seems that neighbouring authorities are meeting their own needs sufficiently, and officers are not aware of any issues arising in Sefton regarding Gypsies and Travellers from neighbouring authorities. In terms of joint-working, Sefton Council have previously worked alongside Liverpool City Region and West Lancashire in a joint GTAA in 2014, and more recently there were discussions on this joint GTAA being repeated. However, as each local authority were at a different stage of their respective Local Plan preparations, the respective authorities have chosen to carry out individual GTAA's. Furthermore, the Council have liaised on occasion with all local authorities on specific cases and attended sub-regional Gypsy & Traveller meetings.
- 5.15 It is considered that the Council, and neighbouring authorities are complying with the Duty to Cooperate, evidenced by their continuing liaisons with other authorities in the Liverpool City Region and West Lancashire, and incidental liaison with Cheshire authorities as above.

Future Priorities and Any Further Issues

- 5.16 These include an up-to-date assessment of need within the authority, and if additional provision is needed, giving priority to how this could be met. It is important to support Gypsy and Traveller education being supported, and efforts to incorporate Gypsies and Travellers into the local community.

Neighbouring Authorities

Knowsley Borough Council Officer Views

- 5.17 With regard to **overall accommodation need** across Knowsley, it is considered that:
- » Knowsley Council have adopted a Local Plan Core Strategy that contains a policy providing guidance on the identification and development of sites for Gypsies & Travellers, as well as Travelling Showpeople. Support has been provided to transient Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople when there have been short-term unauthorised encampments in the borough and are not aware of any bricks and mortar contacts.
 - » There is no provision in the Borough of Knowsley, and likely no need for site accommodation, as the Gypsy & Traveller community passes through the Borough, and any encampments in the Borough are rare and are short lived.
 - » Known unauthorised encampments that are frequently used include Fallows Way, Whiston and a greenspace near the junction of Sinclair Way and Cables Way, Prescot. Further, an encampment in McGoldrick's Park in Huyton was used for the first time recently, with over 20 caravans staying very briefly. In order to meet the needs of unauthorised encampments, SHAP (*the charity*) (on behalf of the Council) conducts site visits to survey and establish the exact location and nature of the encampment, the needs of the individuals present and SHAP reports to the Council requirements for water, waste disposal etc.
- 5.18 With regard to the subject of **cross border issues**, it is considered that:
- » Not aware of any cross-border issues with neighbouring local authorities, although is unaware whether neighbouring local authorities are joint working in line with the Duty to Cooperate with Knowsley Council, or whether they are meeting their own needs.
 - » Believes Knowsley Council is complying with the Duty to Cooperate.
 - » There are no authorised sites for Gypsy & Traveller accommodation in the Borough. The most recent evidence which informed the Local Plan was the Merseyside & West Lancashire GTAA from 2014 which concluded that there were no future permanent pitch requirements for Gypsies & Travellers, and no need for new provision for Travelling Showpeople, in Knowsley. In response to the need for transit accommodation the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (2016) included Policy CS18 Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The policy

seeks to ensure that travelling communities occupy sites which are sustainable and meet their needs in terms of access to physical, social and community infrastructure.

St. Helens Borough Council Officer Views

5.19 With regard to **overall accommodation need** across St Helens, it is considered that:

- » Since the last GTAA, St. Helens Council have produced Policy LPC03: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, in their recently adopted St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (SHBLP). The SHBLP allocates two sites within the Borough in order to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough. In addition to this, planning permission was granted in 2016 for a private site at land to the east of Sherdley Road (adjacent to the existing Sherdley Road Caravan Park) for an additional 12 permanent pitches, construction has yet to commence on site.
- » The GTAA did not identify a need for accommodation for Travelling Showpeople. The Council own and operate a site at Sherdley Road which currently provides provision for 20 permanent pitches. Furthermore, the Council have identified approximately 40 bricks and mortar properties which currently caters to the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the Borough.
- » Therefore, there is sufficient provision to meet the GTAA identified need of 8 pitches up to 2033. However, the SHBLP recognises that the net need for new pitches could change each year as occupancy of sites alters and pitches are gained and lost, and due to the rise in non-authorized sites the Council have estimated a new likely need for 18 pitches within the Plan period.
- » The new estimated need of 18 pitches will be made up of the two proposed allocated sites in the SHBLP which will provide a further eight permanent pitches and three additional transit pitches, the extant planning permission granted for 12 permanent pitches, 4 private pitches which are not authorised but tolerated, an additional 2 unauthorised pitches and 4 pitches provided for the loss of pitches at Berry's Lane which is a closed site.
- » While there are no current short term unauthorised encampments, there are occasional unauthorised encampments close to Newton-le-Willows and Earlestown due to their proximity to the main motorway junctions, but these are rare. The Council also has a transit provision site which has planning permission but remains undeveloped.

5.20 With regard to the subject of **cross border issues**, it is considered that:

- » Able to comply with the Duty to Cooperate. Requirements are reviewed on a regular basis, making sure there is engagement with neighbouring authorities on all cross-boundary matters and maintaining dialogue with other relevant authorities to understand a wider context, and whether there are issues rising elsewhere. No issues with how neighbouring boroughs are complying with the Duty to Cooperate.

- » St. Helens Council jointly worked with Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, West Lancashire and Wirral Councils in the preparation of the 2015 GTAA, and there are ongoing Duty to Cooperate discussions with these authorities and some beyond the Liverpool City Region

West Lancashire Borough Council Officer Views

5.21 With regard to **overall accommodation need** across West Lancashire, it is considered that:

- » In 2017, West Lancashire (West Lancs) Borough Council approved a planning application to authorise a longstanding Gypsy & Traveller site in Scarisbrick, and there is on-going liaison with a group of Travelling Showpeople and a local landowner to attempt to find temporary accommodation for the Travelling Showpeople family. There is a further longstanding Travelling Showpeople yard (with planning permission) at Burscough. The 2017 West Lancashire GTAA states that there are two families that occupy bricks and mortar houses in West Lancashire, the house of one of which has insufficient space to accommodate caravans.
- » There are three unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller sites in Banks, lying in the Green Belt and in Flood Zone 3. West Lancashire does not meet the identified Traveller accommodation needs in full for the area, and presently there are not enough authorised/allocated sites in the Borough to meet identified GTTS needs.
- » There are a number of short-term unauthorised encampments that appear mostly around the Skelmersdale area in the summer. One of the most common reasons for such encampments is understood to be individuals stopping on their way to and from Liverpool Port when passing through to and from Ireland. West Lancashire's most recent (2017) GTAA recommends an authorised stopping place, but a suitable available site has yet to be found; there is also no official transit site.

5.22 With regard to the subject of **cross border issues**, it is considered that:

- » When discussing cross-border issues, there are no significant issues between borders other than 'mobile' Gypsies & Travellers moving from one local authority to another. Some of Sefton's Gypsy & Traveller sites are close to the West Lancs border (Woodvale/Formby), but they are not believed to have an impact on West Lancs.
- » Believes that the Duty to Cooperate is being complied with and that neighbouring boroughs are complying with the Duty to Cooperate as well, including meeting together as West Lancashire Borough Council's new Local Plan is prepared.
- » Any new Local Plan is likely to aim to meet the challenge of meeting identified needs with deliverable sites but as of writing the Local Plan is very early in the preparation process.

Wirral Council Officer Views

5.23 With regard to **overall accommodation need** in Wirral, it is considered that:

- » There are currently no sites or pitches for Gypsies and Travellers or any yard provision for Travelling Showpeople in Wirral as laid out in the latest GTAA in 2019. Wherever unauthorised encampments arise in the borough, officers work with them to identify any welfare issues or bricks and mortar housing needs. Furthermore, there is currently no provision for Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople in Wirral as laid out in the 2019 GTAA.
- » Wirral has a number of unauthorised encampments, usually during the summer months which can be attributed to seasonal travelling to Ireland due to the ferry port in Wirral. There are currently no sites or pitches to move unauthorised encampments to, and such encampments are dealt with as appropriate based on each individual situation. There is no specific location which accumulates unauthorised encampments, but one officer points to New Brighton has a preferred location for larger encampments.
- » With regards to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the Wirral area, those who wish to live in bricks and mortar properties will have the accommodation options and rehousing pathways available to them i.e. Homeless application, Property Pool Plus application. There is no separate policy relating to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople households.

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

- » Wirral Council are not aware of any specific cross-border issues with any neighbouring local authorities, nor are the Council aware of any concerns that neighbouring authorities are not meeting their own needs in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- » The Council liaises regularly with neighbouring local authorities in line with the requirement of Duty to Cooperate, including officers within the Liverpool City Region and officers in Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding planning policy. Furthermore, the Council is not aware of any issues regarding Duty to Cooperate compliance with other neighbouring authorities.

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 and Traveller population living in the study area, and also efforts to engage with the bricks and mortar community. Through the desk-based research and stakeholder interviews ORS identified 1 public site; 3 private sites with permanent planning permission; 1 unauthorised site¹⁰; and no Travelling Showmen’s Yards (with or without permanent planning permission) or Transit sites with planning permission. The table below sets out the number of pitches/plots, the number of interviews that were completed, and the reasons why interviews were not completed. During the period between commencing the GTAA and reporting no further transient households were identified to interview other than those who were interviewed.

Figure 6 – Interviews completed in Sefton

Site Status	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews/additional interviews
Public Sites			
Red Rose Caravan Park, Formby	20	20	-
Private Sites			
Land west of Rock Lane, Melling	8	8	-
Spurriers Lane, Melling	6	6	-
The Paddock, Plex Moss Lane	8	1	7 x under development
Temporary Sites			
None	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites			
None	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites/Pitches			
Land north east of Red Rose Caravan Park, Formby	2	0	2 x refusals
Transit Sites			
None	-	-	-
Travelling Showpeople			
None	-	-	-
TOTAL	44	35	

¹⁰ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers in Bricks and Mortar

^{6.2} Despite all of the efforts that were made¹¹ it was not possible to identify and interview any households living in bricks and mortar.

¹¹ See Chapter 3 for details (paragraphs 3.19 - 3.21).

7. Current and Future Pitch Provision

Introduction

- 7.1 This section focuses on the pitch provision which is needed in the study area currently and to 2041, in line with the brief for the GTAA. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future¹². 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 followed 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 provision which is required in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision. It also refers to provision and allocations in the Sefton Local Plan.

New Household Formation Rates and ORS growth figure of 1.50%

- 7.4 Nationally, a household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum¹³ has, historically, been 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 pitches unrealistically. In this context, ORS prepared a *Technical Note on Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates* in 2015 and updated it in June 2020, justifying a lower rate. The main conclusions are set out below and the full paper is in **Appendix F**. For Sefton, ORS consider the rate to be 1.80% net per annum for those households that were found to meet the PPTS planning definition of a Traveller, as set out below.
- 7.5 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 unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through demographic analysis.
- 7.6 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

¹² See Paragraphs 3.41 and 3.42 for details of components on current and future need.

¹³ Page 25, *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments – Guidance (DCLG – 2007)* Now withdrawn.

find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2.00% per annum nationally.

- 7.7 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 (in addition research by ORS has identified a national growth rate of 1.00% for Travelling Showpeople) which should then be adjusted locally based on site demographics.
- 7.8 This ORS view of the validity and robustness of using a baseline net household growth rate of 1.50% has been supported by Planning Inspectors in a number of Decision Notices. The Inspector for 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 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 1.50% but that a 2.50% 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 1.50% annual household growth rate has been used in its 2016 GTAA. Given the rigour of ORS's research and the Council's application of its findings to the local area I accept that a 1.50% figure is justified in the case of Doncaster.

- 7.9 Another more recent case was in relation to an appeal in Guildford that was issued in March 2018 (Ref: APP/W/16/3165526) where the agent acting on behalf of the appellant again claimed that a rate closer to 3.00% should be used. The Inspector concluded:

There is significant debate about household formation rates and the need to meet future growth in the district. The obvious point to make is that this issue is likely to be debated at the local-plan examination. In my opinion, projecting growth rates is not an exact science and the debate demonstrates some divergence of opinion between the experts. Different methodologies could be applied producing a wide range of data. However, on the available evidence it seems to me that the figures used in the GTAA are probably appropriate given that they are derived by using local demographic evidence. In my opinion, the use of a national growth rate and its adaptation to suit local or regional variation, or the use of local base data to refine the figure, is a reasonable approach.

- 7.10 In addition, the ORS Technical Note has been accepted as a robust academic evidence base and has been published by the Social Research Association in its journal Social Research Practice in December 2017. The overall purpose of the journal is to encourage and promote high standards of social research for public benefit.

- 7.11 ORS assessments take full account of the net local household growth rate per annum 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, 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, household dissolution, and in-/out-migration.
- 7.12 Overall, the household growth rate used for the assessment of future needs has been informed by local evidence. 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 (by planning status). In Sefton, this approach has been taken to determine the new household formation rate for Gypsy and Traveller households that met the planning definition. For households that met the planning definition 42% of residents were aged under 18. This demographic evidence is slightly higher than the ORS national growth rate of 1.50% (which is based on 36% aged under 18). Therefore, an adjusted rate of 1.75% has been used based on the proportion of those aged under 18 in households that met the planning definition in Sefton.
- 7.13 In certain circumstances where the numbers of households and children are low, or the population age structure is skewed by certain age groups, it is not appropriate to apply a percentage rate for new household formation. In these cases, a judgement is 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 households likely to form will stay in the area. This is based on evidence from other GTAA's that ORS have completed across England and Wales. In Sefton there is a relatively skewed age structure for households that did not meet the planning definition with a larger number of children aged 3-7. As such, this approach has been taken to determine levels of new household formation for this group of the population.
- 7.14 The ORS national formation rate of 1.50% has been used to model new household formation for undetermined households. This has been used as the demographics of residents are unknown.
- 7.15 New household formation has been calculated from year 6 of the GTAA period onwards. New household formation for years 0-5 of the GTAA period is from teenagers in need of a pitch in the next 5 years who have been identified as components of need in the household interviews. This eliminates any double counting in the assessment of need.

Breakdown by 5 Year Bands

- 7.16 In addition to tables which set out the overall need for Travellers, the overall need has also been broken down by 5-year bands as required by PPTS (2015). The way that this is calculated is by including all current need (from unauthorised pitches¹⁴, pitches with temporary planning permission, concealed and doubled-up households, 5 year need from teenage children, and net movement from bricks and mortar) in the first 5 years. In addition, the total net new household formation is split

¹⁴ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

across the GTAA period based on the rate of growth that was identified rather than being split equally over time.

Applying the Planning Definition

- 7.17 The outcomes from the household interviews were used to determine the status of each household against the planning definition in PPTS (2015). This assessment was based on the responses to the questions given to Researchers. Only those households that met the planning definition, including those who demonstrated that they have ceased to travel temporarily (due to education, ill health, or old age) and hence form the components of need in the GTAA that will need to be addressed through a Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Policy. In addition, 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 undetermined households. Whilst they do not need to be formally considered in the GTAA, need from households that did not meet the planning definition has also been assessed to provide the Council with information on levels of need that will have to be considered as part of the wider housing needs of the area and through appropriate Local Plan Policies.
- 7.18 The information used to assess households against the planning definition 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 and for what reasons. The table below sets out the planning status of households that were interviewed for the Sefton GTAA. This includes any hidden households that were identified during the household interviews, including concealed and doubled-up households or single adults and accepted in-migration.

Figure 7 – Planning status of households in Sefton

Status	Meet Planning Definition	Do Not Meet Planning Definition	Undetermined
Gypsies and Travellers			
Public Sites	10	15	-
Private Sites	13	4	-
Temporary Sites	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites ¹⁵	-	-	2
Sub-Total	23	19	2
Travelling Showpeople			
Private Yards	-	-	-
Sub-Total	0	0	0
TOTAL	23	19	2

- 7.19 Figure 7 shows that for Gypsies and Travellers, 23 households met the planning definition of a Traveller in that ORS were able to determine that household members travel for work purposes, or

¹⁵ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

for seeking work, and stay away from their usual place of residence or have ceased to travel temporarily.

- 7.20 A total of 19 Gypsy and Traveller households did not meet the planning definition as they were not able to demonstrate 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 relatives or friends, and others had ceased to travel permanently.
- 7.21 It was not possible to make contact with a total of 2 Gypsy and Traveller households as they refused to take part in an interview. These are recorded as undetermined for the purposes of the GTAA.

Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers in Bricks and Mortar

- 7.22 Despite all of the efforts that were made¹⁶, it was not possible to identify or interview any households living in bricks and mortar in Sefton.

Migration/Roadside

- 7.23 The study has also sought to address 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 only small numbers of in-migrant and out-migrant households and the data is not normally robust enough to extrapolate long-term trends. At the national level, there is nil net migration of Gypsies and Travellers across the UK, but the assessment has taken into account local migration effects on the basis of the best evidence available.
- 7.24 The study also sought to identify need from households who have been forced to move from sites due to overcrowding and who are currently living on the roadside or on sites in other local authorities – and who have strong family links with households in Sefton. These are referred to as roadside households or displaced in-migration.
- 7.25 Evidence drawn from stakeholder and household interviews has been considered alongside assessments of need that have been completed in other nearby local authorities.
- 7.26 The household interviews did not identify any family or friends who are currently living in other local authorities who have a desire for a pitch on a private site in Sefton.
- 7.27 Further, ORS have found no firm evidence from other local studies that have been completed recently of any additional households wishing to move to Sefton. Therefore, net migration to the sum of zero has been assumed for the GTAA – which means that net pitch requirements are driven by locally identifiable need rather than speculative modelling assumptions.
- 7.28 It is important to note that any applications for new sites or additional pitches as a result of in-migration should be seen as windfall need and should be dealt with by a Criteria-Based Local Plan Policies.

¹⁶ See Chapter 3 for details (paragraphs 3.19 - 3.21).

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers that meet the Planning Definition

- 7.29 The 23 households that met the planning definition were found on public and private sites in Sefton.
- 7.30 Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 3 pitches from concealed or doubled-up households or adults. Future need has been identified for 9 pitches for teenage children who are in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years; and for 10 pitches as a result of new household formation, using a rate of 1.75% derived from the demographics of the residents. Therefore, the overall level of need for those households who met the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is for **22 pitches** over the GTAA period.

Figure 8 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that met the Planning Definition (2021-41)

Gypsies and Travellers - Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available supply from vacant public and private pitches	0
Available supply from pitches on new sites	0
Pitches vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Pitches vacated by households moving away from the study area	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-up/Over-crowding	3
5 year need from teenage children	9
In-migration/Roadside	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	12
Future Need	
Households on sites with temporary planning permission	0
New household formation	10
<i>(Household base 32 and formation rate 1.80%)</i>	
Total Future Needs	10
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	22

Figure 9 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that met the Planning Definition by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	12	3	4	3	22

Pitch Needs – Undetermined Gypsies and Travellers

- 7.31 There is a need for 3 pitches for undetermined households. This is made up of 2 unauthorised pitches¹⁷ and 1 pitch from new household formation, using the ORS national formation rate of 1.50%. More information is set out in **Appendix B**.

Figure 10 – Need for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	2	0	1	0	3

Pitch Needs - Gypsies and Travellers that do not meet the Planning Definition

- 7.32 It is not now a requirement for a GTAA to include an assessment of need for households that did not meet the planning definition. However, this assessment is included for illustrative purposes, to help fulfil the requirements of the Housing Act (1985)¹⁸ and to provide the Council with information on levels of need that will have to be addressed through separate Local Plan Policies.
- 7.33 Analysis of the household interviews indicated that there is a current need for 4 pitches from concealed or doubled-up households or adults. The future need identified is 4 from teenagers who will need a pitch of their own in the next 5 years; and 5 from new household formation derived from the household demographics. Therefore, the overall level of need for those households who did not meet the planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller is **for 13 pitches** over the GTAA period. A summary of this need for households that did not meet the planning definition can be found in **Appendix C**.

Potential Supply

- 7.34 It should also be noted that there are 7 currently un-developed pitches on a private site that the owner has indicated would be made available to meet need from family members living on a public site. If confirmed, these will reduce the current need from households that met the planning definition by 5 to 17 pitches and will reduce the current need from households that did not meet the planning definition by 2 to 11 pitches.
- 7.35 The Council also have an allocation in their Local Plan (HC5.2) for 3 pitches at Land south west of Red Rose Caravan Park, and an allocation in their Local Plan (HC5.1) for 8 pitches at Land north east of Red Rose Caravan Park. Both sites do not currently have planning permission. If granted planning permission and developed these sites could also contribute towards meeting local need in Sefton.

¹⁷ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

¹⁸ See Paragraph 3.34 for details.

Plot Needs – Travelling Showpeople

- 7.36 There are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Sefton, and it is considered that there is no current or future need for plots.

Transit Requirements

- 7.37 When determining the potential need for transit provision the assessment has looked at data from the DLUHC Traveller Caravan Count, the outcomes of the stakeholder interviews and records on numbers of unauthorised encampments, and the potential wider issues related to changes made to PPTS in 2015.

DLUHC Traveller Caravan Count

- 7.38 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 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.
- 7.39 Data from the Traveller Caravan Count shows that there have been very low numbers of unauthorised caravans on land not owned by Travellers recorded in the study area in recent years, relative to the national position.

Stakeholder Interviews and Local Data

- 7.40 There is currently no public transit provision in Sefton. A public site has been allocated in the Local Plan (6 pitches – HC5.4) but to date the site does not have planning permission and no application has been submitted.
- 7.41 Information from the stakeholder interviews identified that there are occasional encampments, but that these are households passing through and that they are dealt with effectively by the Council’s Enforcement Team.

Transit Recommendations

- 7.42 Due to low numbers of unauthorised encampments, and it is not recommended that there is a need for any additional public transit provision in Sefton at this time.

- 7.43 The situation relating to levels of unauthorised encampments should be monitored. As well as information on the size and duration of the encampments, this monitoring should also seek to gather information from residents on the reasons for their stay in the local area; whether they have a permanent base or where they have travelled from; and whether they have any need or preference to settle permanently in the local area. This information could be collected as part of a Welfare Assessment (or similar).
- 7.44 It is recommended that a review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments, including the monitoring referred to above, should be undertaken on a Sefton-wide basis. This will establish whether there is a need for investment in any new transit provision or emergency stopping places, or whether a managed approach is preferable.
- 7.45 In the short-term the Council should continue to use its current approach when dealing with unauthorised encampments and management-based approaches such as negotiated stopping agreements could also be considered.
- 7.46 The term ‘negotiated stopping’ is used to describe agreed short-term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not describe permanent ‘built’ transit sites but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the Council and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides. See www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk for further information.
- 7.47 Temporary stopping places can be 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.

8. Conclusions

8.1 This study provides a robust evidence base to enable the Council to assess the housing needs of the Travelling Community as well as complying with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 1985, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015, the Housing and Planning Act 2016, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 2021. It also provides the evidence base which can be used to support Local Plan Policies.

Gypsies and Travellers

8.2 In summary there is a need for:

- » **22 pitches** in Sefton over the GTAA period to 2041 for Gypsy and Traveller households that met the planning definition. This figure of 22 includes the need for 12 pitches in the first five-year period 2021-26.
- » **3 pitches** for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households that may meet the planning definition.
- » **13 pitches** for Gypsy and Traveller households who did not meet the planning definition.

8.3 In general terms need identified in a GTAA is seen as need for pitches. As set out in Chapter 4 of this report, the now withdrawn *Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites* recommended that, as a general guide, an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a large trailer and touring caravan, parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area. However, it is recommended that alternative approaches should be considered when seeking to address the levels of need identified in this GTAA, especially when seeking to meet the need through the intensification or expansion of existing private sites.

8.4 The first approach to consider is in relation to single concealed or doubled-up adults and teenagers who will be in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years. In the short to medium term, it is likely that the accommodation need of these individuals could be met through additional touring caravans on existing sites which are, generally, each equivalent to the provision of a pitch, as opposed to more formally set out pitches.

8.5 The second approach to consider is for sites occupied by larger extended family groups. Again, sites like this may be able to meet the overall accommodation needs through a combination of shared static caravans, tourers and dayrooms on existing sites which are, generally, each equivalent to the provision of a pitch – as opposed to more formally set out sites with separate pitches. It is common for conditions in Decision Notices for Travellers sites to simply place limits on the numbers and types of caravans as opposed to placing limits on the number of pitches.

8.6 It should also be noted that there are 7 pitches on a private site that the owner has indicated would be made available to meet need from family members living on a public site. If confirmed, these will reduce the current need from households that met the planning definition by 5 to 17 pitches and

will reduce the current need from households that did not meet the planning definition by 2 to 11 pitches.

- 8.7 The Council also have an allocation in their Local Plan (HC5.2) for 3 pitches at Land south west of Red Rose Caravan Park, and an allocation in their Local Plan (HC5.1) for 8 pitches at Land north east of Red Rose Caravan Park. Both sites do not currently have planning permission. If granted planning permission and developed these sites could also contribute towards meeting local need in Sefton.
- 8.8 Future need from new household formation could also be met through natural turnover of pitches over time, or through enforcing against pitches not found to be occupied by Gypsies or Travellers.
- 8.9 Following the considerations set out above, it is recommended that need for households that met the PPTS planning definition is addressed through a combination of specific pitch allocations relating to the intensification or expansion of existing sites – considering some of the alternative approaches set out above.
- 8.10 The Council will need to carefully consider how to address any needs from undetermined households, from households seeking to move to Sefton (in-migration), or from households currently living in bricks and mortar. In terms of Local Plan Policies, the Council could consider the use of a Criteria-Based Local Plan Policy (as suggested in PPTS).
- 8.11 In general terms, it is the Government’s intention that the need for those households who do not fall within the PPTS planning definition should be met as part of general housing need, and through separate Local Plan Policies.
- 8.12 At the time of any future review by the Council of their Local Plan, the findings of this report should therefore be considered as part of future housing mix and type within the context of the assessment of overall housing need in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Whilst the findings in this report are aggregated totals for the whole of Sefton due to data protection issues, the Council have more detailed data to enable an accurate review of Local Plan allocations to be made.

Travelling Showpeople

- 8.13 There are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Sefton and it is considered that there is no current or future need for plots.

Transit Provision

- 8.14 Due to low numbers of unauthorised encampments, and an undeveloped transit site at New Causeway, that is allocated in the Local Plan, it is not recommended that there is a need for any transit provision in Sefton at this time.
- 8.15 In the short-term the Council should continue to use its current approach when dealing with unauthorised encampments and management-based approaches such as negotiated stopping agreements could also be considered.

Summary of Need to be Addressed – Gypsies and Travellers

- 8.16 Taking into consideration all of the elements of need that have been assessed, together with the assumptions on the proportion of undetermined households that are likely to meet the planning definition, the table below sets out the likely number of pitches that will need to be addressed either as a result of the GTAA, or through the Council’s Housing Need Assessment (HNA) process and/or through its separate District Plan Policies.
- 8.17 Total need from Gypsies and Travellers in Sefton that met the planning definition, from undetermined households that may meet the planning definition; and from households that did not meet the planning definition is for 38 pitches.
- 8.18 The tables below break total need down by:
- The number that met the planning definition;
 - The likely proportion of need from undetermined households that will meet the planning definition. It does this by taking 30% (the ORS national average of Gypsies and Travellers that meet the planning definition) of need from undetermined households and 45% (the locally derived proportion that met the planning definition);
 - The number that did not meet the planning definition; and
 - The likely proportion of need from undetermined households that will not meet the planning definition. It does this by taking 70% (the ORS national average of Gypsies and Travellers that do not meet the planning definition) of need from undetermined households and 55% (the locally derived proportion that did not meet the planning definition);
- 8.19 Need from households that meet or are likely to meet the planning definition will need to be addressed through Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Policy through a combination of site allocations and through a Criteria-Based Policy.
- 8.20 Need for households that did not meet the planning definition should be met through Local Plan policies.
- 8.21 For the purposes of consistency the overall figures are also broken down by 5-year bands.

Figure 11 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households broken down by Local Plan Policy Type – ORS National %

Delivery Status	Gypsy & Traveller Policy	Housing Policy	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition	22	-	22
30% Undetermined Need	1	-	1
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	-	13	13
70% Undetermined Need	-	2	2
TOTAL	23	15	38

Figure 12 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households broken down by Local Plan Policy Type – Sefton %

Delivery Status	Gypsy & Traveller Policy	Housing Policy	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition	22	-	22
55% Undetermined Need	2	-	2
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	-	13	13
45% Undetermined Need	-	1	1
TOTAL	24	14	38

Figure 13 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households broken down by Local Plan Policy Type – ORS National %

Delivery Status	Gypsy & Traveller Policy				Housing Policy				TOTAL
	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Meet Planning Definition	12	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	22
30% Undetermined Need	1	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	1
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	-	-	-	-	8	1	3	1	13
70% Undetermined Need	-	-	-	-	1	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	13	3	4	3	9	1	4	1	38

Figure 14 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households broken down by Local Plan Policy Type – Sefton %

Delivery Status	Gypsy & Traveller Policy				Housing Policy				TOTAL
	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Meet Planning Definition	12	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	22
55% Undetermined Need	1	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	2
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	-	-	-	-	8	1	3	1	13
45% Undetermined Need	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	13	3	5	3	9	1	3	1	38

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Appendix A: Glossary of Terms / Acronyms used

Amenity block	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.
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.
Household formation	The process where individuals form separate households. This is normally through adult children setting up their own household.
In-migration	Movement of households into 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. For Sefton, this is the Sefton District Plan, October 2018
Out-migration	Movement from one region or community in order to settle in another.
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/s.
Yard	A name often used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site.

GTAA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
GTANA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment
LPA	Local Planning Authority
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ORS	Opinion Research Services
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPTS	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites
TSP	Travelling Showpeople

Appendix B: Undetermined Households

Figure 15 - Need for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton (2021-41)

Gypsies and Travellers – Undetermined	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Supply from vacant public and private pitches	0
Supply from pitches on new sites	0
Pitches vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Pitches vacated by households moving away from the study area	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised sites ¹⁹	2
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-up/Over-crowding	0
5 year need from teenage children	0
In-migration/Roadside	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	2
Future Need	
Households on sites with temporary planning permission	0
New household formation	1
<i>(Household base 2 and formation rate 1.50%)</i>	
Total Future Needs	1
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	3

Figure 16 – Need for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	2	0	1	0	3

¹⁹ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

Appendix C: Households that did not meet the Planning Definition

Figure 17 - Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that did not meet the Planning Definition (2021-41)

Gypsies and Travellers - Not Meeting Planning Definition	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Supply from vacant public and private pitches	0
Supply from pitches on new sites	0
Pitches vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Pitches vacated by households moving away from the study area	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-up/Over-crowding	4
5 year need from teenage children	4
In-migration/Roadside	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	4
Future Need	
Households on sites with temporary planning permission	0
New household formation	5
<i>(Formation from demographics)</i>	
Total Future Needs	9
Net Pitch Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	13

Figure 18 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that did not meet the Planning Definition by 5-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36	2036-41	
	8	1	3	1	13

Appendix D: Site and Yard List (November 2021)

Site/Yard	Authorised Pitches or Plots	Unauthorised Pitches or Plots
Public Sites		
Red Rose Caravan Park, Formby	20	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
The Paddock, Ainsdale	8	-
Spurriers Lane, Melling	6	-
Land west of Rock Lane, Melling	8	
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites-Long-term without Planning Permission		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Sites		
Land north-east of Red Rose Caravan Park, Formby ²⁰	-	2
TOTAL PITCHES	42	2
Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	-	-
Public Transit Sites		
None	-	-
TOTAL	42	2

²⁰ See footnote 9 in Chapter 4.

Appendix E: Household Interview Questions



GTAA Questionnaire

Introduction

Good morning/ afternoon My name is [INTERVIEWER] from Opinion Research Services, working on behalf of [CLIENT]

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.

All questions are optional and all information you provide will be processed by ORS in accordance with the Data Protection Act and GDPR. Your responses will be stored and processed electronically and securely. This paper form will be securely destroyed after processing. Your household will not be identified to the council and only anonymous data and results will be submitted, though verbatim comments may be reported in full, and the data from this survey will only be used to help understand the needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households

A: General Information

Q1. Name of planning authority

Q2. Address & pitch number

Q3. Date of visit

Q4. Time of visit

Please write in

Q5. Type of accommodation?

Council

Private rented

Private owned

Unauthorised

Bricks & mortar

Q6. Name of family

Please write in

Q7. Ethnicity of family

Please tick ONE box only

Romany Gypsy

Irish Traveller

Scots Gypsy or Traveller

Show person

New Traveller

English Traveller

Welsh Gypsy

Non-Traveller

Other

Please write in

Q8. Number of units on the pitch?

Please write a number in each box

Mobile homes

Touring caravans

Day Rooms

Other (please specify)

Q9 Is this site your main place of residence?

Yes **SKIP TO Q11**

No **ANSWER Q10**

Q10. Where is your main residence?

Please write in

Q11. How long have you lived here?

Years and months

IF MOVED IN PAST FIVE YEARS ASK

Q12. Where did you move from?

Please write in

Q13. Do you live here out of choice or because there is no other option?

Choice **ANSWER Q14**

No other option **SKIP TO Q15**

Q14. Why do you feel there is no other choice?

Please write in

Q15 Is this site suitable for your household?

Yes **SKIP TO Q17**

No **ANSWER Q16**

Q16. Why do you feel this site isn't suitable?

PROBE: SCHOOLS, WORK, HEALTHCARE, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Please write in

Q17. How many separate families or single adults live on this pitch?

Please write a number

B: HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

Q18. Please tell me about the members of your household

Please complete below for ONE household only. An additional form should be completed for each household on the pitch

For example, a seven-year-old daughter should be entered as

F	7
Daughter	

Person 1	Person 2								
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Person 9	Person 10								
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C: ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

Q19. How many families or single adults living on this pitch will need a pitch of their own in the next five years?

An adult is defined as 16+
Please write a number

Q20. How many of your children will need a home of their own in the next 5 years?

Please write a number

IF ZERO SKIP TO Q24

Q21 Do the children counted above currently live on this site?

Yes **GO TO Q22**

No **SKIP TO Q23**

Q22. Would they wish to stay here and, if not, where would they wish to move to?

Please write in

Q23. Where do they currently live? And would they wish to move to this site or another local site if possible?

Please write in

D: WAITING LIST

Q24 Is anyone here on the waiting list for a pitch in this area?

Yes **SKIP TO Q28**

No **GO TO Q25**

Q25. How many people living here are on the waiting list for this area?

Please write a number

Don't know

Q26. How long have they been on the waiting list?

0 – 3 months

3 – 6 months

6 – 12 months

1 – 2 years

2 or more years

Don't know

Q27. Can you provide any more detail about the people on the waiting list?

Please write in

Q28 Does anyone here want to be on the waiting list?

Yes **GO TO Q29**

No **SKIP TO Q31**

Q29. How many people would like to go on the waiting list? Please write a number

Q30. Can you give me contact details for people wanting to be on the waiting list?

Please write in

E: FUTURE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

Q31, Do you plan to move from this site in the next five years?

Yes **GO TO Q32**

No **SKIP TO Q36**

Q32. Why do you plan to move?

Please write in

Q33. Where do you plan to move to?

Another site in this area

A site in another council area

Bricks & mortar in this area

Bricks & mortar in another council area

Other (e.g. land they own elsewhere)

Please provide more detail on the answer above

Q34. Would you prefer to buy a site or rent on a public or private site?

Private buy

Private rent

Public rent

Q35. Can you afford to buy a private pitch or site?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q36 Are you aware of, or do you own any land that has potential for new pitches

Yes **GO TO Q37**

No **SKIP TO Q38**

Q37. Where is the site and who owns it?

Please write in

F: Travelling

Q38 How many trips, living in a caravan or a trailer, have you or members of your family made away from your permanent base in the last 12 months?

0 **SKIP TO Q44**

1

2

3 **GO TO Q39**

4

5+

Q39. Which family members travelled?

All the family

Adult males

Other

Please write in

Q40. What were the reason for travelling?

Work

Holidays

Visiting family

Fairs

Other

Please write in

Q41. At what time of year do you or family members usually travel?

All year

Summer

Winter

Q42. How long do you usually travel for?

Please write in

Q43. Where do you or family members usually stay when they are travelling?

LA transit sites

Private transit sites

Roadside

Friends / Family

Other

Please write in

IF BEEN TRAVELLING - GO TO Q49

NON-TRAVELLING ANSWER Q44 - 48

Q44. Are there any reasons you don't travel at the moment?

Please write in

Q45 Have you or family members ever travelled

Yes **GO TO Q46**

No **SKIP TO Q49**

Q46. When did you or family members last travel?

Please write in

Q47. What were the reason for travelling?

Work

Holidays

Visiting family

Fairs

Other

Please write in

Q48. Why do you not travel anymore?

Children in school

Ill health

Old age

Settled now

Nowhere to stop

No work opportunities

Other

Please write in

Q49 Do you or other family members plan to travel in the future

Yes **ANSWER Q50**

No **SKIP TO Q51**

Don't know **SKIP TO Q51**

Q50. When and why do you / they plan to travel?

Please write in

Q51. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your travelling patterns?

Please write in

F: Contact information

Q52. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this site and your accommodation needs?

Please write in

Q53. Would you like the Council to contact you about your accommodation needs

Yes **GO TO Q##**

No **GO TO Q##**

Q54. Can I confirm the details they should us to contact you?

We cannot guarantee if and when they will make contact

Name

Phone number

Email address

Q55. Are you able to provide the contact details of anyone living in Bricks and Mortar who we should contact for our study?

Please write in

Site Map sketch

Interviewer: please provide a rough sketch of site / pitch: include written comments as appropriate

Interviewer Declaration: I confirm that this interview was conducted in accordance with all interviewing guidelines and that the data collected is accurately recorded

Interviewer Name:	
Interviewer Signature:	
Date:	

Appendix F: Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates



Technical Note

Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates

June 2020

Opinion Research Services



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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 until 2013 little detailed work had been done to assess their likely scale. ORS undertook work in 2013 to assess the likely rate of demographic growth for the Gypsy and Traveller population and concluded that the figure could be as low 1.25% per annum, but that best available evidence supports a national net household growth rate of 1.50% per annum.
2. This analysis was produced as a separate document in 2013 and then updated in 2015 (www.opinionresearch.co.uk/formation2015) in light of comments from academics, planning agents and local authorities. The 2015 document was complex because there was still serious dispute as to the level of demographic growth for Gypsies and Travellers in 2015. However, ORS now consider these disputes have largely been resolved at Planning Appeals and Local Plan Examinations, so we consider that much of the supporting evidence is now no longer required to be in the document.
3. This current document represents a shortened re-statement to our findings in 2015 to allow for easier comprehension of the issues involved. It contains no new research and if reader wishes to see further details of the supporting information, they should review the more detailed 2015 report.

Introduction

4. 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.

Modelling Population and Household Growth Rates

5. 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, in-/out-migration and household dissolution. Nevertheless, deriving satisfactory estimates is difficult because the evidence is often tenuous – so, in this context in 2013, ORS 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 supplemented the available national statistical sources with data derived from our own surveys.

Migration Effects

6. 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.

Population Profile

7. The main source for the rate of Gypsy and Traveller population growth is the UK 2011 Census. 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.

Table 1 - 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

8. 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.
9. 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 fertility rates of the UK Gypsy and Traveller community, in *'Ethnic identity and inequalities in*

Britain: The dynamics of diversity by Dr Stephen Jivraj and Professor Ludi Simpson (published May 2015). The authors use the 2011 Census data to estimate the TFR for the Gypsy and Traveller community as 2.75.

10. ORS used our own multiple survey data to investigate the fertility rates 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 infer an average of 3 children per woman during her lifetime, which is broadly consistent with the estimate of 2.75 children per woman derived from the 2011 Census.

Death Rates

11. Although the above data imply an annual growth rate through births of about 2%, the death rate has also to be taken into account. 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).
12. Therefore, in our population growth modelling we 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).

Modelling Outputs

13. If we assume a TFR of 3 and an average life expectancy of 72 years for Gypsies and Travellers, then the modelling, undertaken in PopGroup, projects the population to increase by 66% over the next 40 years – implying a population compound growth rate of 1.25% per annum. If we assume that Gypsy and Traveller life expectancy increases to 77 years by 2050, then the projected population growth rate rises to nearly 1.50% per annum. To generate an 'upper range' rate of population growth, we assumed an implausible 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 1.90% per annum.

Household Growth

14. 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.
15. Because the Gypsy and Traveller population is relatively young and has many single parent households, a 1.25%-1.50% 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.
16. 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 3.60% of household representatives are aged 16-24, compared with 8.70% in the Gypsy and Traveller population. ORS's survey data shows that about 10% of Gypsy and Traveller households have household representatives aged under-25 years.

Table 2 - Age of Head of Household (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Age of household representative	Number of households - England	Percentage households - England	Number of households – Gypsy and Traveller	Percentage households – Gypsy and Traveller
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%

17. 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

Table 3 - Household Type (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Household Type	Number of households - England	Percentage households - England	Number of households – Gypsy and Traveller	Percentage households – Gypsy and Traveller
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%

18. The key point, though, is that since 20% of Gypsy and Traveller households are lone parents with dependent children, 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 1.25%-1.50% per annum Gypsy and Traveller population growth rate is likely to lead to a household growth rate of 1.25%-1.50% per annum

Summary Conclusions

19. The best available evidence suggests that the net annual Gypsy and Traveller household growth rate is 1.50% per annum. Some local authorities might allow for a household growth rate of up to 2.50% 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, lower estimates should be used.

20. The outcomes of this Technical Note can be used to provide an estimate of local new household formation rates by adjusting the upper national growth rate of 1.50% based on local demographic characteristics.
21. In addition, in certain circumstances where the numbers of households and children are higher or lower than national data has identified, or the population age structure is skewed by certain age groups, it may not be appropriate to apply a percentage rate for new household formation. In these cases, a judgement should be made on likely new household formation based on the age and gender of the children identified in local household interviews. This should be based on the assumption that 50% of households likely to form will stay in any given area and that 50% will pair up and move to another area, while still considering the impact of dissolution. This is based on evidence from over 140 GTAAAs that ORS have completed across England and Wales involving over 4,300 household interviews.