

Essex Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment on behalf of Essex Planning Officers Association



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This study was conducted in accordance with ISO 20252:2012

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1. Introduction

The Survey

- ^{1.1} Opinion Research Services (ORS) were commissioned by the Essex Planning Officers Association to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment.
- ^{1.2} The study seeks to provide an evidence base to enable the authorities to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004, the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012. The main objective of this study is to provide the Association with robust, defensible and up-to-date evidence about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Essex¹ during the period until 2033 in five year sections covering 2013-2018, 2018-2023, 2023-2028 and 2028-2033. It also required the identification of whether or not any of the local authorities need to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- ^{1.3} The authorities involved in this study are all of the local authorities in Essex, with the exception of Basildon who conducted their own study that was published in December 2013 (see paragraph 1.5 below), as well as Southend and Thurrock:
- » Braintree District Council;
 - » Brentwood Borough Council;
 - » Castle Point Borough Council;
 - » Chelmsford City Council;
 - » Colchester Borough Council;
 - » Epping Forest District Council;
 - » Essex County Council;
 - » Harlow District Council;
 - » Maldon District Council;
 - » Rochford District Council;
 - » Southend Borough Council;
 - » Tendring District Council;
 - » Thurrock Council and
 - » Uttlesford District Council.
- ^{1.4} Assistance and input to the study was also provided by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit.

¹ Also including Southend and Thurrock but the study area will be referred to as Essex or the study area in this report

- ^{1.5} ORS also completed a separate Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment for Basildon Borough Council which was published in December 2013. The overall results from that study have been incorporated into this document, where appropriate, to provide an Essex wide set of findings.
- ^{1.6} We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of 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 Assessment. The base date for this study is June 2013.
- ^{1.7} This document is the main report and summarises the key findings of the study, in particular, where they relate to existing policies or have implications for future policy decisions across the study area.

Definitions

- ^{1.8} For the purposes of the planning system, 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 or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012)

- ^{1.9} Within the main definition of Gypsies and Travellers, there are a number of main cultural groups which are identified include:

- » Romany Gypsies;
- » Irish Travellers; and
- » New (Age) Travellers.

- ^{1.10} Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised in law as distinct ethnic groups and are legally protected from discrimination under the Equalities Act 2010.

- ^{1.11} Alongside Gypsies and Travellers, a further group to be considered are Travelling Showpeople. They are defined as:

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 family's or dependants' more localized pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012)

Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

- ^{1.12} 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 pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when constructing policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:

- » Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012;
- » National Planning Policy Framework 2012;
- » Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments Guidance October 2007;
- » Environmental Protection Act 1990 for statutory nuisance provisions;
- » The Human Rights Act 1998, when making decisions and welfare assessments;
- » The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended);
- » Homelessness Legislation and Allocation Policies;
- » Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Section 62a);
- » Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (both as victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour);
- » Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- » Housing Act 2004 which requires local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers and Showpeople as part of their housing needs assessments. This study complies with the this element of government guidance; and
- » Housing Act 1996 in respect of homelessness.

^{1.13} To focus on Gypsies and Travellers, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is particularly important with regard to the issue of planning for Gypsy and Traveller site provision. This repealed the duty of local authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. However, Circular 1/94 did support maintaining existing sites and stated that appropriate future site provision should be considered.

^{1.14} For site provision, the previous Labour Government guidance focused on increasing site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and encouraging local authorities to have a more inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within their Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing Act 2004 required local authorities to identify the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites, alongside the need for other types of housing, when conducting Housing Needs Surveys. Therefore, all local authorities were required to undertake accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople either as a separate study such as this one, or as part of their main Housing Needs Assessment.

^{1.15} Local authorities were encouraged rather than compelled to provide new Gypsy and Traveller sites by central government. Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites', released by the CLG in January 2006, replaced Circular 1/94 and suggested that the provision of authorised sites should be encouraged so that the number of unauthorised sites would be reduced.

^{1.16} The Coalition Government announced that Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (Circular 01/06) was to be repealed, along with the Regional Spatial Strategies which were used to allocate pitch provision to local authorities. The CLG published 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' in March 2012 which set out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework.

- ^{1.17} More recently additional changes were set out in a letter from the Planning Minister in March 2014. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix H**). This clarified the Government's position on household formation rates and also suggested that current planning guidance will soon be updated and stated:

'Following the recent consolidation of planning guidance we will be seeking to consult on updating and streamlining the remaining elements of traveller planning practice guidance and also on strengthening traveller planning policy. We will ensure that any new guidance supports councils to accurately assess their needs and would remove ambiguous references to the 3% growth rate figure, which, I stress, is only illustrative. This would, once published, have the effect of cancelling the last Administration's guidance.'

'I can confirm that the annual growth rate figure of 3% does not represent national planning policy. The previous Administration's guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure. The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority's own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the 3% growth rate figure, though in some cases we are aware that inspectors have, in considering the level of unmet local need when demonstrating specific traveller appeals, used the 3% growth rate figure in the absence of a local authority's own up-to-date assessment of need.'

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS)

- ^{1.18} The document 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' which came into force in March 2012 sets out the direction of government policy. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites is closely linked to the National Planning Policy Framework, but is to be viewed as a separate document. ORS have sought clarification of this relationship from CLG and have been told that Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be viewed as effectively a separate document with little overlap. In particular, ORS queried paragraphs 47 and 159 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- ^{1.19} Paragraph 47 states that local authorities should:

Use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area.

- ^{1.20} While paragraph 159 states local authorities should:

Prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries.

- ^{1.21} We were informed by CLG that there was no requirement to implement these paragraphs in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments because they are not in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. Similarly a Planning Inspector at a hearing in Wokingham has stated that the requirement to have a buffer for land supply contained in paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework does not apply to Gypsy and Traveller sites because it is not in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. (Appeal Reference APP/X0360/A/13/2201525). Therefore, it is clear that Planning Policy for Traveller Sites is

best considered largely in isolation from the wider requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

^{1.22} Among other objectives, the aims of the policy in respect of Traveller sites are (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Pages 1-2):

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

^{1.23} In practice, the document states that (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Page 3):

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.

^{1.24} 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.

^{1.25} A key element to the new policies is a continuation of previous Government policies. Local Authorities now have a duty to ensure a 5 year land supply to meet the identified needs for Traveller sites. However, 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' also notes on Pages 3-4 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.

Tackling Inequalities for Gypsy and Traveller Communities

^{1.26} In April 2012 the government issued a further document relating to Gypsies and Travellers in the form of 'Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers (CLG April 2012)'.

^{1.27} The report contains 28 commitments to help improve the circumstances and outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers across a range of areas including:

- » Identifying ways of raising educational aspirations and attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children;
- » Identifying ways to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers within the proposed new structures of the NHS;
- » Encouraging appropriate site provision; building on £60m Traveller Pitch Funding and New Homes Bonus incentives;
- » Tackling hate crime against Gypsies and Travellers and improving their interaction with the criminal justice system;
- » Improving knowledge of how Gypsies and Travellers engage with services that provide a gateway to work opportunities and working with the financial services industry to improve access to financial products and services;
- » Sharing good practice in engagement between Gypsies and Travellers and public service providers.

Funding for New Sites

^{1.28} The Coalition Government policies also involved financial incentives for new affordable pitch provision in the form of the New Homes Bonus. For all new annual supply of pitches on local authority or Registered Social Landlord owned and managed sites, local councils received a New Homes Bonus equivalent to

Council Tax (based on the national average for a Band A property), plus an additional £350 per annum for six years. This equated to around £8,000 per pitch.

- ^{1.29} Direct grant funding was also available for Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) took over delivery of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant programme from CLG in April 2009. Since then, they have invested £16.3m in 26 schemes across the country to provide 88 new or additional pitches and 179 improved pitches. The HCA welcomes bids from local authorities, housing associations and traveller community groups working with Registered Providers.
- ^{1.30} The HCA has now confirmed allocations for all of its £60m of future funding which will support 96 projects around the country for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and new pitches on existing sites, as well as the improvement of existing pitches.
- ^{1.31} While all HCA funds for Gypsy and Traveller pitches have now been allocated, further funding may become available as a result of slippage over the course of the programme. Local authorities and Registered Providers are advised to continue to work closely with HCA area teams to develop their proposals should any further funding become available as a result of some funded schemes not proceeding.
- ^{1.32} It is accepted that individual local authorities are likely to find it very difficult financially to provide the new sites that are identified in this study and other sources of funding should be considered, for example S106 funding that has been identified to fund the provision of new pitches in Chelmsford, working closely with Registered Providers, and encouraging the development of other private sites or yards.

2. Methodology

Background

- ^{2.1} This section sets out the methodology we have followed to deliver the outputs for this study. Over the past 10 years ORS has developed a methodology which provides the required outputs from a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment and this has been updated in light of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, as well as recent changes set out by the Planning Minister in March 2014. This is an evolving methodology that has been adaptive to recent changes in planning policy as well as the outcomes of Local Plan Examinations and Planning Appeals that ORS have been involved in. The methodology used by ORS has been challenged on several occasions and at both Examinations and Appeals and whilst Planning Inspectors have ruled against the outcomes of previous GTAA Studies at times, the methodology itself has not been called into question. More recently ORS were approached by the Welsh Government to provide advice to support the development of new Gypsy and Traveller Policy for Wales on the basis of our considerable experience in undertaking GTAA studies across the UK, having completed studies for over 120 local authorities since the PPTS was published in 2012.
- ^{2.2} The stages below provide a summary of the process undertaken by ORS, with more information on each stage provided in the appropriate sections of the report.

Stage 1: Desk-Based Research

- ^{2.3} At the outset of the project ORS sought to understand the background to the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Essex. This comprised the collation of a range of important secondary data from the following available sources:
- » Details of all public and private sites and yards.
 - » Site management and waiting list records.
 - » Biannual Traveller Caravan Counts.
 - » Records of any unauthorised sites and encampments.
 - » Relevant information from education and health services.
 - » Information on planning applications and appeals.
 - » Information on any other current enforcement actions.
 - » Existing GTAA's and other relevant local studies.
 - » Existing policy, guidance and best practice.
- ^{2.4} This data has been used to inform the stakeholder interviews and fieldwork and has also been analysed in conjunction with the outcomes of the other elements of the study to allow ORS to complete a thorough review of the needs of travelling communities in the study area.

Stage 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- ^{2.5} This study included extensive local stakeholder engagement. This involved a series of in-depth telephone interviews with a range of Council Officers from departments including Planning, Housing, Environmental Health, Education and Community Safety. Interviews were also conducted with Councillors, Planning Agents, Gypsy and Traveller Representatives, the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, the Showmen's Guild and Registered Providers. A full list of those who were contacted can be found in **Appendix D** and a copy of the Interview Topic Guide can be found in **Appendix E**.
- ^{2.6} The stakeholder interviews covered the following key topics:
- » What dealings or relationships people have with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
 - » Experiences of any particular issues in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
 - » Awareness of any Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showpeople yards, either with or without planning permission and whether this varies over the course of a year
 - » Any trends people may be experiencing with regard to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (e.g. increase in privately owned sites or temporary sites)
 - » What attracts Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to an area
 - » Identification of any seasonal fluctuations that may occur
 - » Awareness of any occurrences of temporary stopping by travellers
 - » Identifying the relationship between the settled and travelling communities
 - » Awareness of any travellers currently residing in bricks and mortar accommodation
 - » Awareness of any cross boundary issues
 - » Any other comments on the gypsy and traveller community in the study area

Stage 3: Working Collaboratively with Neighbouring Planning Authorities

- ^{2.7} Given the duty to cooperate interviews were also conducted with officers from neighbouring authorities and any other authorities where we identified a direct link with the needs of the study area – for example wider travelling routes etc. These interviews will ensure that the analysis of need addresses wider issues that may impact on the outcomes of the study. These stakeholders were identified as part of the desk-based review and in conjunction with officers from the Council. A copy of the Interview Topic Guide can be found in **Appendix E**. Interviews were conducted with officers from the following neighbouring authorities and covered the same broad issues as the local stakeholder interviews:
- » Basildon Borough Council
 - » Broxbourne Borough Council
 - » Cambridgeshire County Council
 - » Dartford Borough Council
 - » East Herts District Council

- » Gravesham Borough Council
- » Suffolk County Council

Stage 4: Survey of Travelling Communities

- ^{2.8} Through the desk-based research and stakeholder interviews ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments in the study area. To obtain interviews with Gypsy and Traveller households on sites in Essex, ORS attempted to visit all households on Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites in the area.
- ^{2.9} ORS sought to undertake an interview with residents of all pitches, as part of our approach to undertaking the GTAA as our experience suggests that a sample based approach very often leads to an under-estimate of current and future needs which can be the subject of challenge at subsequent appeals and examinations. All pitches (including those on current unauthorised sites that were present at the time of the study) were visited by experienced ORS researchers who conducted interviews with residents on as many pitches as possible to determine their current demographic characteristics, whether they have any current or likely future accommodation needs and how these may be addressed, and whether there are any concealed households. The survey questionnaire has been developed over the past 10 years, with significant input from Gypsy and Traveller representative groups, most notably the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in **Appendix F**.
- ^{2.10} Where it was not possible to undertake an interview, our researchers captured as much information as possible about the site from site management or from residents on adjacent sites or pitches.
- ^{2.11} We sought to undertake a census of Gypsy and Traveller households in June to August 2013. Interviews were attempted with every known Gypsy and Traveller household present during this time period (818 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 86 Travelling Showpeople Yards) and 305 interviews were achieved with Gypsies and Travellers on-site and 60 with Travelling Showpeople. In addition 107 on-site interviews were completed in Basildon when their study was undertaken.

Stage 5: Bricks and Mortar Households

- ^{2.12} In our experience many Planning Inspectors and Appellants question the accuracy of GTAA assessments in relation to those Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation who may wish to move on to a site. ORS feel that the only practical approach is to go to **disproportionate** lengths to identify as many households in bricks and mortar who may want to take part in an interview to determine their future accommodation needs, including a wish to move to a permanent pitch in the study area.
- ^{2.13} Contacts in bricks and mortar were sought through a wide range of sources including speaking with people living on existing sites to identify any friends or family living in bricks and mortar who may wish to move to a site and intelligence from the Council and other local stakeholders. An advert was also placed on the Friends, Family and Travellers Facebook page.
- ^{2.14} Through these efforts interviews were completed with a total of 6 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation. In addition 3 bricks and mortar interviews were completed during the Basildon study.

- ^{2.15} Through our approach we endeavoured to do everything **within our means** to publicise that a local study was being undertaken in order to give all households living in bricks and mortar who may wish to move on to a site the opportunity to make their views known to us.
- ^{2.16} As a rule we do not extrapolate the findings from our fieldwork with bricks and mortar households up to the estimated² bricks and mortar population as a whole and work on the assumption that those wishing to move will make their views known to us based on the wide range of publicity that we put in place.

Stage 6: Current and Future Pitch/Plot Requirements

- ^{2.17} The methodology used by ORS to calculate future pitch and plot requirements has been developed over the past 10 years and has drawn on lessons from both traditional housing needs assessments and also best and worst practice from Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessments conducted across the country.
- ^{2.18} To identify need Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 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 for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the population. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below and will be set out in more detail in the relevant chapter of this report:

Supply of Pitches

- » Current vacant pitches.
- » Pitches yet to be developed.
- » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing.
- » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area.
- » Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households.

Current Need

- ^{2.19} Total current need, which is not necessarily the need for additional pitches because they may be able to be addressed by space available in the study area, is made up of the following. It is important to address issues of double counting:
- » Households on unauthorised sites for which planning permission is not expected.
 - » Concealed households.
 - » Households in B&M wishing to move to sites.
 - » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

² Estimates based on the 2011 Census and further ORS work.

Future Need

^{2.20} Total future need is the sum of the following three components:

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

^{2.21} Household formation rates are often the subject of challenge at appeals or examinations. While many GTAA studies undertaken by other companies have continued to use a net growth figure of 3%, we agree with the position now being taken by CLG³ and firmly believe that any household formation rates should use a robust local evidence base, rather than simply relying on precedent. A Technical Paper on Household Formation Rates which was prepared by ORS can be found in **Appendix G**.

^{2.22} All of these components of supply and need are presented separately for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople setting out the overall net requirements for current and future accommodation. This has proven to be a robust model for identifying needs. The transit pitch requirements are identified separately.

Stage 7: Conclusions

^{2.23} This stage of the study will draw together the evidence from Stages 1 to 6 to provide an overall summary of the requirements for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Essex.

³ As set out in the letter from the Planning Minister in March 2014 which clarified the Government's position on 3% household formation rates and also suggested that current planning guidance will soon be updated

3. Sites, Yards and Population

Background

- 3.1 A Strategic Housing Market Assessment focuses upon the number of dwellings required in an area, and how many of these should be affordable. The central aim of this study was to follow a similar format for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation requirements.
- 3.2 One of the main considerations of this study is the provision of pitches and sites for Gypsies and Travellers. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople. However, Travelling Showpeople sites are also sometimes referred to as yards, while the space occupied by one household is commonly referred to as a plot. 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 Essex study area.
- 3.3 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One form of Gypsy and Traveller sites is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided by the local authority or by a registered provider (usually a housing association). Places on public sites can be obtained through a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees (similar to social housing).
- 3.4 The alternative to public residential sites is private residential sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing.
- 3.5 The Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population may also utilise other forms of sites due to their mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few weeks to a period of months. An alternative 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 than a transit site. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel.
- 3.6 Also to be considered are unauthorised developments and encampments. An unauthorised development refers to the occupation of land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers themselves but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. An unauthorised encampment refers to the unauthorised occupation of land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers. In addition long-term tolerated sites or yards can be present where enforcement action is not expedient and a certificate of lawful use would be granted if sought.

UK Census of Population 2011

- 3.7 The UK Census of Population 2011 included Gypsy and Travellers as a distinct ethnic category for the first time. Across the whole of England, around 55,000 people identified themselves as being Gypsies and Travellers, with a population of 2,631 Gypsy and Traveller persons in the whole of the study area. The figure of 2,621 persons is likely to be an under-estimate of the total population due to some Gypsies and Travellers not declaring their ethnic status or completing the Census at all. In the opinion of ORS, based on studies that we have undertaken in recent years, we believe that in some local authorities less than a third of Gypsies and Travellers completed and returned their Census questionnaire.
- 3.8 It is possible to analyse the results in more detail at sub-local authority level. Figure 1 shows that the highest concentration by some way is in the Basildon Borough part of the study area.

Figure 1

Gypsy and Traveller Population by Local Authority (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Local Authority	Number of Persons	% of total Population
Basildon Borough	873	0.50%
Braintree District	132	0.09%
Brentwood Borough	121	0.16%
Castle Point Borough	17	0.02%
Chelmsford City	212	0.13%
Colchester Borough	79	0.05%
Epping Forest District	176	0.14%
Harlow District	117	0.14%
Maldon District	201	0.33%
Rochford District	49	0.06%
Southend-on-Sea Borough	162	0.09%
Tendring District	62	0.04%
Thurrock	308	0.20%
Uttlesford District	122	0.15%
Essex County ⁴	2,161	0.16%
Total in study area	2,631	0.16%

Current On-Site Population

- 3.9 The current situation in the study area is that there are a total of 818 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in the study area as a whole. When broken down by type of pitch there are 244 pitches on public sites, 390 pitches on private sites with permanent planning permission⁵, 49 pitches on private sites with temporary planning permission, 37 pitches on long-term tolerated sites, and 97 pitches on unauthorised developments. For Travelling Showpeople there are 6 private plots with planning permission in Braintree,

⁴ Southend and Thurrock are not included within the total Essex County figure

⁵ A recent appeal was lost in Braintree resulting in a change of one pitch from a Gypsy designation to residential designation

41 private plots with planning permission in Chelmsford and 39 private plots with planning permission in Epping Forest. A more in-depth assessment was also undertaken at Buckles Lane in Thurrock. This is the largest group of Travelling Showpeople in Europe and contains a mixture of authorised and temporary plots as well as non-Travelling Showpeople (often former workers) living alongside Travelling Showpeople. The outcomes of the site visits to Buckles Lane are documented in a separate report. Full details of these pitches and plots can be found in **Appendix A**.

Figure 2

Gypsy and Traveller Pitches by Local Authority

Local Authority	Local Authority Pitches	Private Pitches	Temporary Permission	Tolerated	Unauthorised
Basildon Borough	25	90	8	13	9
Braintree District	26	11	0	0	21
Brentwood Borough	0	10	27	0	17
Castle Point Borough	0	2	0	0	3
Chelmsford City	22	53	0	2	2
Colchester Borough	12	8	3	1	5
Epping Forest District	16	100	10	0	10
Harlow District	36	0	0	0	0
Maldon District	26	31	0	0	1
Rochford District	0	5	1	0	9
Southend-on-Sea Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	0	11	0	0	1
Thurrock	64	26	0	20	18
Uttlesford District	17	43	0	1	1
Essex County⁶	180	364	49	17	79
Total in study area	244	390	49	37	97

⁶ Southend and Thurrock are not included within the total Essex County figure

Figure 3**Travelling Showpeople Plots by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Permanent Plots	Temporary Plots	Tolerated Plots	Unauthorised Plots	Total
Basildon Borough	2	0	0	0	2
Braintree District	6	0	0	0	6
Brentwood Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Point Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford City	41	0	0	0	41
Colchester Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Epping Forest District	9	0	0	0	9
Harlow District	0	0	0	0	0
Maldon District	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford District	0	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	79	121	0	0	200
Uttlesford District	1	0	0	0	1
Essex County ⁷	59	0	0	0	59
Total in study area	138	121	0	0	259

Caravan Count

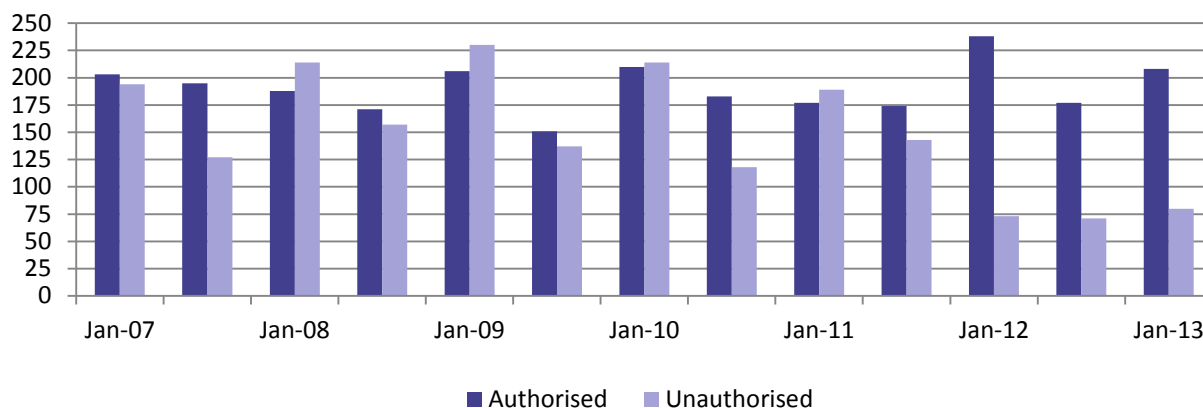
- ^{3.10} One source of information available on the Gypsy and Traveller population derives from the bi-annual Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in England on a specific date in January and July of each year, and reported to CLG. This is a statistical count of the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. With effect from July 2013, CLG has renamed the ‘Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count’ as the ‘Traveller Caravan Count.’ This does not reflect any changes to the coverage of the count but brings its title into line with the terminology used for planning policy purposes. It is also consistent with the fact that its scope is wider than caravans lived in by ethnic gypsies and travellers, but also includes non-traditional travellers.
- ^{3.11} 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. It must also be remembered that the count is merely a ‘snapshot in time’ conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and that any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from authorised sites on the day of the count will not be included.
- ^{3.12} The charts below show the numbers of caravans counted on authorised and unauthorised sites in each of the study authorities for the last five years. These counts do not include any Showpeople caravans in the area as this count, which has been undertaken each January since 2011, is reported separately. The caravan count figures are provided for illustrative purposes to demonstrate the relative size of the populations and are not used in any modelling of future pitch requirements in this study.

⁷ Southend and Thurrock are not included within the total Essex County figure

Basildon Borough

Figure 4

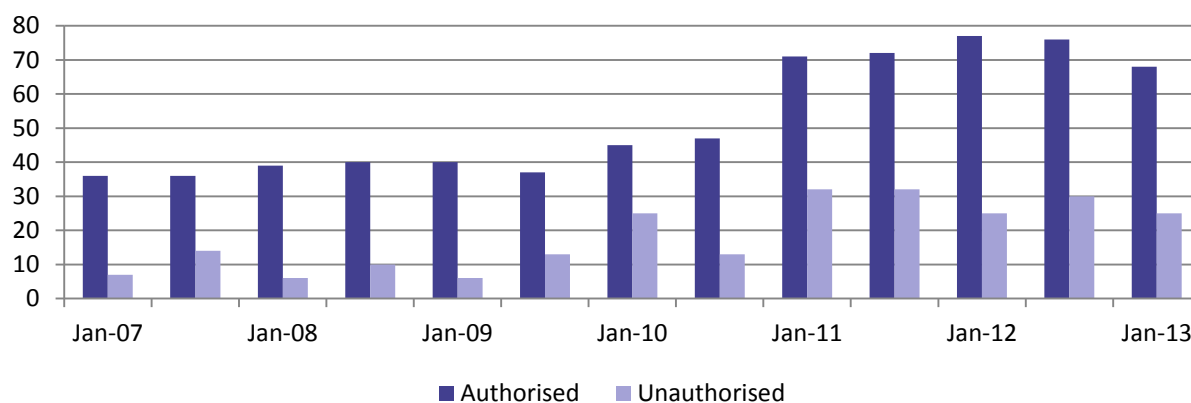
Gypsy Caravan Count for Basildon Borough: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Braintree District

Figure 5

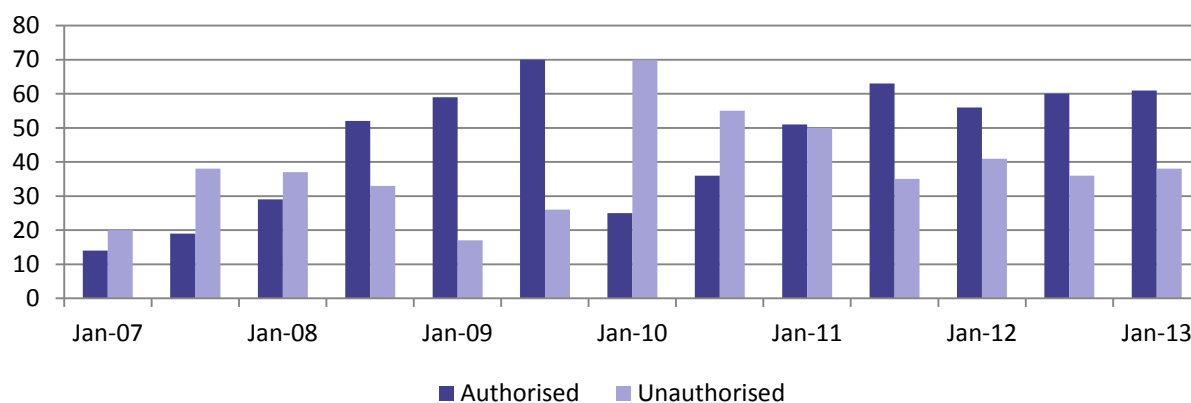
Gypsy Caravan Count for Braintree District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Brentwood

Figure 6

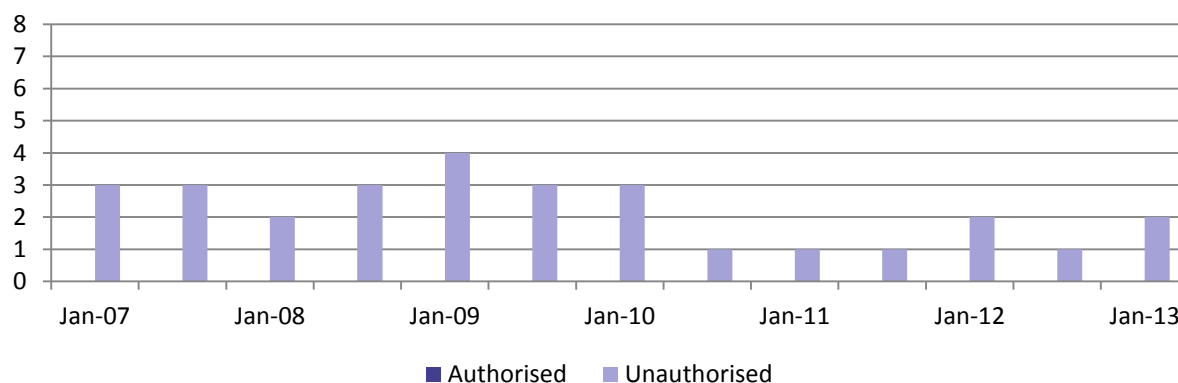
Gypsy Caravan Count for Brentwood District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Castle Point Borough

Figure 7

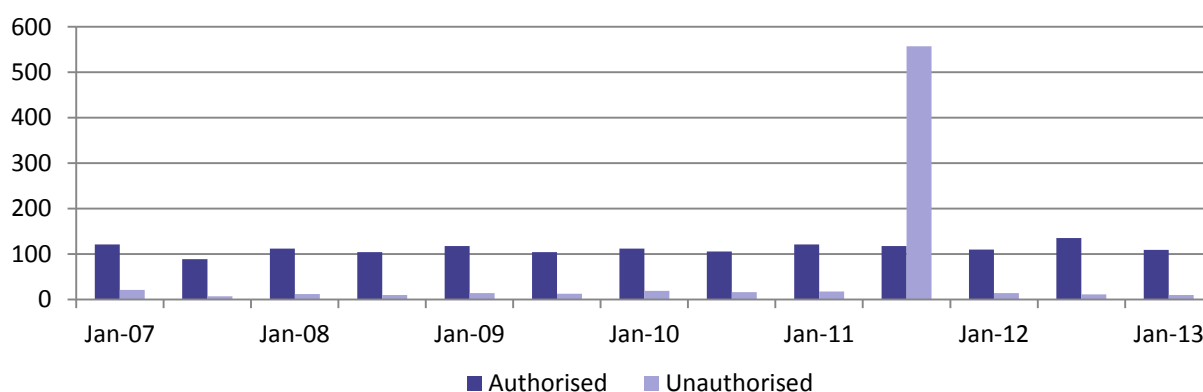
Gypsy Caravan Count for Castle Point Borough: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Chelmsford City

Figure 8

Gypsy Caravan Count Chelmsford City: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)

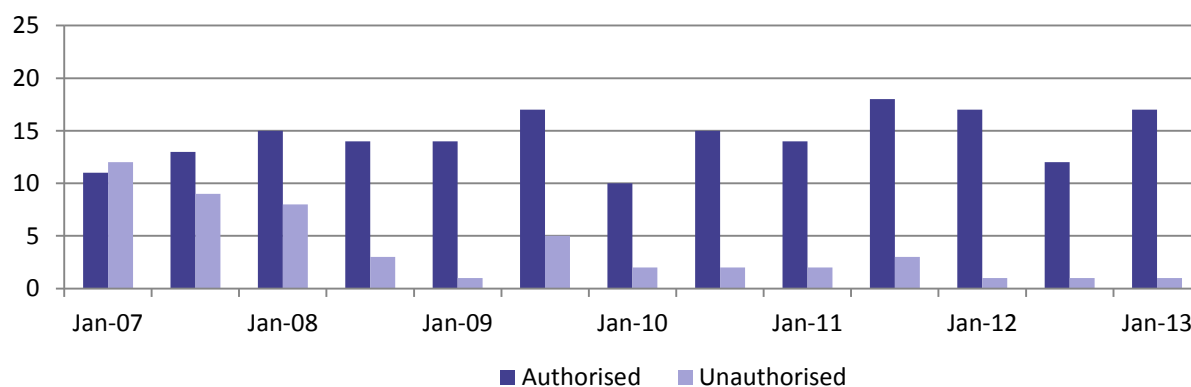


*The July 2011 anomaly is likely a result of the Light and Life mission in Woodham Ferrers.

Colchester Borough

Figure 9

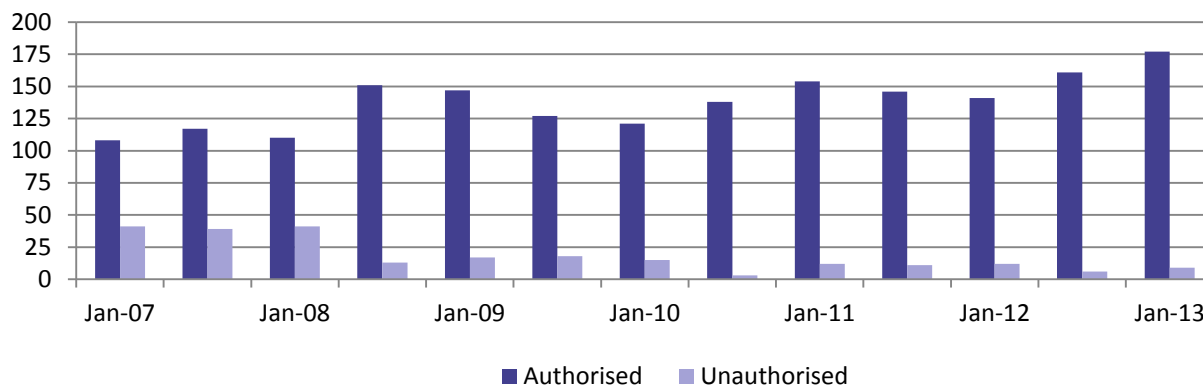
Gypsy Caravan Count for Colchester Borough: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Epping Forest District

Figure 10

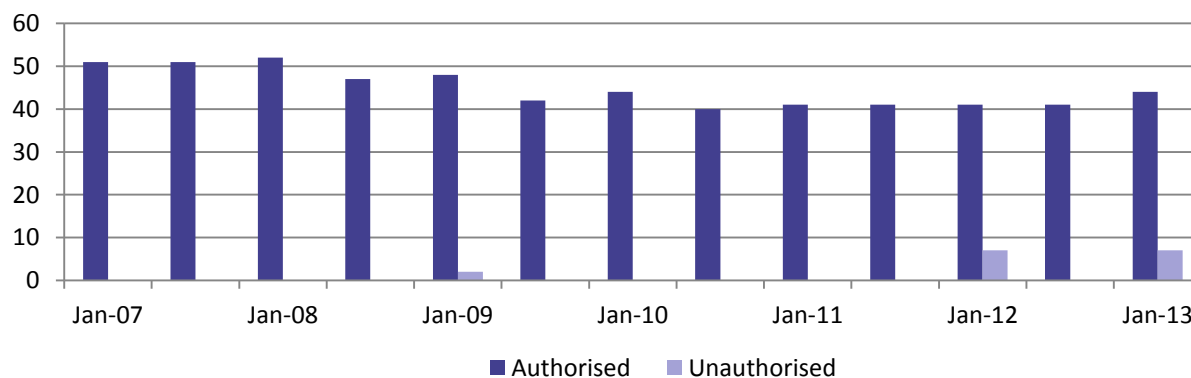
Gypsy Caravan Count Epping Forest District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Harlow District

Figure 11

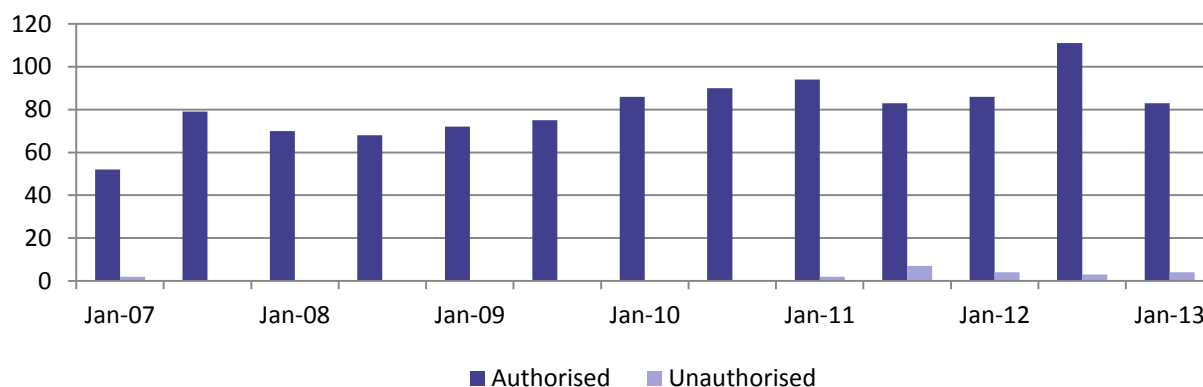
Gypsy Caravan Count Harlow District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Maldon District

Figure 12

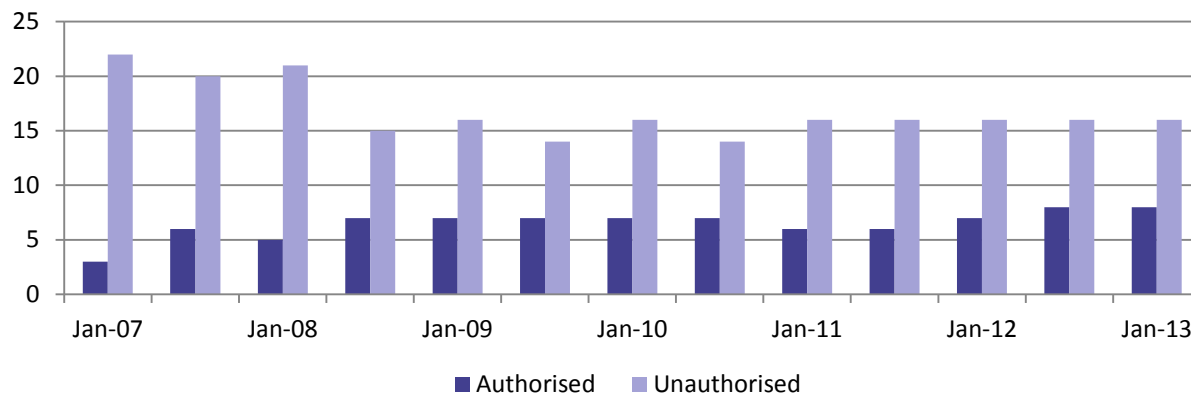
Gypsy Caravan Count Maldon District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Rochford District

Figure 13

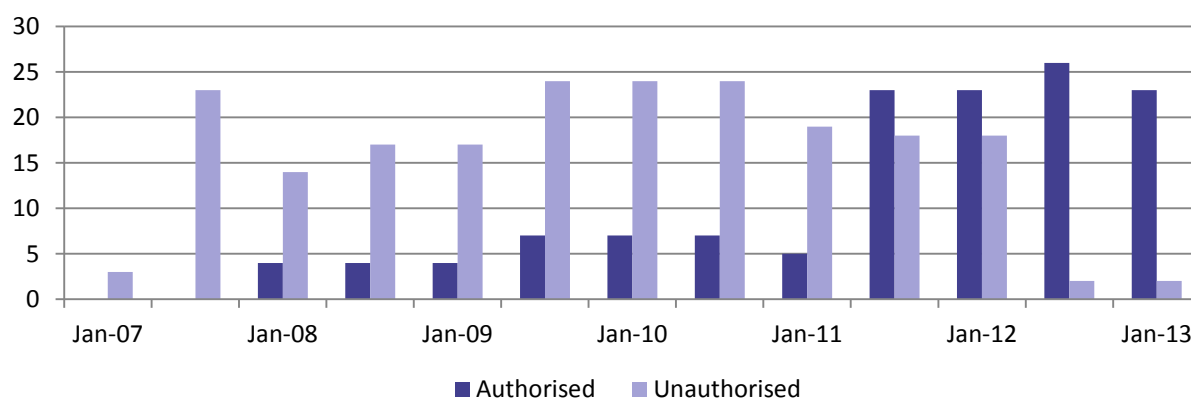
Gypsy Caravan Count Rochford District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Tendring District

Figure 14

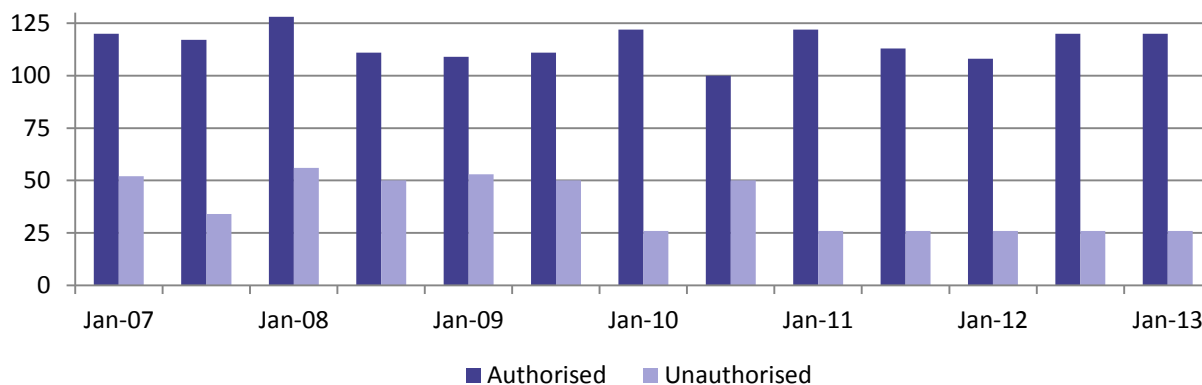
Gypsy Caravan Count Tendring District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Thurrock

Figure 15

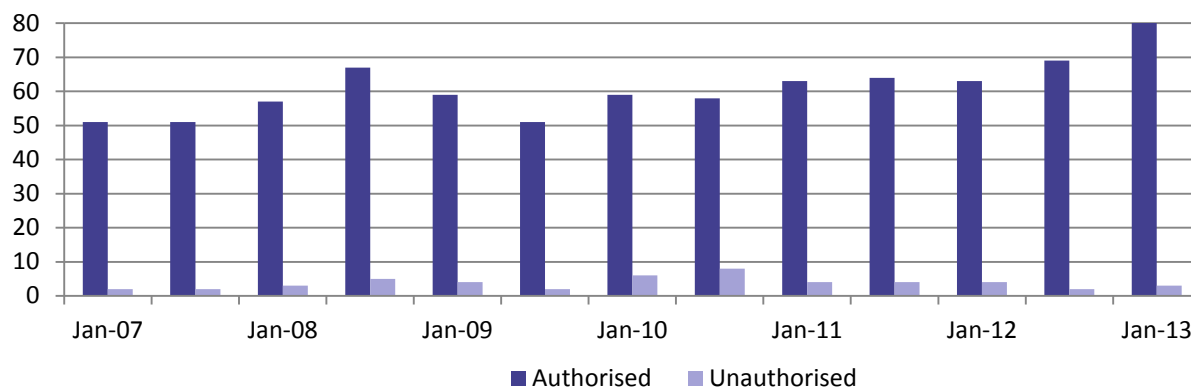
Gypsy Caravan Count Thurrock: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Uttlesford District

Figure 16

Gypsy Caravan Count Uttlesford District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



Southend-on-Sea Borough

^{3.13} Southend-on-Sea Borough's caravan counts indicate very little Gypsy and Traveller activity, with most counts recording no caravans, with only 5 unauthorised sites recorded in July 2007. It has therefore not been represented graphically.

4. Stakeholder Consultation

Introduction

- 4.1 In order to provide thoughtful consideration of the issues by a wide range of stakeholders involved with Gypsy and Traveller issues, ORS conducted 54 semi-structured interviews between August 2013 and June 2014.
- 4.2 A list of stakeholders was compiled by the lead authorities at the outset of the project. ORS reviewed this list for consistency with other studies to ensure it was comprehensive and fair. Each stakeholder received an email outlining the aims and objectives of the project and the interview timetable, which was followed up with a telephone call to arrange a suitable time to undertake the interview. The interviews were conducted via telephone and typically lasted between 30 and 90 minutes.
- 4.3 Those who took part included:
- » **Wider Stakeholders**
 - A Community Safety Officer
 - A Planning Agent
 - Two Gypsy and Traveller representatives
 - A representative of the Showmans' Guild
 - A representative of Essex Countywide Gypsy and Traveller Unit
 - » **Council Officers and Elected Members**
 - Braintree District Council – 4 interviews
 - Brentwood Borough Council - 3 interviews
 - Castle Point Borough Council – 1 interview
 - Chelmsford City Council – 7 interviews
 - Colchester Borough Council – 3 interviews
 - Epping Forest District Council - 4 interviews
 - Harlow District Council – 4 interviews
 - Maldon District Council – 2 interviews
 - Rochford District Council – 1 interview
 - Southend Borough Council – 1 interview
 - Tendring District Council - 2 interviews
 - Thurrock Council - 2 interviews

Uttlesford District Council – 5 interviews.

» **Registered Providers**

Five interviews

» **Neighbouring Areas**

Basildon Borough Council

Broxbourne Borough Council

Cambridgeshire County Council

Dartford Borough Council

East Herts District Council

Gravesham Borough Council

Suffolk County Council

- 4.4 Themes covered in the interviews included: the need for additional accommodation provision and facilities; travelling patterns; the availability of land; accessing services; and work being done to meet the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 4.5 Interviews allowed interested parties to reflect and feedback on the general situation - as well as how matters relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are currently handled and perceived within the study and surrounding areas. Qualitative research of this type attempts to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and is used to supplement the statistical information gathered through quantitative surveys of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.

Engaging Travellers in Bricks and Mortar

- 4.6 Understanding the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar is important and wider stakeholders interviewed for this study were of the opinion that, if more sites were available throughout Essex, many of those currently living in bricks and mortar would move to sited accommodation.
- 4.7 In our experience of working with other Local Authorities throughout the UK, identifying housed Travellers is a difficult exercise which isn't easily resolved. One of the aims of the consultation with stakeholders is to engage people who have links with or to the housed Traveller community. Therefore, all of those interviewed in this study were asked if they were aware of housed Travellers and if they could assist ORS to make contact with anyone. Unfortunately, but similar to the outcomes of other GTAA's, stakeholders were unable to identify anyone in housing.
- 4.8 Potentially, Registered Housing Providers hold data on the ethnicity of their tenants. Some will collect very limited information on ethnicity and others will collect more detailed information including Gypsy and Traveller categories. In the hope that Essex based Registered Providers collect this data, ORS contacted five Registered Providers who unfortunately confirmed that they do not collect information that could identify Gypsies and Travellers.

- 4.9 The Essex Authorities will need to keep this issue in mind and develop suitable communication channels with the housed Travelling community so their accommodation needs can be understood and fed into future needs assessments.

Reporting Engagement with Stakeholders

- 4.10 This section of the report represents a balanced summary of the views expressed by the wide range of stakeholders that took part in the engagement programme. Due to issues surrounding data protection and, in order to protect the anonymity of those who took part, it was agreed at the time of the interviews that verbatim comments would not be used. In all cases comments made during the discussions reflect the views of the individuals concerned, rather than the official policy of their respective Council. Comments made by stakeholders should not necessarily be taken as factually correct.
- 4.11 Views of wider stakeholders are more representative of the Gypsy and Traveller community, followed by the findings from interviews with Council Officers and Elected Members who represent the individual authorities and lastly the views of neighbouring authorities.
- 4.12 The findings from the interviews with wider stakeholders and Council Officers and Elected Members in the study areas are organised under the following sub-headings:
- » Current Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
 - » Short-term Unauthorised Encampments
 - » Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues
 - » Cross Boundary Issues
 - » Consultation Activities
 - » Future Site Provision.
- 4.13 There are exceptions however - in areas with a zero or small Traveller population the latter four sub-headings have not been reported.

Wider Stakeholders

Current Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.14 Wider stakeholders were of the view that there is insufficient accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers nationwide, despite the Government giving money to Councils for Gypsies and Travellers. There is no up to date assessment of need in Essex because previous studies have been disputed or superseded. Stakeholders also agreed that Districts work in isolation rather than co-operating, and have a tendency to want to move Gypsies and Travellers on to neighbouring Councils.
- 4.15 There are 12 permanent sites in Essex run by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, housing 170-180 families. The Unit's outreach team also visits private sites and carries out enforcement for roadside encampments.

- 4.16 Gypsies and Travellers are buying their own land for sites and this is reducing the number of roadside encampments. The need for more sites tends to be hidden because families stay with each other.
- 4.17 It was noted that Districts have different approaches to unauthorised sites and that Councils and the Police need to work together so that there is a consistent approach.
- 4.18 As regards management of sites, most stakeholders agreed that council run sites were preferable because they were better run and there is better control over who comes onto the site, although some felt that they were not well maintained. Also, on a public site, there is a process for dealing with misbehaviour. With this in mind, it was agreed that occupiers should have tenancies and not licences. Comment was made that Gypsy culture is tribal and sometimes a strong family can drive others away. Gypsies seeking to develop a private site of 10 or so pitches in multiple ownership tend not to think of the management implications of having no-one in overall control.
- 4.19 Stakeholders noted that once sites have planning permission, the occupiers are hardly ever there because they have security of tenure. They may be more ready to join in local activities once they feel secure.
- 4.20 The view of stakeholders was that Travelling Showpeople were overlooked and neglected. Their needs are different from those of Gypsies and Travellers. There is some prejudice against Showpeople on the part of the settled community.
- 4.21 Essex has a tradition of Travelling Showpeople and is a good area because of the transport links including the M25 and direct routes to London. The attractiveness of the area has led to a number of yards being developed including the yards at Buckles Lane, Thurrock.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- 4.22 There are fewer roadside encampments with the increasing number of private sites. Those that do occur are often because the Travellers have come to visit relatives.
- 4.23 It was suggested that Districts could follow the example of Worcestershire and agree a formal tolerance policy with the Police where an encampment is allowed for up to 24 days as long as it is not problematic or intrusive onto public space.
- 4.24 Stakeholders considered that transit sites are not popular with the Travelling community because they do not want to pay to stay overnight, plus they do not like staying where they do not know anyone. Transit sites are difficult to manage because they need staffing round the clock, plus they need to be located where they are likely to be used. They would also be empty in the winter because travel is seasonal.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- 4.25 Stakeholders expressed the view that there is a prejudice against Gypsies and Travellers on the part of the settled community and the authorities, although it was acknowledged that the Travelling Community often approached matters in the wrong way which has caused upset. It was felt that open discussion and more understanding of different cultures on both sides would reduce tensions.

- 4.26 Anti-Gypsy feeling was acknowledged but the view was expressed that this is more to do with perceived unfairness, for example people in the settled community being denied facilities and thinking that Gypsies are given what they want.
- 4.27 Stakeholders noted that there is still a tendency for children to be removed from school when they move from primary to secondary school, the boys to work with their fathers and the girls to look after siblings. However, many boys are now getting work as plumbers, bricklayers and car mechanics, and the girls as cleaners and hairdressers. Other trades mentioned were agriculture, tarmac laying, scrap dealing and making seasonal goods like Christmas decorations, with some people moving into internet businesses and market research.
- 4.28 It was reported that having an address on a site can be a problem when looking for work, and vehicle insurance can go up, because the applicant is identified as a Gypsy. This can be overcome by giving sites street addresses.
- 4.29 Traveller children are increasingly staying on at school to do A-levels, although it was suggested that Traveller teaching assistants could be used to offer 1-1 support to pupils who needed it. The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service works with Gypsy and Traveller children in schools.
- 4.30 The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit works to ensure that children make the transition from primary to secondary school. As well as wanting children to work, families also want to protect them from the morals of the settled community and the school education programmes on drink, drugs and sex. Bullying of Gypsy and Traveller children can also be a problem.
- 4.31 The health of Travellers who have a secure site was reported to be far better than that of those on the road. As well as lack of access to medical services, the stress of lack of accommodation brings on health problems was raised.

Cross Boundary Issues

- 4.32 Stakeholders felt that the Duty to Co-operate was not well-defined and that problems were created by the Districts writing their Local Plans at different times.

Consultation Activities

- 4.33 Stakeholders considered that more interaction between the Travelling community, the authorities and the settled community would be beneficial. Involving Gypsies and Travellers in consultations on the creation of sites would mean that they understood the issues. The planning regime should be applied in the same way to the Travelling and the settled communities.
- 4.34 It was noted that the Irish Gypsy Traveller movement is attempting to organise itself. The view was expressed that the Gypsy Council is ineffectual and that Gypsies and Travellers do not associate with it.

Future Site Provision

- 4.35 The location of sites should be agreed with Gypsies and Travellers so that they are where the community wants to go. Having a bus stop or a shop within 200 metres is of no importance, but sites should not be too

remote, the outskirts of a town would be ideal, not near motorways, railway lines or on rubbish dumps. Space for horses is important to some but not essential.

- 4.36 Sites should be safe for caravans and have access to water and electricity. A convenient water supply is an essential as a fire safety measure. Because of the fire risk from rubbish burning, other fire safety requirements include safe storage for cinders and provision for refuse removal. It was noted that caravans should be fitted with smoke detectors and that fire safety education for residents was desirable.
- 4.37 It was suggested that developers should set aside 5% of the affordable housing provision for Gypsies. Councils should aim to provide more than the minimum figure in case more Gypsies and Travellers decide to migrate to their area.

Council Officers and Elected Members in the Study Areas

Braintree District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.38 Braintree District provides 26 public pitches on two sites (Ridgewell 12 and Sandiacre 14). There are also twelve privately owned pitches which have planning permission and 21 unauthorised pitches on one site known as Twin Oaks.
- 4.39 Stakeholders confirmed that the unauthorised pitches at Twin Oaks were refused planning permission due to the inadequate access from the A120. In order to overcome the site access issue and to be able to reconsider the planning permission, Braintree District Council has now approved £600,000 (it is hoped that half the amount will be contributed by the owner of Twin Oaks) for work to the highway.
- 4.40 No specific issues were reported in relation to existing authorised sites and the public site at Ridgewell was reported to be well run.
- 4.41 Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople consists of two private yards (two plots on Blackwater Lane and four plots on Fair Rest). Stakeholders were not aware of any additional demand for sites.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- 4.42 Stakeholders were aware of small numbers of Travellers who will come to the area to visit relatives. Encampments usually last no longer than seven days and the Council, in order to prevent rubbish issues, will provide black bags.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- 4.43 Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing sites, though it was acknowledged that the consultation on the site at Twin Oaks resulted in 127 objections. Problems noted included burning rubbish, dogs, hare coursing and trespass.

- 4.44 Barriers to employment were said to exist, and often the address alone will reduce the chances of Travellers gaining employment. Many Travellers were said to be self-employed and or undertake casual labour such as groundwork.
- 4.45 No stakeholders were aware of specific problems accessing healthcare amongst the Traveller community, although it is nationally recognised that the Gypsy and Traveller community suffer significantly poorer health outcomes.

Cross Boundary Issues

- 4.46 Stakeholders were not aware of Travellers moving between Braintree and other Districts and felt the population to be stable and settled.
- 4.47 Stakeholders noted that, although there were concerns that the Dale Farm evictions would result in Travellers moving into the area, this had not happened.

Consultation Activities

- 4.48 Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Traveller community, although they referred to ongoing discussions with the Twin Oaks residents and their agent about resolution of the issue of access.
- 4.49 Stakeholders expressed interest in gaining more understanding of Traveller culture and finding a way of communicating with them which was not seen as paternalistic. One stakeholder referred to the difficulty of ascertaining the views of Travellers and whether representatives expressed the views of the whole of their community. There is no Gypsy and Traveller Officer post in the District because of the low number of Travellers in the district.
- 4.50 One stakeholder stressed the importance of making information about services available and suggested that online communication was not necessarily the best way of doing so.

Future Site Provision

- 4.51 Stakeholders noted that the existing sites should not be extended and that further provision should be dispersed around the District, possibly to the west of Braintree.
- 4.52 Stakeholders were unclear about whether future need would be met on private sites funded by Travellers themselves or by additional public site provision. One stakeholder considered that the Council should be proactive in looking for possible sites and if necessary buying land. However, it was also noted that there was no point in developing a site to which no-one came.
- 4.53 When asked to consider what criteria were important when considering the location of any future sites, stakeholders mentioned the importance of access to services and facilities, but felt that sites should not be adjacent to existing housing or Traveller sites as this was likely to be unpopular with both Travellers and the settled community. Stakeholders mentioned the sensitivity of decisions about sites and the unfavourable reactions of parish councils.

- 4.54 The District has no Green Belt but some areas are flood plains and would therefore be unsuitable.
- 4.55 Given the low numbers of unauthorised encampments in the District, only one stakeholder mentioned the possibility of a transit site for Travellers passing through the District and felt that, if a need was identified, it should be publicly managed.

Brentwood Borough Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.56 Brentwood has 8 private sites (10 pitches), 8 sites with temporary planning permission (27 pitches) and 3 unauthorised developments (17 pitches). There are no public sites. Although the current level of need is not known at present, one stakeholder referred to need created from sites with temporary permission. The aim, where possible, is to make some of the temporary sites permanent.
- 4.57 Officers referred to the draft local plan which will set out allocations and policies for the Borough and will specifically include a policy focusing on site allocation for Gypsies and Travellers. Ultimately, the aim will be to have a local plan where pitch provision is brought in line with the need identified in the GTAA.
- 4.58 Although stakeholders deemed a small number of sites to be in suitable locations with good access to amenities and facilities, the majority of sites in Brentwood are in remote Green Belt areas. It was noted that some of these Gypsy and Traveller residents have been situated in the Green Belt for many years, and show a preference to live there rather than being located near towns and villages
- 4.59 One stakeholder stressed that, although there does not seem to be sufficient provision in the Borough, it is very unlikely that public provision is needed at present as those who currently reside on the unauthorised sites have shown no desire to live on a public site.
- 4.60 Stakeholders referred to the three long term unauthorised encampments in the Borough, the largest comprising six pitches. Generally speaking, the sites were believed to be of a suitable nature with minimal issues regarding overcrowding and the size of the sites. However, one stakeholder reported drainage issues, a lack of adequate facilities and limited access to community amenities on some of the sites. It was made clear that full site license inspections had not been carried out on the sites due to no formal permission being granted.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- 4.61 Short-term encampments are fairly infrequent and are more likely to occur in the summer months. One stakeholder reported that on average, there are three to four short-term unauthorised encampments per year. Stakeholders stated that the majority of families that stop in Brentwood are either travelling around the area for work purposes, are on their way to somewhere else or are showing their children the traditional nomadic lifestyle and have an authorised site elsewhere.
- 4.62 One stakeholder stated that the Appleby Fair and Clacton are popular destinations and Travellers will use the M25 and A12 through the area.

- ^{4.63} The Council has a specific protocol in place whereby on notification of an unauthorised encampment, relevant council officers are informed, welfare checks are carried out and enforcement action is taken if necessary. With the ever increasing political pressure to resolve such issues quickly and to prevent encampments, height restriction barriers have been placed at previous favoured locations such as Childerditch Common.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.64} Stakeholders noted that there is heightened sensitivity when an unauthorised encampment initially occurs although this seems to be based on pre conceived ideas rather than reality. It was reported that the main fear is the increase in criminal activity and other disturbances such as noise from vehicles and generators. One stakeholder stated that in order to curb such perceptions, effective engagement with the wider community is needed.
- ^{4.65} No issues were conveyed regarding the Gypsy and Traveller community accessing employment and it was noted that many were self-employed or engaged in labour such as tarmacking and garden maintenance/landscaping. It was stated that those who are visiting the Borough are usually on holiday rather than travelling for employment related reasons.
- ^{4.66} Stakeholders generally found that the Traveller community had good access to healthcare and know where to go to receive medical treatment. Allegedly, those on short-term encampments with specialist health issues find they receive improved health care whilst being in the Borough.
- ^{4.67} Stakeholders were of the opinion that there is a growing trend for Travellers to travel during the school holidays rather than during term-time. However, Gypsy and Traveller children continue to drop out of education once they reach secondary school age.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.68} Brentwood Council is currently not a member of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit which deals with education, health, social care and fire safety as well as site location issues. Stakeholders felt that working with Essex County Council would enable a consistent and transparent approach to be adopted if required.
- ^{4.69} It was stated that there have been on-going issues with Travellers being shifted back and forth between Districts and stakeholders largely believed that better communication with neighboring Boroughs along with the police is needed, especially when Travellers are being displaced from one Borough and are seeking alternative accommodation elsewhere.

Consultation Activities

- ^{4.70} At the time of the study, Brentwood did not have a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer, and stakeholders supported the employment of an officer as they believed it would lead to an increased knowledge into the nature of the community and a personal and friendly approach would provide great assistance to all departments when dealing with any Gypsy and Traveller issues.

- 4.71 Stakeholders stated that occasional consultations are held with the relatively settled part of the Gypsy and Traveller community who reside on both the authorised and unauthorised sites where accommodation, licensing and any other relevant issues are discussed.
- 4.72 In terms of planning policy, periodical meetings are said to be held with the Gypsy and Traveller support group which includes a number of Travellers who reside in the area. Around six Gypsies and Travellers attended the last meeting to discuss local policy issues and how the Council can effectively address their needs in the Local Plan.

Future Site Provision

- 4.73 Stakeholders believed that assessments such as the GTAA are very important as they will ultimately provide robust findings for the Council to act upon and will allow any future policies created to be underpinned by substantial evidence.
- 4.74 One stakeholder was of the view temporary permissions and unauthorised sites need to be reviewed to determine whether regularisation is at all possible.
- 4.75 Given the fairly low numbers of unauthorised encampments in the Borough, stakeholders did not see any real need for additional provision since there does not seem to be a lot of Travellers coming into the Borough who wish to settle in the long-term.
- 4.76 Only one stakeholder mentioned the possibility of providing a reasonably small (10 caravan) short-term transit site for Travellers passing through the Borough. Ideally the site would be Council run with adequate facilities, located with good access to roads and not within close proximity to the settled community. It was reported that the Council has previously attempted to identify an appropriate area in the past, but nothing has *'ticked all the boxes'* as of yet.

Castle Point Borough Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.77 Castle Point currently has two Gypsy and Traveller sites; one authorised site at Orchard Place with two pitches and one unauthorised site at Janda Field with three pitches.
- 4.78 The Officer believed the occupiers of the authorised site to be a family who had a dispute with other Gypsies and Travellers in the Basildon area and as a result decided to locate further away from that community. It was stated that the applicant's appeal was successful due to the low number of authorised pitches within the Borough.
- 4.79 A wider stakeholder was of the view that although Castle Point has a low figure of need, it is mainly down to previous poor needs assessments. However, the officer stated that there seems to be no pressure from the Traveller community to provide sites.
- 4.80 There are no Travelling Showpeople sites in the Borough. However, the GTAA conducted in 2009 found that there is one Showperson living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

- 4.81 The only long-term unauthorised site in the Borough arose last August Bank Holiday weekend in the Green Belt which was also a single family movement from Basildon.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- 4.82 The officer stressed that short-term encampments are very infrequent and normally occur during the summer months, usually lasting between four-six days on public fields, open spaces and within close proximity to leisure centres. It was stated that that these Travellers are generally travelling through the area and are heading to Southend or are moving up the coastal area.
- 4.83 It was explained that in previous years some of the short-term encampments have incurred clean-up costs and prompting the Borough to undertake legal enforcement proceedings to move the encampment as quickly as possible.
- 4.84 There are no Yards for Travelling Showpeople in the area.

Cross Boundary Issues

- 4.85 The officer expressed surprise that Travellers do not use the A130.
- 4.86 It was reported that, even though Basildon Borough Council has indirectly expressed the need for assistance in accommodating some of the community, one stakeholder was of the view that Gypsies and Travellers have not shown a preference to settle in Castle Point. It was recognised that only a very small proportion of the Traveller community moved to Castle Point after the Dale Farm evictions took place.
- 4.87 The 'duty to cooperate' between neighbouring authorities was felt to be considerably important, but the officer felt this may not always be possible and Travellers' preferences must be understood and taken into consideration.

Consultation Activities

- 4.88 The officer was not aware of any mechanisms for regular consultation with the Traveller community, apart from the legal requirements of planning applications. The officer felt it would be beneficial to consult with Gypsies and Travellers on why they prefer certain Councils in Essex to others, and doing so will ultimately provide Councils with a better general understanding of need.

Future Site Provision

- 4.89 The officer was of the view that Castle Point was meeting its accommodation need.

Chelmsford City Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.90 Chelmsford City provides 22 public pitches on two sites (Little Waltham 10 and Writtle 12). There are also 53 privately owned pitches which have planning permission, two tolerated pitches and two unauthorised pitches on two sites.

- ^{4.91} The requirement for 10 pitches has been identified within the adopted North Chelmsford Area Action Plan and measures to secure this provision have been made within a Section 106 agreement for strategic residential development. Future pitch provision will be considered as part of the Review of the Council's adopted Local Development Framework with consultation scheduled to start in Autumn 2015.
- ^{4.92} Stakeholders felt that the requirement identified in the previous GTAA was unrealistic and several commented on the existence of vacant sites and the difficulty of assessing need because of fluctuating numbers. However, one stakeholder noted that it was difficult to take enforcement action because the Council had failed to provide permanent sites or many temporary permissions for a long time and that at a recent failed appeal the inspector criticised the failure to make new provision.
- ^{4.93} One stakeholder referred to areas of 'plotland', which were owned or managed in the 1930s primarily by people from East London who built basic accommodation and which, in many cases, are now being used by Gypsies and Travellers. These pieces of land are deemed to be unsuitable for these purposes.
- ^{4.94} There were mixed views about management of existing sites, some stakeholders felt that the county sites had adequate facilities and were well managed, others described poor conditions, encroachment onto surrounding land, problems with rubbish and unauthorised building. Stakeholders mentioned that the County's budget only covered reactive maintenance so funds were not available for improving amenities.
- ^{4.95} Stakeholders felt that privately owned sites were more likely to be well run, although it was noted that the Meadow Lane site, which had planning permission for 37 pitches, was sold off as individual pitches and there was therefore no overall management of the site.
- ^{4.96} Stakeholders noted that there were not many unauthorised sites and that only one or two planning applications were received each year. The Council's approach is to explore the granting of planning permission in appropriate circumstances when temporary consent expires.
- ^{4.97} The Council has a long association with Travelling Showpeople. There are two large yards and some smaller yards in and around Writtle which provide approximately 40 plots. There appears to be a need for more provision to cater for household expansion.
- ^{4.98} Stakeholders noted that there were generally no problems with the yards which were monitored by the private sector housing team. The yards tend to be very private, surrounded by high hedges of leylandii.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.99} Apart from a gathering of 538 caravans two years ago for a meeting of the Light and Life Church, stakeholders reported only a small number of unauthorised encampments when Travellers pass through or come to visit households in the area. Generally they stay no longer than 7 days. There are also bi-annual roadside camps which coincide with events such as the Appleby Fair. Stakeholders mentioned Great Leighs, common land at Galleywood and a plot at Springfield as being used for transit camps.
- ^{4.100} Camps on highway land are dealt with by the County, which now allows stays of up to 28 days before taking action.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.101} Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues although they mentioned tensions between the Travelling community and the settled community arising from lack of understanding and information sharing on both sides.
- ^{4.102} Stakeholders reported tensions between different sections of the Travelling community, possibly linked to family groupings, and also between established residents and newcomers. One stakeholder noted that there is a gangland culture in the Travelling community in southern Essex, probably originating from East London.
- ^{4.103} Stakeholders reported that some younger members of the Travelling community had difficulty in gaining employment if they lived on an unauthorised site with no fixed address. It was noted that Chelmsford is growing fast and therefore offered plenty of employment opportunities.
- ^{4.104} Similar problems arising from having no fixed address were noted in respect of registering with a GP. Stakeholders also noted that the social rented sites were too far from the GP surgery.
- ^{4.105} Stakeholders reported improving levels of education because the Gypsy and Traveller Education Unit is having some success in convincing the community that children need to be literate and numerate.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.106} Stakeholders reported little movement between Chelmsford and neighbouring Districts and were of the view that the Travelling population is largely static and of long standing. Cross boundary working is mainly carried out by Gypsy and Traveller liaison staff. There are no formal cross boundary agreements and it was noted that Basildon acted unilaterally in dealing with Dale Farm and that this had caused some problems.
- ^{4.107} Stakeholders expressed concern about whether Chelmsford should be expected to meet the needs of other Districts. It was noted that Districts are working in a political environment but that there is no mechanism for redistribution.
- ^{4.108} Stakeholders reported that individual officers had good relations with their counterparts in neighbouring Councils. However, discussions and engagement on this issue through the Duty to Co-operate are likely to be more challenging.

Consultation Activities

- ^{4.109} Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Traveller community, apart from that carried out by the Traveller Units. One stakeholder reported a good response to a written consultation.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.110} Stakeholders noted that the existence of Green Belt land meant that any new provision had to be north of Chelmsford, where there were good road and bus links to most urban areas.

- ^{4.111} Stakeholders suggested that the Council should concentrate on authorising long standing unauthorised sites. It was also noted that the Travelling Showpeople community is growing and that provision is needed for household expansion.
- ^{4.112} In terms of location, stakeholders suggested rural locations with good links to health and education services, but in locations where there could be an acceptable standard of living, for example avoiding scraps of land next to dual carriageways.
- ^{4.113} Opinions varied as to whether sites should be publicly or privately run, some stakeholders felt that a public site would be better regulated with pitches allocated to families in need.
- ^{4.114} Stakeholders reported that parish councils generally opposed sites but that Village Design Statements would make reference to protecting the countryside rather than being clear about their opposition to sites. It was suggested that councillors should take a lead in making clear that Gypsies and Travellers are part of the community. Stakeholders also noted that the planning process should be fairly and equally applied.
- ^{4.115} Stakeholders suggested that a strategy was needed for making new provision, at the moment it was politically unpalatable and only happened when a Planning Inspector compelled it, this process is costly and time-consuming.
- ^{4.116} Opinions varied as to the need for transit sites; if needed then they should have good links to the A12, but should not be sited near the A414, the main east-west route, because the area is in Green Belt. Some stakeholders suggested that transit sites would be useful in providing short term accommodation for those displaced by enforcement measures.

Colchester Borough Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.117} Colchester Borough has one public site with 12 pitches. There are also eight privately owned pitches which have planning permission and a further three which have temporary permission and another pitch which is a tolerated site and has temporary permission. There are five unauthorised pitches on two sites. There is no provision for Travelling Showpeople.
- ^{4.118} Although aware of past opposition to the public site, stakeholders were not aware of any current tensions. One noted that residents wanted to remove 'Caravan Park' from the address of the site because it apparently has had a detrimental effect on their employment prospects. Stakeholders were not aware of any issues relating to the private sites (temporary and permanent) and the unauthorised pitches in the Borough.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.119} Stakeholders reported a small number of unauthorised encampments which take place during the summer holiday period and tend to occur in car parks. One noted a decrease in encampments in 2013.
- ^{4.120} When asked about the management of unauthorised encampments stakeholders were of the view that the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit has encouraged a joined-up approach. Travellers who move between

neighbouring areas are closely monitored which therefore enables local authorities to have a better coordinated understanding of their movements and needs.

- ^{4.121} Stakeholders were aware of Gypsy and Traveller households but had not been able to gain any further information to aid the study.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.122} Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing public site, though it was noted that some of the private sites have caused some social issues. This was considered to be site specific rather than all private sites. Sites in Tiptree were said to be well established and are well integrated with the wider community.
- ^{4.123} Although the majority of unauthorised encampments do not cause a nuisance, the small numbers which do can contribute to tensions within the settled community.
- ^{4.124} Demand for permanent provision is considered to be historically low because of the lack of employment opportunities however one stakeholder was aware that there is some casual labour employment such as gutter replacements, ground work and tree surgery.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.125} One stakeholder noted that Colchester shares a border with Maldon which is a high demand area and it was felt there could be some cross border issues as a result. The stakeholder also referred to a site application in Tendring, near the border which received objections from Colchester residents.
- ^{4.126} As aforementioned one stakeholder was of the view that the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit has improved cross border working. However, another stakeholder felt that the Duty to Cooperate was still in its infancy and there was confusion surrounding what it actually entails. Positively, it was felt that the results of this GTAA could provide a basis for discussion with neighbouring authorities.

Consultation Activities

- ^{4.127} Stakeholders reported consultation with residents on the public site. One stakeholder noted that although the Gypsy Council is asked to participate in consultation the organisation does not usually respond.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.128} The general conclusion was that the current provision is meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and stakeholders were not aware of any applications or enquiries about additional provision. It was felt that if there were to be demand in the future the increase would not be dramatic.
- ^{4.129} Of the three stakeholders, only one stakeholder felt that transit provision should be considered particularly as places that are used currently are unsafe for children (near busy roads). However, locating a suitable site was considered difficult.

Epping Forest District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.130} Epping Forest has one public site with 16 pitches. There are also 100 privately owned pitches which have planning permission and a further 10 pitches which have temporary planning permission. There are ten unauthorised pitches.
- ^{4.131} There are 39 plots for Travelling Showpeople. These are split over 9 sub-yards in one location.
- ^{4.132} The District Council has authorised 47 pitches since 2008, partly through regularising existing sites without permission, and surpassing the projected need outlined by both the previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment and the Gypsy and Traveller Single Issue Review of the East of England Plan. However, some stakeholders were concerned about the concentration of sites in Nazeing and Roydon and the effects on the local communities.
- ^{4.133} One stakeholder suggested that applying caravan site licenses to authorised sites would allow the authority more power to ensure they are managed effectively; which in turn would help avoid tensions with the wider community.
- ^{4.134} No specific issues were reported in relation to existing authorised sites, and one stakeholder noted that the previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment had found the County Council managed site at Toot Hill had one of the highest resident satisfaction rates of the County Council sites.
- ^{4.135} Stakeholders had less insight into the Travelling Showpeople population in the district, but were not aware of any issues in relation to the existing Travelling Showpeople yards.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.136} While stakeholders reported a small number of unauthorised encampments in the past, they were not considered to be a frequent occurrence.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.137} Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing sites, though it was acknowledged that proposals or planning applications for sites were often met with significant opposition from the settled community.
- ^{4.138} Stakeholders were not aware of any issues amongst the Traveller community in accessing employment, and noted that many were self-employed, or engaged in casual labour such as groundwork and tree surgery.
- ^{4.139} Stakeholders noted that uptake of secondary education was lower amongst Gypsies and Travellers, and some referred to lower levels of literacy amongst adults in the community. It was acknowledged that the work of the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) was helpful in this respect.
- ^{4.140} Concerns were raised over lower life expectancies amongst the Traveller community and the numbers reporting health issues when applying for planning permission for sites. However, no stakeholders were aware of specific problems accessing healthcare amongst the Traveller community.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.141} Stakeholders reported that there was very little movement of Travellers between Epping Forest and other Districts. However, one stakeholder voiced concerns that there were potential issues if neighbouring authorities chose to move Travellers off unauthorised encampments or developments.
- ^{4.142} One stakeholder noted that vacant Gypsy and Traveller pitches on a County Council site in Harlow could be used to meet some of the future needs of Epping Forest.

Consultation Activities

- ^{4.143} While stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Traveller community, they did refer to previous attempts to engage with the community, although these were not felt to be particularly successful. A previous attempt to elicit responses from the Gypsy and Traveller population about how their households were likely to grow in the future by distributing DVDs received only 5 responses.
- ^{4.144} It was noted that the lack of a representative organisation for Travellers in the District made consultation difficult. However, it was felt that informal communication between Travellers and Enforcement officers had been largely effective.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.145} In terms of future provision, stakeholders were in agreement that any future need would likely be met on private sites funded by Travellers themselves, rather than on any additional public site provision.
- ^{4.146} When asked to consider what criteria were important when considering the location of any future sites, stakeholders noted that the District was severely limited by the extent of its Green Belt, which encompasses 92% of land within Epping Forest District.
- ^{4.147} Stakeholders suggested that access to services and facilities was important, but acknowledged that locating sites near existing settlements was likely to be unpopular with both Travellers and the settled community.
- ^{4.148} As already noted, there was also concern about the concentration of existing provision within the Nazeing and Roydon areas. It was suggested that any future provision should be more evenly spread across the District. However, it was also noted that this may not reflect the preferences of the Travellers themselves, who may want to be situated near family members or existing employment opportunities within Nazeing and Roydon.
- ^{4.149} It was suggested that future provision could be provided within plans for urban extensions, though this would be dependent on whether Travellers would be comfortable with sites located within such developments.
- ^{4.150} Given the low numbers of unauthorised encampments in the District, stakeholders did not envisage any demand for the provision of a transit site or emergency stopping place for Travellers passing through the District.

- ^{4.151} Stakeholders expressed doubts at the effectiveness or possibility of providing an annually updated 5 year land supply for Traveller sites, and noted that Epping Forest had been able to significantly increase its provision through the use of criteria based policy.

Harlow District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.152} Harlow has two public sites with 36 pitches (21 and 15). At the time of the study the Fernhill site (15 pitches) was under-occupied and was considered to be difficult to fill because of its location and the inability to fund repairs.
- ^{4.153} There are no private sites in the area.
- ^{4.154} Stakeholders were not aware of any Travelling Showpeople in the area.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.155} On average there are said to be around three or four small encampments of around six vehicles each per year. Unusually in 2013 there was a large encampment of around 50 vehicles.
- ^{4.156} Encampments occur all year round and Harlow is viewed to be an attractive stopping place because of the amount of open public spaces and hard standings. Harlow Common and the helipad are said to be popular locations for larger Traveller groups. When encampments occur they are provided with information about the settled sites and housing in the area and one stakeholder was aware of only one family which has ever taken interest and was housed on a site.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.157} Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing sites, and it was explained that, historically, Gypsies and Travellers have grazed their horses on the commons which is said to have encouraged the community to be more accepting of Travellers.
- ^{4.158} Unfortunately, the recent large encampment caused £5000 worth of fly tipping, it obstructed people who usually walk their dogs, anti-social behaviour including driving around quite quickly in their vans and shouting, swearing and abusing some of the residents. This was said to have caused an issue with the settled community which is considered as tolerant towards smaller encampments.
- ^{4.159} Every time an encampment occurs the Community Safety Team will take responsibility for contacting service providers in the area including: the fire service; traveller education; and welfare officers. More effort to improve health outcomes of those living on sites is said to be required and one officer referred to problems trying to get GPs on site to undertake MMR vaccinations.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.160} Officers reported having discussions with Epping Forest around housing need and it was thought that this was the groundwork for discussing accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. Demonstrating the Duty to

Cooperate was thought to be ‘stretching the minds’ of local authorities although the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit was felt to be working well.

Consultation Activities

^{4.161} In order to identify issues, the Community Safety Team is said to be proactively consulting with Travellers and this has built up a good relationship with them.

Future Site Provision

^{4.162} It is argued that clarification is required on the definition of a pitch and how many caravans make up a pitch. This was said to have caused confusion, particularly when different areas have different size pitches.

^{4.163} It is generally felt that there is sufficient provision in Harlow and there are not the numbers of unauthorised encampments to justify the need for transit provision.

Maldon District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

^{4.164} Maldon has two public sites with 26 pitches (20 and 6). There are also 31 privately owned pitches which have planning permission and one unauthorised pitch.

^{4.165} The second draft of the Local Development Plan (LDP) was approved by Full Council on 8 August 2013 and will now go out to consultation. Policy H6 concerns provision for Travellers, it identifies a requirement for 64 pitches by 2019 and 70 by 2027.

^{4.166} Most of the authorised sites are owner occupied and located in areas chosen by their families reflecting their traditional backgrounds. Most of the sites are of good quality and have room for expansion within their boundaries.

^{4.167} Stakeholders noted that there is a small increase in demand of 2 or 3 pitches each year, because of household formation. This is offset by the tendency of younger families to move into bricks and mortar.

^{4.168} There are no Travelling Showpeople living in the District.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

^{4.169} Stakeholders noted that there are seldom any unauthorised encampments as the District is not on a through route. Any visitors to the District are usually visiting relatives for a holiday or to find out about opportunities to move back to the area. Most short term encampments occur in the Totham area.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

^{4.170} Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing sites. The sites are mainly of long standing, most of the Traveller families have lived in the District for four generations and are well assimilated into the community.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.171} Stakeholders reported that there was very little movement of Travellers between Maldon and other districts. Stakeholders noted that there had been concerns about the destination of the families evicted from Dale Farm but in the event they moved closer to the M25.
- ^{4.172} Stakeholders felt that working with Essex County Council would enable a County approach to be adopted if required. The District is a member of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit which deals with education, health, fire safety, unauthorised encampments and site management.

Consultation Activities

- ^{4.173} Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Traveller community, apart from the legal requirements of planning applications. The District does however carry out a twice yearly monitoring exercise and stakeholders felt that there was a good understanding of the needs of the community.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.174} The draft LDP states that future provision will be by means of expansion and intensification of existing sites. The Council's criteria based policy considers the need to integrate sites into the local community, and to consider the effect of environmental factors such as noise and air quality on the health and wellbeing of residents on Traveller sites. It also seeks to ensure that residents are able to access education, health, welfare and employment.
- ^{4.175} When considering the allocation of sites, the Council also seeks to protect the local environment from inappropriate development, and avoid placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services.

Rochford District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.176} Rochford District Council has five privately owned pitches which have planning permission and a one pitch which has temporary planning permission. There are nine unauthorised pitches.
- ^{4.177} The last GTAA identified a need for 12 additional pitches, the District is hoping to allocate a site of 15 pitches as set out in the East of England Plan. When the 15 pitch site is allocated, the residents of unauthorised sites will be expected to re-locate, and stakeholders expressed concerns over the willingness of residents to share the site.
- ^{4.178} Rochford's Core Strategy includes a criteria based policy for the identification of sites which refers to promoting peaceful integration, co-existence with the local community, access to health services and school, a settled base and developing sites away from flood risk and other physical restraints, as well as sustainability objectives including accessibility. One challenge is that very few sites are put forward, probably because of historic low demand.

^{4.179} There has been opposition from the settled community to the proposed site, but stakeholders were clear that the District had a duty to provide for all its residents, and that a community engagement exercise was underway to deal with unfounded concerns.

^{4.180} There are no Travelling Showpeople sites, and previous studies have not identified any demand, so the Core Strategy contains an objective assessment of zero need. Two applications for a site have been refused in the last five years. There is currently an application for one site, but stakeholders are unaware of where the group has come from.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

^{4.181} Unauthorised encampments were not considered to be a frequent occurrence, although one stakeholder referred to two occasions where groups of Travellers had occupied land. One encampment on private land had caused a great deal of damage from activities including dismantling of cars, and the clear up was very costly. The stakeholder commented that such instances are used by the settled community as a reason for not wanting an allocated site, whereas the existing sites are run in an exemplary fashion.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

^{4.182} Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing sites, though it was acknowledged that the current proposal for a site has been met with opposition from the settled community.

^{4.183} Stakeholders were not aware of any issues amongst the Traveller community in accessing employment, and noted that many were self-employed, or engaged in casual labour such as highways work.

^{4.184} Stakeholders commented that most sites are near to services and that connections were very good. They were not aware of any difficulties in accessing health, education and other services. The Gypsy and Traveller population has lived in the District for many years and is a stable community.

Cross Boundary Issues

^{4.185} Stakeholders reported very little movement of Travellers between Rochford and other Councils, the population is small and stable.

^{4.186} One stakeholder noted that the planned new 15 pitch site is near the boundary with Basildon and that Basildon Council has made representations.

Consultation Activities

^{4.187} Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation specifically with the Travelling community, they are included in the distribution of the Council's quarterly publication 'Rochford Matters'. Consultation on specific issues is by means of a mailing list which includes representative groups and anyone who has asked to be included. There are two representative groups: the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit and the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups. As an application has now been received from a group of Travelling Showpeople, the Showmen's Guild will be consulted.

- ^{4.188} There is communication on individual planning issues, and officers also visit sites and engage with residents, this was felt to be an effective channel for communication.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.189} In terms of future provision, the 15 pitch site currently being planned is to be run municipally, though ownership of the site has yet to be decided.
- ^{4.190} When asked to consider what criteria were important when considering the location of any future sites, one stakeholder expressed the view that Green Belt should not be regarded as sacrosanct, and that as the District was releasing Green Belt land for the provision of 2500 new homes, there should be no objection to using Green Belt to provide 15 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers.
- ^{4.191} Stakeholders suggested that access to services and facilities was important, although one stakeholder noted that in a rural community most people need a car to access services, whether settled or Traveller.
- ^{4.192} Stakeholders acknowledged that locating sites near existing settlements was likely to be unpopular with both Travellers and the settled community. One stakeholder noted an unwillingness to integrate on the part of Gypsy and Traveller groups, even with other Travelling people.
- ^{4.193} Given the low numbers of unauthorised encampments in the District, stakeholders did not envisage any demand for the provision of a transit site or emergency stopping place for Travellers passing through the District.

Southend Borough Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.194} There is no accommodation provision in Southend for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and no planning applications have been put forward by either group.
- ^{4.195} Considering the low demand, it was felt that Southend's geographical location was an issue especially as the area is furthest away from transport links, particularly the M25. Historically Thurrock, Epping Forest and those areas closer to the M25 with large areas of open land were thought to be the areas favoured by Gypsies and Travellers.
- ^{4.196} Overall, there is felt to be no demand, nonetheless if an application is put forward the Borough has a criteria based policy in the event of any planning applications.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.197} No unauthorised encampments were reported. The area is densely built up and therefore the area is not considered to be a practical stopping point and as aforementioned the area is furthest away from the main transport routes.
- ^{4.198} One stakeholder was of the opinion that, although previous studies identified a large housed Traveller population, there is no data that corroborates this.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.199} There was said to be a good relationship and regular liaison with the other Essex authorities which has been demonstrated by the joint GTAA and regular meetings. To deal with single issues that arise a forum can be called at any time. The Thames Gateway Partnership also provides an alternative basis for discussing issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers and meetings occur on a monthly basis.

Tendring District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.200} Tendring District has 11 privately owned pitches and one unauthorised pitch. The number of pitches has exceeded the requirement for 10 pitches identified in the previous GTAA. This has been achieved partly by the conversion of unauthorised sites, for example, a 3 pitch site at Weeley was originally refused planning permission but this was overturned on appeal. More recently a 5 pitch site at Great Bentley was granted planning permission.
- ^{4.201} There has been an application to extend the Weeley site by 5 pitches which has been refused, this is now going to public inquiry. There is a single pitch site at Elmstead Market which has been refused planning permission, this has gone to appeal.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.202} Stakeholders reported regular summertime encampments on the coast at Holland Marshes, or on the seafront gardens. The vans stay for a few days and then move on
- ^{4.203} Stakeholders were aware of two Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar, the families also have a static home on the site. There was a site study a couple of years ago and there was no indication that there were any households looking for accommodation.
- ^{4.204} Stakeholders did not report any sites for Travelling Showpeople in Tendring.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.205} Stakeholders reported community cohesion issues in relation to the Weeley site where there are long-standing tensions between the Irish Traveller family and the local settled community. There were no issues at any of the other sites.
- ^{4.206} Stakeholders reported no difficulties with employment, tarmac and patio laying are popular forms of self-employment.
- ^{4.207} No issues with accessing education or health services were reported. Stakeholders reported some concerns from the settled community about the local primary school at Weeley because the school is close to capacity and the site has applied for a 5 pitch extension which could put pressure on the school.

Cross Boundary Issues

- 4.208 Stakeholders reported good relationships with neighbouring Districts although there has been no need for close working with them.

Consultation Activities

- 4.209 Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller community. There is a good relationship with the Romany Gypsy sites and an open channel of communication. The communication with the Irish Traveller site at Weeley is mainly concerned with enforcement action. There are regular meetings every 3 months with Parishes.

Future Site Provision

- 4.210 Stakeholders considered that future provision would be by extension of existing sites by one or two pitches rather than establishing new ones. It was felt that the option of incorporating sites into urban extensions would not work because land values are low and provision of Traveller pitches could have a detrimental impact on viability. Demand was likely to be purely from demographic change and not from families moving into the area.
- 4.211 It was noted that the local Gypsies and Travellers were happy to live at a distance from amenities.

Thurrock Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.212 Thurrock Council has three council owned sites with a total of 64 pitches (21, 22,21) and 26 privately owned pitches which have planning permission and 20 tolerated pitches. There are 18 unauthorised pitches.
- 4.213 The tolerated pitches have existed since the 1970s, the largest having 8-10 homes, they are not subject to enforcement and mostly continue to be occupied by the same families. Other more recent sites are subject to enforcement and the occupiers will be moved to existing sites or have new sites provided.
- 4.214 One stakeholder noted a trend for non-Travellers to move into unauthorised developments, usually single men without families, who are attracted to the area by employment, for example, construction work at the DP World Thames Port site. Some live in converted shipping containers in poor conditions.
- 4.215 There are three sites for Travelling Showpeople, the largest being Buckles Lane which when surveyed in 2007 had 101 pitches. There was a large influx in the 1990s, partly because the site was advertised in trade papers and partly because sites in East London were lost to redevelopment and regeneration. The Buckles Lane site is now probably the largest in Europe.
- 4.216 Other businesses not connected to travelling have also relocated for the same reasons, and the Buckles Lane site is now becoming overcrowded. One stakeholder reported that the demographic at the site is also changing, with more East Europeans and fewer Irish and English people.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- 4.217 Stakeholders reported a small number of unauthorised encampments each year which are managed by Essex Countywide Traveller Unit.
- 4.218 Thurrock is on the route to Kent and North Essex, so most roadside encampments are Travellers passing through the area.
- 4.219 Stakeholders were not aware of Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar, although the last GTAA identified an ageing population of Gypsies and Travellers who may wish to move into bricks and mortar, thereby freeing pitches.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- 4.220 Stakeholders did not report any specific community cohesion issues in relation to the existing sites, although one noted that there are prejudiced views both on the part of the settled community and of Gypsies and Travellers, and this can lead to complaints not backed by evidence.
- 4.221 Stakeholders noted that Essex is attractive to Gypsies and Travellers because the road network makes travelling for work easy. The main types of work are tree work, paving, fencing, landscaping and driveways. One stakeholder noted that ‘protection’ of existing Traveller businesses tends to ensure that new families do not move in.
- 4.222 Stakeholders reported no difficulties with access to services. Thurrock provides free transport to school for any child living more than 2 miles from school, although the Council is currently reviewing this service because of abusive behaviour towards the drivers. The Local Education Authority provides a curriculum for Showpeople children who travel with their families to attend shows.

Cross Boundary Issues

- 4.223 Stakeholders reported that there have been some recent moves from other areas onto vacant sites in Thurrock, but there is no discernible trend.
- 4.224 Stakeholders reported a good relationship with Basildon Council. Thurrock is part of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit which deals with incursions onto Council owned land or highways.

Consultation Activities

- 4.225 Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller community. One stakeholder noted that consultation meetings can be dominated by strong vocal leaders who may not agree with each other, and that some Gypsies and Travellers may not wish to give their views in public, so a range of methods are required to engage with the community.
- 4.226 There is also no regular forum for consulting with Travelling Showpeople. One stakeholder noted that the views expressed by the Showmen’s Guild can differ from views expressed from residents on local sites and that it is necessary to deal with local variations.
- 4.227 There is a Gypsy Liaison Officer and a Traveller Education Team who liaise with the community.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.228} Stakeholders noted that Thurrock Council used to carry out a regular count of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community but that this has been done less frequently in recent years because of capacity, so knowledge has been lost.
- ^{4.229} When asked to consider what criteria were important when considering the location of any future sites, stakeholders mentioned access, flood risk and ecological issues. One stakeholder noted that sites adjacent to motorways and major roads were unsuitable because of air quality, in particular in view of the lower life expectancy of the community.
- ^{4.230} New provision is likely to be extensions of existing sites within Green Belt, on urban edges. One stakeholder noted that it was difficult for Gypsies and Travellers to acquire sites in towns because of land values. New policies introduced via the Local Development Plan restrict sites to five pitches in order to limit overcrowding.
- ^{4.231} One stakeholder commented that the former Regional Spatial Strategy did not address the needs of Travelling Showpeople. There is concern about the concentration of Showpeople in Thurrock, and the Showmen's Guild is of the view that sites should be spread across Essex. The stakeholder noted that it was essential to identify the need and ensure a fair regional distribution of sites.

Uttlesford District Council

Current Accommodation Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- ^{4.232} Uttlesford District has one County run site with 17 pitches and 43 privately owned pitches which have planning permission and one tolerated pitch.
- ^{4.233} The previous GTAA identified a requirement for 25 additional pitches. The Essex County Council site at Flitch Green (Felsted) originally contained 9 pitches but was extended some 10 years ago to 17 pitches.
- ^{4.234} The Felsted site was reported to have a waiting list, but problems were noted with the management of the site. The private sites were not thought to create problems, one site adjacent to the M11 was described as 'immaculate'.
- ^{4.235} There is one Travelling Showpeople site in the District, consisting of a house with two or three caravans.
- ^{4.236} Stakeholders noted that there were usually applications for 2 or 3 sites each year. They also noted that it was common for unauthorised sites to be established late at night or over holiday weekends and then gain retrospective planning permission. One example given was a site at Little Hallingbury where the Secretary of State had granted temporary permission and which now has permanent consent.

Short-term Unauthorised Encampments

- ^{4.237} Stakeholders referred to a small number of encampments per year. One officer referred to three travelling groups which turn up at once a year, during the summer and stay for less than a week before they move on to somewhere else. One group will stay at Hatfield Heath and the other two turn up either side of the

bridge over the A120 near The Four Ashes Pub in Takeley. These roadside camps were not perceived as a problem as the occupiers generally moved on after a short period.

Community, Employment, Health and Education Issues

- ^{4.238} Stakeholders reported community cohesion issues in relation to the County site, which arose when a new housing estate was built next to it. A public footpath runs next to the site and there have been complaints about litter and dog mess.
- ^{4.239} Stakeholders noted that there was generally opposition from the settled community to proposals for new sites. It was also reported that there was a feeling amongst the settled community that planning laws were applied more leniently for Gypsy and Traveller applicants and that this created some antagonism. Stakeholders felt that if planning permission would not be granted for a house on a particular site then it should not be granted for a caravan.
- ^{4.240} Stakeholders were not aware of any issues amongst the Traveller community in accessing employment, they were reported to work in occupations such as tree surgery.
- ^{4.241} Stakeholders were not aware of any specific issues in respect of health and education.

Cross Boundary Issues

- ^{4.242} Stakeholders reported that there was very little movement of Travellers between Uttlesford and other Districts, apart from the groups who passed through in the summer.
- ^{4.243} The District is a member of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit which deals with education, health, social care and fire safety as well as site location issues. Uttlesford officers also liaise with their counterparts in South Cambridgeshire and East Herts which have larger Traveller populations. Stakeholders suggested that an Essex-wide waiting list would be useful in order to determine local demand.

Consultation Activities

- ^{4.244} Stakeholders reported no regular mechanisms for consultation with the Traveller community, apart from that carried out by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit.

Future Site Provision

- ^{4.245} When asked to consider what criteria were important when considering the location of any future sites, stakeholders mentioned: minimising impact on natural, built and historic environments, safe pedestrian and vehicle access, avoiding areas of floods, being connected to drainage and water supply, being an appropriate size for amenity blocks. Stakeholders also felt that sites should be well away from the settled community to avoid community friction. With regard to management, stakeholders considered that small privately owned sites were best.
- ^{4.246} Stakeholders were concerned about the level of distrust between the Gypsy and Traveller community and the settled population. It was felt that making information more readily available and working with parish

councils would help to build bridges, but stakeholders expressed some pessimism over whether any change was possible.

Neighbouring Areas

^{4.247} As stated in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Local Authorities have a duty to cooperate (S.110 Localism Act 2011) on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. In order to explore cross-boundary issues, representatives of the following neighbouring local authorities contributed to the study:

Basildon Borough Council
Broxbourne Borough Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Dartford Borough Council
East Herts District Council
Gravesham Borough Council
Suffolk County Council

^{4.248} The Greater London Authority was also asked to take part in the study but declined and a representative of the Planning Unit provided the following response:

While the Mayor recognises that provision for Gypsies and Travellers is a strategic issue (see London Plan Policy 3.8 Bi, Draft Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan paragraphs 3.56 – 3.57a), he considers that it is addressed most effectively by the boroughs. These are best placed to come to a view on how to accommodate what are individually small scale developments in light of local circumstances and national policy requirements.

Basildon Borough Council

^{4.249} Within the Borough accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers consists of:

- » One public site - 25 pitches
- » 25 private sites – 90 pitches
- » Two private sites with temporary planning permission – 8 pitches
- » 11 Long-term tolerated encampments – 13 pitches
- » Five unauthorised developments - nine pitches.

^{4.250} There are two Travelling Showpeople sites in the area.

^{4.251} A stakeholder consultation was undertaken as part of the Basildon Borough Council and ORS conducted 33 semi-structured interviews between February and May 2013. These included consultation with representatives of Brentwood Borough Council; Castle Point Borough Council; Chelmsford Borough Council; Southend Borough Council; and Thurrock Borough Council. Consultation with Essex neighbours found that all officers agreed that there is a need to engage with planning authority partners on strategic matters and cross boundary issues. However, the officer representing Southend explained that, in the absence of a regional body to induce discussion and allocate sites, the Duty to Cooperate falls to individual planning

authorities to try and make provision within their area before looking at their neighbours, unless there are particular constraints.

^{4.252} One officer pointed to the existence of a number of initiatives that have been set up to enable planning authorities to have discussions around the specific thematic issues of the Duty to Cooperate, giving the following examples: the strategic flood risk assessment; the housing market assessment; and Southend and Rochford's joint working on the development of airports and business parks.

^{4.253} The officer representing Southend added that Basildon Borough will need to disseminate the findings of their GTAA to Thames Gateway-South Essex and the Essex Planning Officers' Association.

^{4.254} ORS also spoke to an officer representing Basildon as part of the Essex GTAA. The Officer revealed that the Basildon Borough GTLNAA was published in December 2013 identifying a total Objectively Assessed Need of 276 pitches between 2011 and 2031. On 19th December 2013, Basildon Borough Council approved the Basildon Borough Local Plan Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options Report for public consultation, which closed on 1st April 2014.

^{4.255} In respect of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation provision and the proposed new Core Policy (CP5), the Council considered the GTLNAA and determined that the growth arising from Gypsy and Traveller families residing on authorised sites in the Borough over the plan period required the provision of a further 121 pitches. The Local Planning Authority has proposed to introduce a new criteria based policy (CP5) to provide a minimum of 30 Gypsy and Traveller pitches up to 2016 and to defer the identification of land for the remaining 91 pitches to a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan.

^{4.256} In addition, it accepted that if it was to make provision for its full Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN), a further 155 pitches would need to be provided in order to cater for the 86 families living illegally at Dale Farm, in Crays Hill and their natural growth over the plan period. The Council however felt that it was unreasonable to expect any one LPA to provide sites, regardless of existing provision, when having to take into account the Green Belt constraints of the Borough.

^{4.257} The Council subsequently state in the Revised Preferred Options Report that it is working with the LPAs in Essex on a joint GTAA and will seek to use this and other mechanisms to secure additional provision for the households of unmet need from the Basildon Borough, throughout the rest of Essex.

^{4.258} The Council is currently processing and analysing all of the responses to the Local Plan Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options report and plans to take a Statement of Consultation back to Cabinet in Autumn 2014 where all representations will be noted, answered and further work identified that must take place ahead of the next draft of the Local Plan being prepared.

^{4.259} Since the closure of the public consultation, the Basildon Borough GTLNAA has been updated to reflect more accurate data on public site waiting lists in Essex as part of the Essex GTAA, which has reduced Basildon Borough's objectively assessed needs for new pitches.

^{4.260} The Council has also commissioned Peter Brett Associates to undertake work on evaluating whether the full OAN can be accommodated within the Borough boundary to assist in those strategic discussions and future iterations of the Local Plan, which should be completed by Autumn 2014.

Broxbourne Borough Council

4.261 Within the Borough accommodation provision for Gypsies and Travellers consists of:

- » One public site - 15 pitches
- » Two private sites – four pitches
- » One unauthorised site – 12 pitches which are regularised rather than have planning permission and 15-20 which are unauthorised.

4.262 Within the Borough accommodation provision for Travelling Showpeople is made up of:

- » Two private yards – 1 plot and 10 -20 plots.

4.263 Broxbourne had recently commissioned a GTAA, nevertheless, the results were not available at the time of the interview. However, the Council Officer did refer to the Local Plan process which would make provision to support the reasonable growth of sites in the area.

4.264 The Council has received planning permission to relocate and redevelop the public site which, if it goes ahead, will provide an additional few pitches.

4.265 When asked about the duty to cooperate and the provision of accommodation, the officer explained that the Borough's view would be that local authorities will need to meet their own needs, where appropriate.

4.266 When asked about cross border issues regarding Essex, specifically Epping Forest who share a boundary, the officer explained that there is not much movement between the areas as the Lee Valley Park separates the two areas.

4.267 The officer explained that Broxbourne's intention is to share a final draft of the GTAA with neighbouring authorities (Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford) and will invite comments and would then reissue a final report which would take into account the feedback. The officer hoped that these authorities would also do the same.

Cambridge County Council

4.268 There are ten local authority Traveller sites in Cambridgeshire:

- » five sites in Fenland
- » two sites in East Cambridgeshire
- » two sites in South Cambridgeshire
- » one site in Huntingdonshire (Luminus Group).

4.269 These Traveller sites are provided by Cambridgeshire County Council but are managed by each of the district councils (although Huntingdon's Traveller site is managed by the Luminus Group).

4.270 ORS did not obtain information relating to private sites across the County but are aware of the large private travellers' site 'Smithy Fen' which is located in Cottenham, South Cambridgeshire.

^{4.271} Cambridge sub-region completed its GTANA in 2011⁸. The study concluded that 127 pitches were required in the period up to 2016. South Cambridgeshire, which borders Uttlesford and part of Braintree, had the highest requirement of 67 pitches, although, 65 of those were pitches which had temporary permission.

^{4.272} A Traveller Liaison Officer based within the Cambridgeshire County Council Traveller Liaison Service manages unauthorised encampments across the county. Unless encampments are particularly large or occur on sensitive, unsafe or problematic areas they may be allowed to remain on County or Local Authority land for a period of up to 28 days, however, they must abide by a code of conduct, which includes references to rubbish and antisocial behaviour.

^{4.273} The officer revealed that there had been a higher number of encampments during the winter months and attributed this to the better weather, albeit the heavy rain, during the 2013-14 period. Travellers are said to move through the area for the following reasons:

- » En route to Appleby
- » Visiting family and friends in the area
- » Lack of permanent accommodation
- » Like or enjoy visiting the area.

^{4.274} In terms of provision for unauthorised encampments, the 2011 study found there to be some demand for transit or emergency stopping places. However, it was concluded that it was not possible to determine the precise amount of demand in any one local authority area as data on unauthorised encampments were not recorded/available in every local authority area and there was no consistent method used for collating the data. There was no data on unauthorised encampments in the South Cambridgeshire area, although the officer at Cambridgeshire County Council did suggest that most encampments are within the East Cambridgeshire area which borders Suffolk and Norfolk.

^{4.275} The officer referred positively to the meeting which takes place every three months and is attended by a representative from Essex Countywide Traveller Unit. The meeting was considered to be an excellent opportunity to share information about the Travelling community and good practice.

Dartford Borough Council

^{4.276} The Borough undertook a GTAA study in 2013 which outlined a need for additional accommodation for gypsies and travellers in the area. It gave us 5, 10 and 15 years targets and that will be incorporated into a development management document at a later stage.

^{4.277} There is one public site in the Borough, the rest are privately owned. There are 14 authorised sites, some which are overcrowded and others are not always at capacity and some that are never at capacity. It was thought that some of the sites have been vacated due to the occupants moving into bricks and mortar accommodation.

^{4.278} There are also three unauthorised sites, two which are subject to appeal and one which is a long-term unauthorised site and is therefore not subject to enforcement. All of the sites are in the greenbelt.

⁸ The study can be found <http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-plan-evibase%202011%20GTANA.pdf>

^{4.279} The officer was aware of an increase in the amount of short-term encampments in 2013 but was not able to offer an explanation for this growth. Future work around encampments will be undertaken by the Council as currently there is no knowledge on the reasons for travelling through the area of any patterns of travelling. The officer referred to work undertaken by Salford University that suggests the transit issue needs to be addressed regionally, across the Kent area. The key transit route is the M25, the M20 and the A2. Thurrock is the closest Essex authority to Dartford but the areas are separated by the River Thames. As a result, the point of entry and cross boundary movement is on the M25.

^{4.280} The officer was not aware of Gypsies and Travellers moving from Dartford to Thurrock or vice versa but was aware of one family who has come from Basildon into Dartford attempting to live in the greenbelt (this site was subject to an appeal at the time of interview).

^{4.281} The Travelling Showpeople situated at Buckles Lane in Thurrock is thought to have no impact on Dartford.

^{4.282} The officer explained that Dartford had not undertaken any work with Thurrock with regards to Gypsies and Travellers for some time, however, at a meeting was taking place in June 2014.

^{4.283} It was felt that since most of the surrounding areas had completed its GTAA it is perhaps timely to hold a sub-regional cross borough meeting and it was suggested that authorities bordering the south east London area would be a useful partnership.

East Herts District Council

^{4.284} ORS were commissioned to undertake a needs assessment which was completed in 2014 and will inform the emerging Local Plan and have subsequently commissioned an identification of sites study.

^{4.285} Within East Herts there are:

- » Three authorised private sites
- » Two unauthorised sites

^{4.286} East Herts are looking for alternative accommodation for those living on unauthorised sites.

^{4.287} Unauthorised encampments are said to occur occasionally and the area is not thought to be a travelling route and it was suggested that the M1 and M25, which are outside of district, are the main routes.

^{4.288} The council officer was not aware of any cross boundary issues but was conscious that the surrounding authorities, including Essex were in the process of undertaking their own assessments.

^{4.289} It was felt that East Herts were complying with the Duty to Cooperate and had attended regular meetings with the bordering authorities.

Gravesham Borough Council

^{4.290} Salford University recently completed Traveller Accommodation Assessment (April 2013). The study highlighted that the majority of Travellers in Gravesham are local and have either lived in Gravesham or the wider Kent Area. The assessment found no evidence of to suggest movement between areas, or any

evidence of connections with locations in Essex and did not identify any cross border issues with Essex authorities.

^{4.291} The only area where cross boundary interests were said to come into play is the provision of a network of transit sites/stopping places. A Kent wide approach to such provision was said to have been discussed in the past, with Kent County Council co-ordinating this, but for a variety of reasons this had not resulted in the delivery of sites. Currently, where there are issues of unauthorised encampments, local authorities are making their own provision.

Suffolk County Council

^{4.292} ORS completed the Suffolk GTAA in April 2013. The study included Babergh, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

^{4.293} The Officer was not aware of any cross border movement between Essex and Suffolk and was of the opinion that the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population are being met within Essex.

^{4.294} When asked about the duty to cooperate and the provision of accommodation, the officer explained that East Region Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer meetings take place every eight weeks and, given the opportunities to share information, considered this an example of good practice.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Accommodation

^{4.295} Wider stakeholders felt there was an insufficient amount of accommodation nationwide and in Essex, however, the majority of Council Officers who contributed to the study were of the view that there was sufficient accommodation.

Transit Provision

^{4.296} Given the proximity to London and the M25, the opportunities for employment and the existing large Travelling population, Essex is a popular stopping place for the Travelling community. However, wider stakeholders did not support the idea of a transit site and preferred a policy of tolerance such as been adopted in places like Worcestershire. Importantly, it was felt that Councils that make up Essex should at the very least have a consistent policy which is communicated to the Travelling community.

Duty to Cooperate and Joined-Up Working

^{4.297} Both wider stakeholders and Council Officers supported the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit and felt that it is beneficial to have a joined-up County approach. For example it was understood that Travellers who move between neighbouring areas are closely monitored, which therefore enables the Local Authorities to have a better coordinated understanding of their movements and needs.

^{4.298} However, wider stakeholders did feel that more could be between boundaries, particularly as Travellers do not stick within boundaries. It was felt that it was unhelpful that Districts work in isolation rather than

cooperation and felt that Councils and the police need to work together to have a consistent policy on the management of unauthorised encampments.

- ^{4.299} Some Council Officers made the point that the Duty to Cooperate is still in its infancy and there is confusion surrounding what it actually entails. Positively, it was felt that the results of this GTAA could provide a basis for discussion with neighbouring authorities.

Consultation and Communication

- ^{4.300} Wider stakeholders and the majority of Council Officers felt that more consultation and engagement with the Gypsy and Traveller and settled communities is required across the County and most Officers were not aware of any consultation, with the exception of this GTAA, work that has been done within their District.
- ^{4.301} Within Essex there are a number of Gypsy and Traveller representatives that could help consult with the community and Districts should attempt to engage this group. It could be beneficial to develop a Countywide Traveller Forum which includes representatives from the Travelling community, members of the wider community, Elected Members and Council Officers.
- ^{4.302} It was felt that more communication between the settled and the Gypsy and Traveller community is required and this could take the form of information on Council websites to detail for instance what obligations the Districts have towards accommodating the Gypsy and Traveller community and management of unauthorised encampments, which could also benefit the Travelling community.
- ^{4.303} Wider stakeholders felt the needs of Travelling Showpeople are often overlooked and neglected and, to an extent, this was confirmed by the majority of Officers who had little awareness of, or contact with, the Showpeople's community. The Showman's Guild is accessible and it should be good practice that each District liaises with the Guild on a regular basis.

5. Engagement with Travelling Communities

Survey of the Gypsy and Traveller Population

- 5.1 One of the major components of this study was a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population within all the participating authorities. This aimed to identify current households with housing needs, and to assess likely future household formation from within existing households, to help judge the need for future site provision.
- 5.2 The participating authorities provided information on all known Gypsy and Traveller sites. Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in the area that was present during June and July 2013. Therefore, the base date for the findings of this study is June 2013. Throughout the survey period interviewers from ORS worked from 9am to 7pm each day and made repeated visits to each household until a successful interview was concluded. In total, interviews were achieved on-site with 305 households. Interviews were also completed with 107 households in Basildon and the outcomes of these interviews have been taken into consideration when estimating current and future accommodation needs.
- 5.3 For the on-site interviews, the following number took place in each Local Authority:
- » Braintree District Council – 24 interviews;
 - » Brentwood Borough Council- 52 interviews;
 - » Castle Point Borough Council – 3 interviews;
 - » Chelmsford City Council – 24 interviews;
 - » Colchester Borough Council – 6 interviews;
 - » Epping Forest District Council - 71 interviews;
 - » Harlow District Council – 14 interviews;
 - » Maldon District Council – 48 interviews;
 - » Rochford District Council – 2 interviews;
 - » Southend Borough Council – 0 interviews⁹;
 - » Tendring District Council - 5 interviews;
 - » Thurrock Council - 31 interviews;
 - » Uttlesford District Council – 25 interviews.

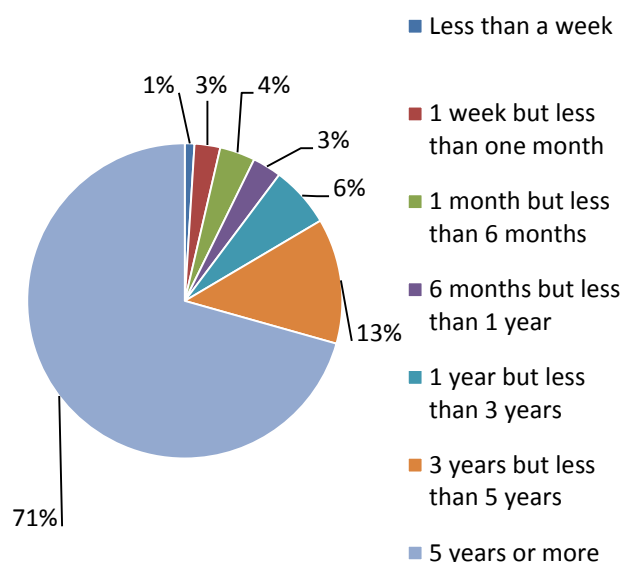
⁹ There are no Gypsy and Traveller sites or Travelling Showpeople yards in Southend and no unauthorised encampments were identified during the fieldwork period

- 5.4 Throughout this study the person responding to the survey will be referred to as the respondent, and in questions which refer to all people in the household they will be referred to as household members. Throughout the remainder of this report the majority of numbers which appear on the charts represent the percentage of respondents who appear in that category. The purpose of showing percentages is to allow the results of the survey to be extrapolated to the whole Gypsy and Traveller population of Essex. In a few cases, it is more appropriate to use the actual number of respondents, and these cases are clearly identified. In all charts those respondents who answered 'don't know', or did not answer the question, are omitted unless otherwise stated.

Length of Residence

- 5.5 The majority of those surveyed had lived on their current site for at least 3 years, with 71% having lived at their current site for 5 years or more. The remaining respondents (16%) had moved to their current site within the last year (Figure 19). Most respondents (96%) considered the site they were interviewed on to be their permanent base. Of the remaining 4% (12 respondents), various reasons were given for their current presence on site, including: visiting friends or family (6 respondents), working in the area (1 respondent), and having nowhere else to go (1 respondent). Two of the 12 respondents who stated their current site was not their permanent base reported that they had a permanent base elsewhere. The remaining respondents who answered the question reported that they were either always on the road or had no permanent base. In these cases it may be the case that the households are living permanently at the address, but do not wish to declare this because they are not the owner or leaseholder.

Figure 17
Length of Time Respondents Have Lived on Their Current Site, by all Respondents
 (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

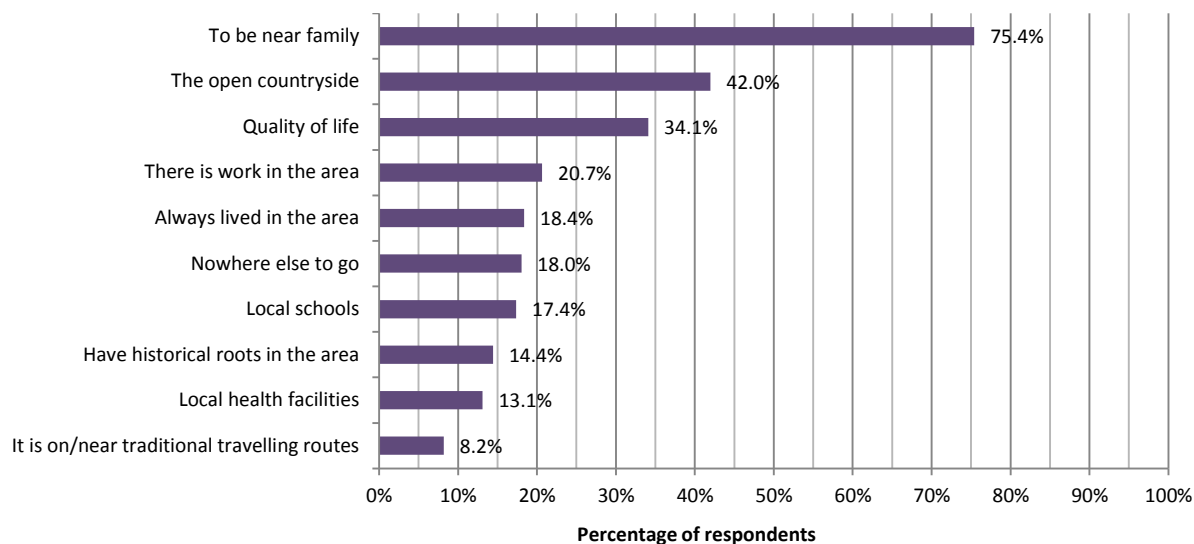


Attractions of the Area

- 5.6 Respondents are most likely to be attracted to live in this area in order to be near family (75%). More than a third are attracted by the open countryside (42%) and the quality of life (34%). ORS would note that we have recently completed household survey for a number of London boroughs. A number of households on public sites in London would prefer to be on private sites in areas such as Essex and Kent because they offer a better lifestyle. There has been a decline in the number of pitches in Greater London in recent years and this has seen households move to areas outside of the capital. However, planning inspectors are now expecting London boroughs to identify a need for pitches and to provide them and this may slow the movement of Gypsies and Travellers out of London.

Figure 18

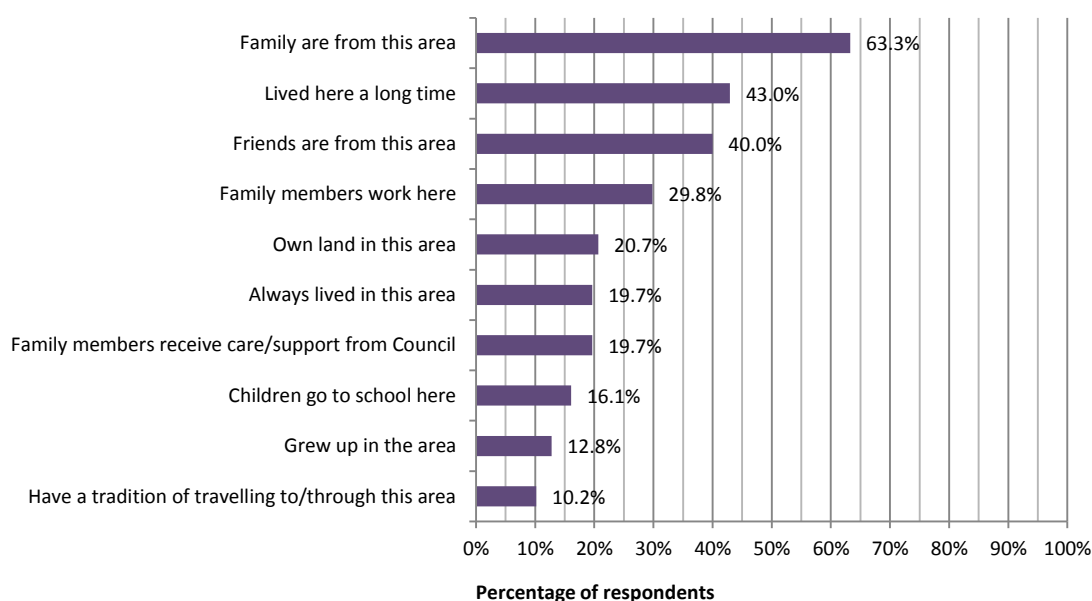
What attracts respondents to live in this area, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



Connections with the Area

- 5.7 Respondents noted a variety of different connections to their local areas (see Figure 21), with the main links identified being that their family are from the area (63%), that they have lived in the area a long time (43%), that their friends are from the area (40%) or that their family members work here (30%). Therefore, the Gypsy and Traveller community in Essex has many household who are from the area, but others who are attracted to the area because they have family in the area.

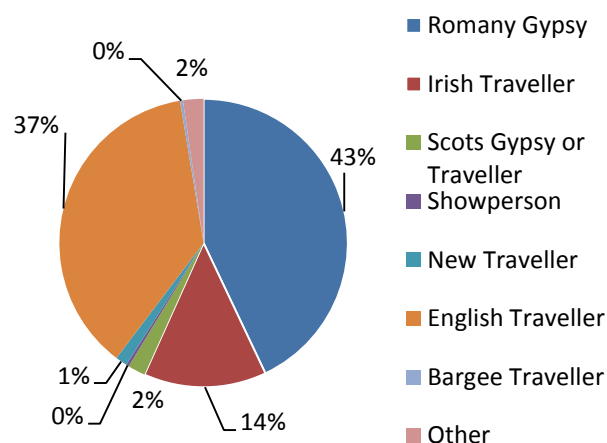
Figure 19: Connection to this area, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)
Nature of Local Connections, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



Ethnic Background

5.8 Amongst those surveyed, 43% identified themselves as Romany Gypsies, 37% as English Travellers and 14% as Irish Travellers (Figure 20). We would note that the phrases English Traveller and Romany Gypsy are often used interchangeably, so around four fifths of the surveys were with this group. Of the remaining respondents, 6 were Scots Gypsies or Travellers, 1 was a Showman but living on a Gypsy and Traveller site and 1 described themselves as a Bargee Traveller. At 2 sites in Uttlesford, no Gypsies and Travellers were found to be present and instead the sites were sub-let by their owner to no Travellers.

Figure 20
Ethnic Group by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

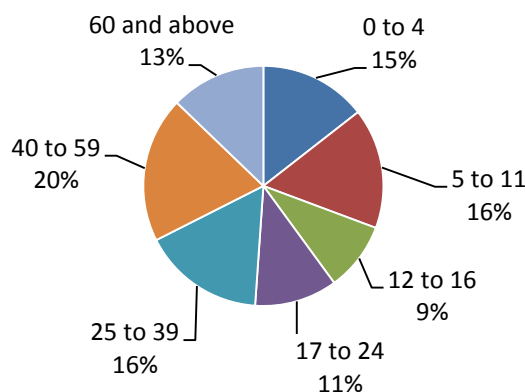


Age and Household Profile

5.9 Households surveyed showed a mixed range of ages across their members. A fifth (20%) of household members were middle aged (i.e. between 40 and 59 years), while 13% were aged 60 years or more. Two fifths (40%) of household members were aged 16 or under. However, we would note that it is typical for Gypsy and Traveller studies to record relatively few males aged 18-60 years, many of who travel on an almost permanent basis. This is the case in Essex where around 25% of pitches contain no adult males and in practice the share of children in the total population is almost certainly lower, so in practice less than 40% of the population will be children. This is very much in line with the age profile for the Gypsy and Traveller population nationally and from a demographic viewpoint indicates that on average Gypsy and Traveller women have around 3 children each, compared to a national settled community average of just below 2 children each.

Figure 21

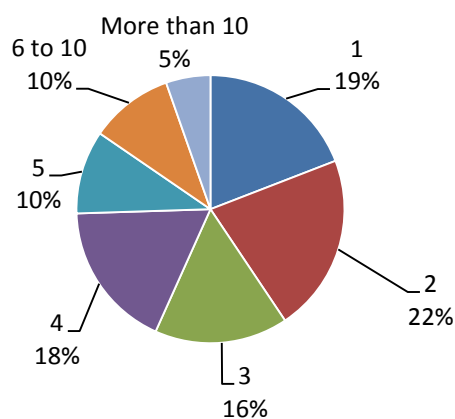
Age profile of Household Members, by all Household Members (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



- 5.10 More than four fifths of respondents (84%) reported that their pitch is occupied by one household only. 8% said that two households occupy the pitch, and a further 6% said that there are three or four households on the pitch. However, many of these cases are on unauthorised site where they are reporting the number of households living on the site, rather than the number living on a pitch. When these households are counted separately on the unauthorised sites, the household survey indicates that around 4% of household on authorise pitches have more than one household living on the pitch.
- 5.11 A majority of households (57%) had between one and three members. 15% had more than five members. However, again it should be reiterated that a number of respondents stated the number of households and people on an unauthorised site and that in Appendix A we have counted separate households on these sites, so the number per pitch will be lower.

Figure 22

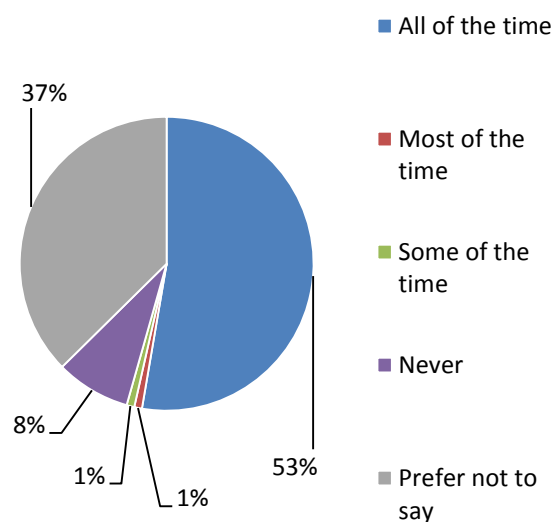
Number of person per pitch based on number of members, by all Household Members (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



Schooling

- 5.12 More than half (53%) of the children identified by respondents as being enrolled in school were reported to be attending the school all of the time. 8% of the children were reported to never attend school. However, it is worth noting that for more than a third of these children (37%) the respondent failed/refused to indicate how often the child attends school.

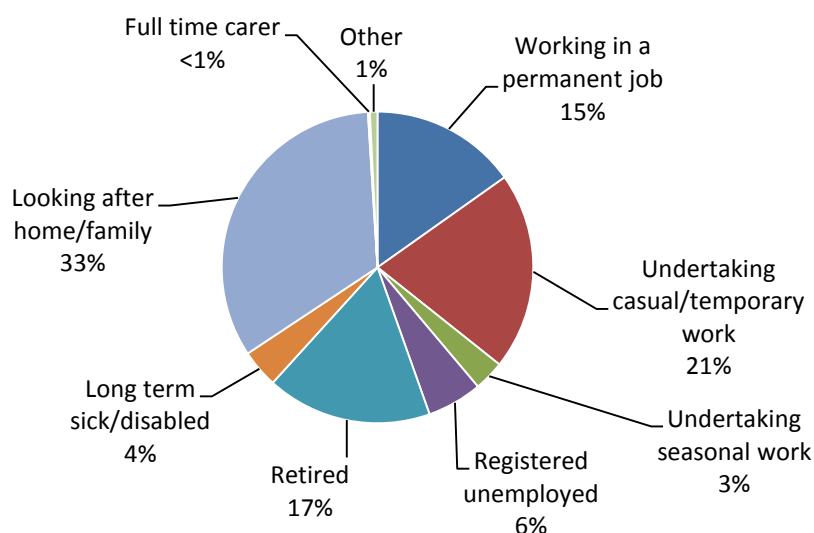
Figure 23
School attendance by all Children enrolled in school (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



Employment

- 5.13 Respondents were asked to give the employment status of all members of their household. Of those household members who had their employment status recorded, around two fifths were said to be undertaking some form of paid work (15% of all household members were working in a permanent job, 21% were undertaking casual or temporary work, and 3% were undertaking seasonal work). A third were reported to be looking after the home or family.
- 5.14 Among those who were working, the most common occupations were tree surgery, gardening or landscaping; and building/groundwork, maintenance (e.g. roofing) and tarmacking.

Figure 24
Employment Status of Household Members, by All Household Members Aged Over 16 Years (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2012)



Health Problems

- ^{5.15} 28% of respondents interviewed (85 respondents) reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. The survey only sought information on whether the household contained a health problem and not which specific person this relates to. The figure of 28% is relatively low for a survey of Gypsies and Travellers with figure of over 40% often being recorded for health problems.
- ^{5.16} Of those who reported a long term health problem within the household, 39% (33 respondents) said their existing pitch did not meet the care needs of those with health issues. The most common reasons given were that the pitch lacked washing or sanitary facilities (e.g. wet room, shower or toilet) (7 respondents), or had access issues (e.g. too many steps, required hand rails or a ramp) (7 respondents). Public site in Thurrock and Uttlesford were both named by many respondents as not being suitable to address the health needs of their households.

6. Existing Sites

Type of Site

6.1 The majority of interviews were carried out on an owner occupied pitch (44%; 123 respondents) or on an authorised public site (38%; 106 respondents). 7% (20 interviews) were carried out on unauthorised encampments and developments.

6.2 All respondents were asked if they required any additional caravans/residential units at their current pitch. 5% (14 respondents) indicated that they would like additional caravans on their existing pitch. 9 of these respondents reported that these additional caravans were needed for older children and 5 said they were needed for adult relatives. Therefore, there is some indication of a lack of living space for some households in Essex.

6.3 When asked how many additional caravans/residential units were required, 6 respondents said they needed just one additional caravan/unit and a further 3 respondents needed 2 caravans/units. 9 respondents thought there would be room on their pitch for these additional caravans, although 4 said they did not know.

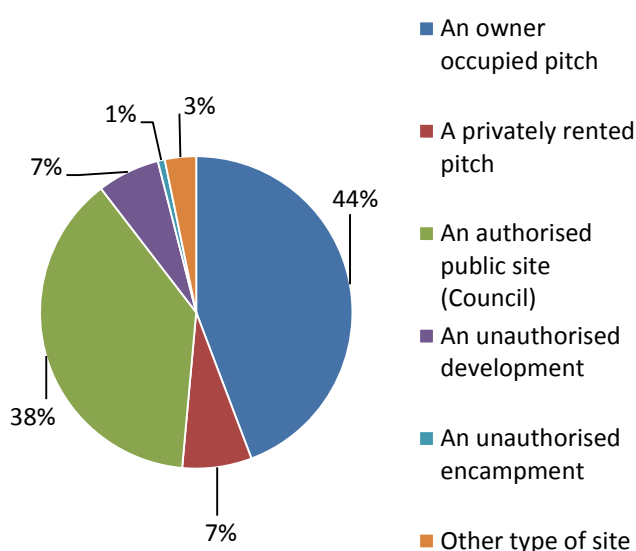
6.4 The phrasing of this question focused on a need rather than a demand for more caravans. Respondents were asked, irrespective of who was purchasing the caravans, whether they needed more caravans for household members. Therefore, this question simply reflected a perceived need for more caravans, rather than an ability to afford (demand for) more caravans. Given that few councils provide caravans for Gypsies and Travellers there is no expectation that these additional caravans must be provided by local authorities.

6.5 9 respondents said there was someone else who needed to live with them, who was not able to at present. Nearly all those who needed to live with them were relatives, most of whom currently live in bricks and mortar or on unauthorised encampments.

6.6 We would also note that residents were asked if they would be happy for the location of current and potential future Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites to be identified on maps and published in Local Plans. 86% of those who responded agreed that this would be acceptable to them.

Figure 25

Type of pitch, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

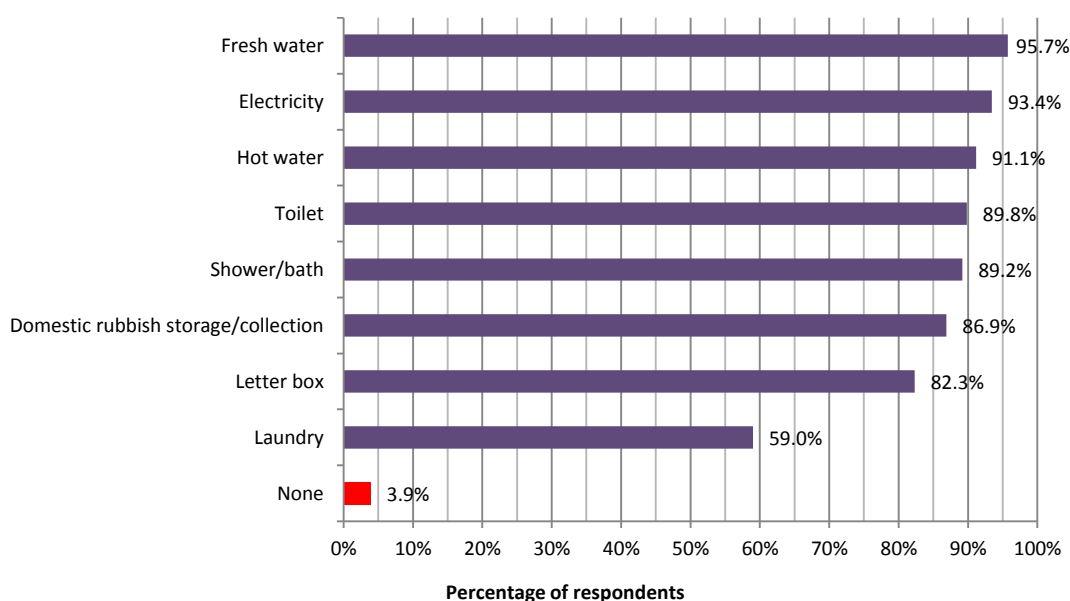


Access to Facilities

- 6.7 Respondents were asked whether various facilities were available for use at their current accommodation by just them and their families. At least 90% had access to fresh water (96%), electricity (93%) and hot water (91%). Fewer reported that they had laundry facilities available (59%) and 4% (12 respondents) said they did not have access to any of these facilities for use by just them and their families.

Figure 26

Availability of facilities for use by respondents and their families (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



Views of Accommodation and Sites

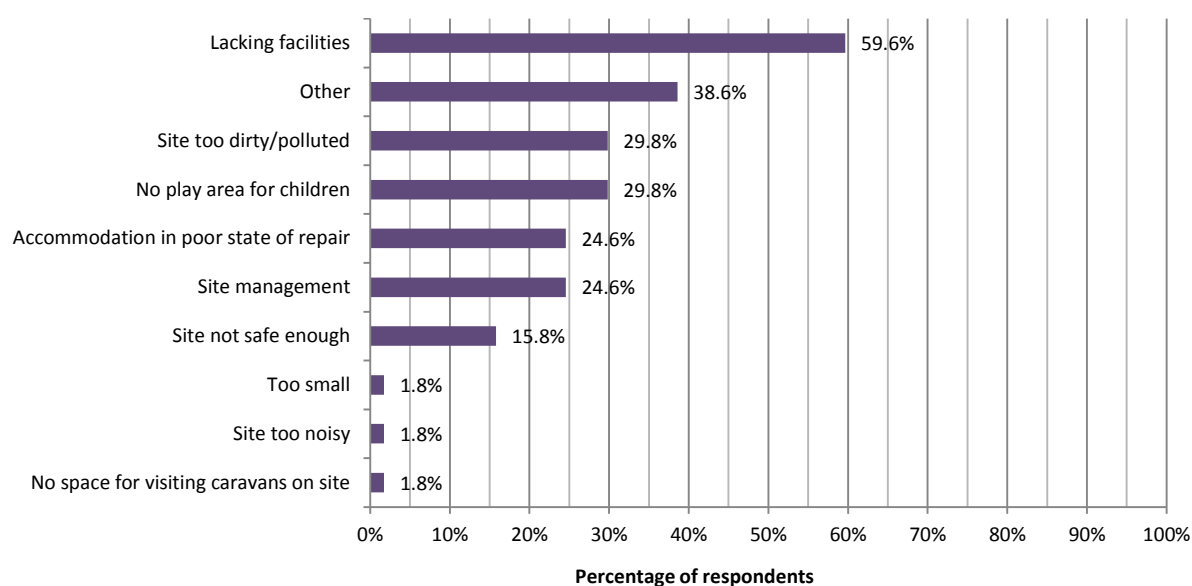
- 6.8 On average there were 1.58 caravans per pitch across Essex. Colchester had a high number of caravans per pitch on its sites, but this was based upon a small sample size. Epping Forest had the fewest number of caravans per pitch for authorities where a relative high number of interviews were conducted.
- 6.9 The vast majority (80%) of respondents stated that their current accommodation and site meet their needs in terms of accommodation quality and space; and site facilities, location and management.
- 6.10 The most common reasons why respondents did not feel their current accommodation and site meet their needs were due to a lack of facilities, the site being dirty/polluted and there being no play area for children. 'Other' reasons included drainage problems/flooding, a lack of utilities (heat, water, or electricity) and issues with paths, trees and sheds. A high number of these households were resident on public sites in Braintree, Harlow, Thurrock and Uttlesford.

6.11

Figure 27**Average Number of Caravans per Pitch (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)**

Local Authority	Number of caravans per pitch
Basildon Borough	1.44
Braintree District	1.63
Brentwood Borough	1.60
Castle Point Borough	1.67
Chelmsford City	1.54
Colchester Borough	2.83
Epping Forest District	1.36
Harlow District	1.79
Maldon District	1.75
Rochford District	2.00
Southend on Sea Borough	-
Tendring District	1.00
Thurrock	1.65
Uttlesford District	2.04
Total	1.58

- 6.12 When asked what further facilities were needed, the most common responses from respondents were improved sanitary facilities, including better washing facilities (including showers), toilets, a better water supply and improved drainage. A number of respondents also suggested improvements to day rooms (e.g. making them bigger, repairs), sheds, and paths.

Figure 28**Reasons why accommodation does not meet needs, by all Respondents who stated current accommodation/site does not meet their needs (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)**

- 6.13 The majority of these respondents (54 respondents) felt that their needs could be met at their current pitch; only 1 respondent said they would like to move to another site. However, to address the issues would require a major investment into public sites owned by Essex County Council.

^{6.14} The vast majority (89%) of respondents expressed some degree of satisfaction with their site, with more than two thirds (70%) stating that they were very satisfied. Only 9 respondents expressed dissatisfaction and, of these, 3 were very dissatisfied. Almost all dissatisfied household were on public sites.

^{6.15} 8% (24 respondents) were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

^{6.16} Respondents were asked what improvements, if any, could be made to the site. Overall, around 1 in 10 respondents said that the site could be improved with better washing facilities (11%) and better toilet facilities (10%). Site safety and a play area were suggested by 9% and 8% of respondents respectively. 12% suggested other improvements, which included refurbishment and better maintenance in general (4 respondents), separate electricity meters (3 respondents), better drainage (3 respondents) and bigger or better sheds (also 3 respondents). There were various other suggestions, including improved pest control, lighting, and traffic control measures. Again, those seeking improvement were dominated by households on public sites owned by Essex County Council.

^{6.17} However, 72% said no improvements were required.

Figure 29

Satisfaction with accommodation, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

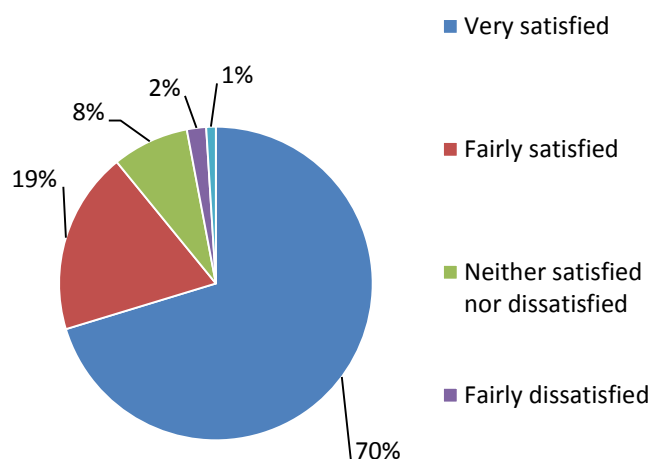
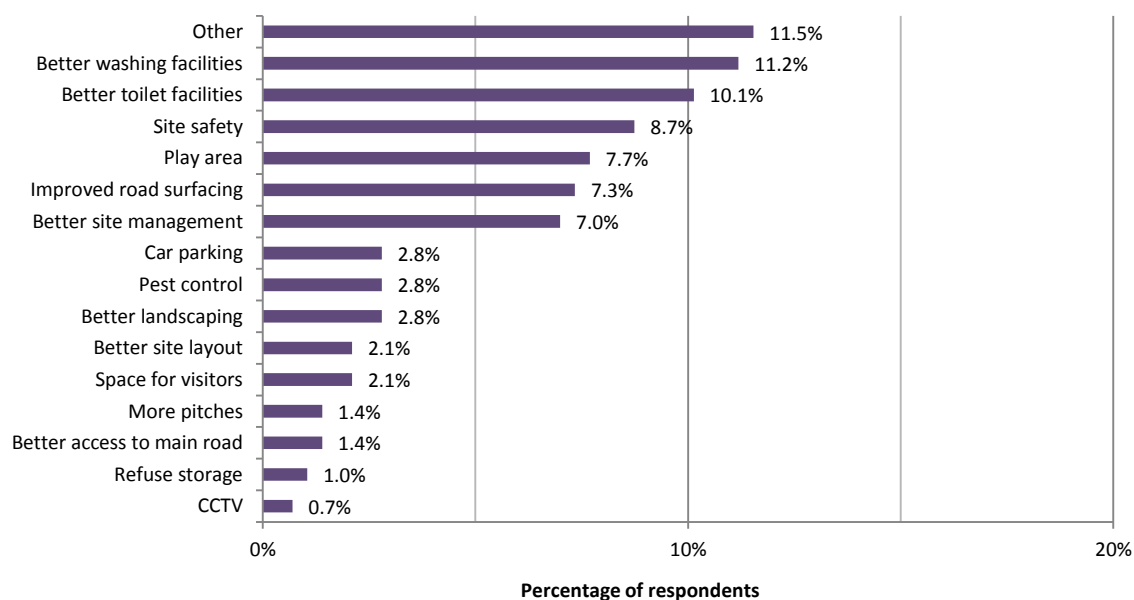
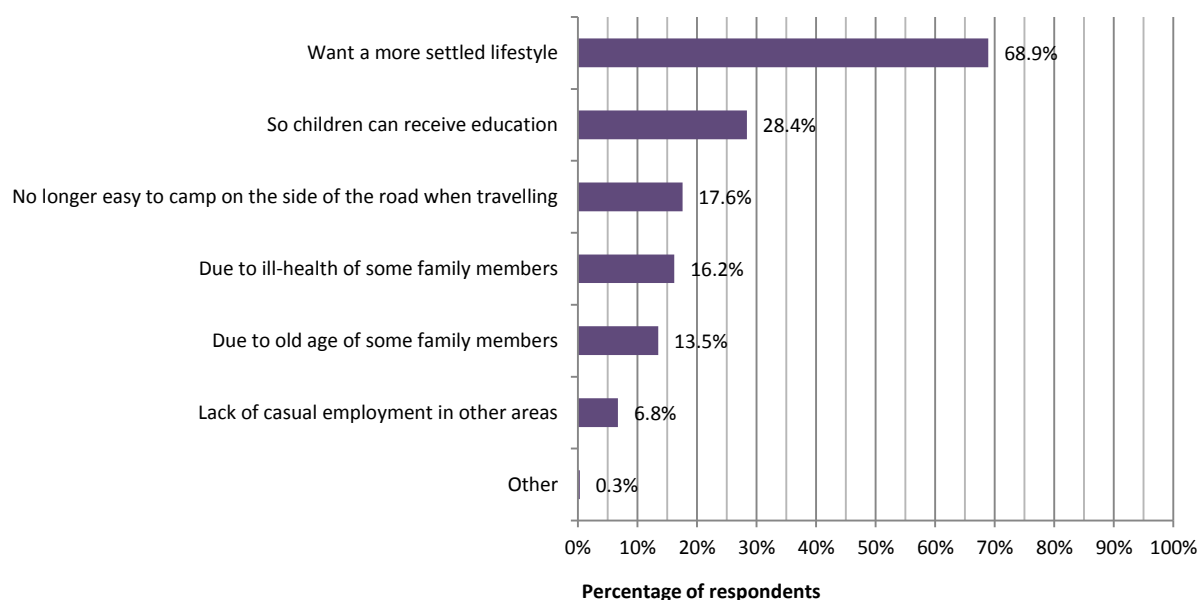


Figure 30**Suggested improvements that could be made to the site (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)**

Propensity to Travel

- 6.18 Nearly two thirds (64%) of those surveyed reported that they had not travelled at all during the last 12 months. Amongst those who had travelled in the last 12 months, most (82%; 99 respondents) had travelled for less than 3 months. 8% said they had travelled all year round. For the majority (96 respondents) their level of travelling in the last 12 months was normal; however, 15 respondents said they had travelled less in the last few years.
- 6.19 The reasons provided for travelling were for a holiday (52 respondents), fairs (42 respondents), family reasons (34 respondents) and for work (27 respondents).
- 6.20 The majority (62%) of those who had not travelled in the last 12 months reported that they had not travelled in the past either. The main reasons given for not travelling in the last 12 months were; wanting a more settled lifestyle (69%), so that children can receive an education (28%) and because it is no longer easy to camp on the side of the road while travelling. Given the current government intend to consult on changing in the planning definition of a Gypsy and Traveller to cover only those who travel, this has potentially major implications if many households do not travel. However whilst the announcement that the Government was considering to bring forward this consultation was made in January 2014, to date it has not been forthcoming. ORS are also of the view that the introduction of such a policy would be subject to significant Human Rights challenges.

Figure 31**Reasons Respondents Had Not Travelled in the Last 12 Months (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)**

Previous Accommodation

- ^{6.21} 13% (39 respondents) reported that they had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation (i.e. a house, bungalow or flat). Most of these (24 respondents) had not lived in this type of accommodation for at least ten years, and just 1 had been living in bricks and mortar less than three years ago. Most of these said they had left bricks and mortar because they did not like it/it did not suit them/they wanted to return to a Travelling lifestyle. Others left for personal or family reasons e.g. to get married or enter a relationship, or to live with relatives. As noted above, if the government were to change the definition of a Gypsy and Traveller to cover only those who travel, many households in Essex may not meet this definition and so will not be able to obtain a pitch.
- ^{6.22} Three respondents reported that they currently owned or rented a house, bungalow or flat as well as living on site. This is 1% of the sample. A further two households in the sample listed their main address as elsewhere. The number of Gypsies and Travellers who have both pitches and houses or who have pitches in more than one location is an under researched area, but clearly there are some households who will fall into the category.

Moving to a New Permanent Base

- ^{6.23} 11 respondents indicated that they would want or need to move to a new permanent base within the next 15 years. Reasons for wanting to move to a new base include problems with the current site or wanting a better site, and needing to move into a house or sheltered accommodation (3 respondents). Overall, this is around 4% of all households interviewed who wish to move. This is a very low figure and in practice site turnover is likely to be higher as households move unexpectedly or household dissolution also frees up pitches. However, it does indicate that not many pitches are projected to be freed in Essex and when

combined with an extremely long site waiting list held by Essex CC, as discussed in Chapter 7, indicates continuing pressures on existing sites in Essex.

- ^{6.24} Of these 11 respondents, 5 would prefer to live in bricks and mortar accommodation (house or flat) and 4 would choose to live in a caravan or trailer on a Council run site.
- ^{6.25} The 11 respondents who indicated that they would want or need to move to a new permanent base in the next 15 years were also asked what areas they would ideally like to establish this base in. Two thirds (7) said they would like to establish a new base in Essex. Preferred locations in Essex that were specified included Basildon, Epping, Ongar, South Ockendon, Barnston, Thurrock and Upminster. 2 respondents said they would like to establish a new base outside Essex. Preferred locations that were specified included in Norwich, Watford and Slough. The remaining 2 respondents said they did not know where they would prefer to establish a new base. All households who expressed an opinion said that they would prefer a new site which is adjacent to an existing settlement. It is also noteworthy that no households said that they would prefer to be on a new site in an urban extension. A number of authorities across the country are looking at developing sites through section 106 agreements on new housing estates and urban extensions. However, none of the Gypsies and Travellers looking to move in Essex favoured a new site in this type of development.
- ^{6.26} For most of these respondents, the reason for wanting to live in the above areas was to be close to family or friends or because they like the area. 1 respondent wanted to be closer to shops and a doctor.

7. Travelling Showpeople

Introduction

- ^{7.1} This section focuses on the needs and aspirations of Showpeople in Essex. As noted in the introduction, Travelling Showpeople are not a recognised ethnic group under the Equalities Act 2010, but within Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012 they are defined as:

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 family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012).

Survey of the Showpeople Population

- ^{7.2} The population of Travelling Showpeople is typically smaller than that of Gypsies and Travellers and planning records also tend to be more disparate. Working with the respective authorities in Essex we were able to identify that there are the following numbers of Showpeople yards in the study area:

- » Basildon Borough Council – 2 yards;
- » Braintree District Council – 2 yards;
- » Brentwood Borough Council – 0 yards;
- » Castle Point Borough Council – 0 yards;
- » Chelmsford City Council – 2 yards;
- » Colchester Borough Council – 0 yards;
- » Epping Forest District Council – 9 yards¹⁰;
- » Harlow District Council – 0 yards;
- » Maldon District Council – 0 yards;
- » Rochford District Council – 0 yards;
- » Southend Borough Council – 0 yards;
- » Tendring District Council – 0 yards;
- » Thurrock Council – 3 yards¹¹;
- » Uttlesford District Council – 1 yard.

¹⁰ 1 large yard sub-divided into 9 smaller yards

¹¹ Excluding Buckles Lane which is the subject of a separate study that was undertaken alongside this study

- 7.3 Therefore in total for the purposes of this report the study area contains 11 Travelling Showpeople yards.
- 7.4 During the course of the household survey with Gypsies and Travellers interviews were attempted with all Showpeople households living on plots in yards in the study area. ORS researchers also visited Buckles Lane in Thurrock on three occasions. This is the largest group of Travelling Showpeople in Europe and contains a mixture of authorised and temporary plots as well as non-Travelling Showpeople (often former workers) living alongside Travelling Showpeople. The outcomes of the fieldwork at Buckles Lane are contained in a separate report given the unique nature of the yards at that location.
- 7.5 In total, 60 interviews were carried out with Travelling Showpeople. Information from these visits is set out below.

Length of Residence

- 7.6 The vast majority of those surveyed had lived on their current yard for at least 5 years or more (98%) while the remaining 2% of respondents had been resident at their current yard for only 6 months.

Attractions of the Area

- 7.7 Respondents are most likely to be attracted to live in this area to be near family (80%). Over half of respondents felt attracted to the area as they have historical roots in the area (58%); that there is work in the area (55%) and that they had nowhere else to go (55%).

Figure 32
Length of Time Respondents Have Lived on Their Current Yard, by all Respondents
(Source: Survey of Travelling Showpeople 2013)

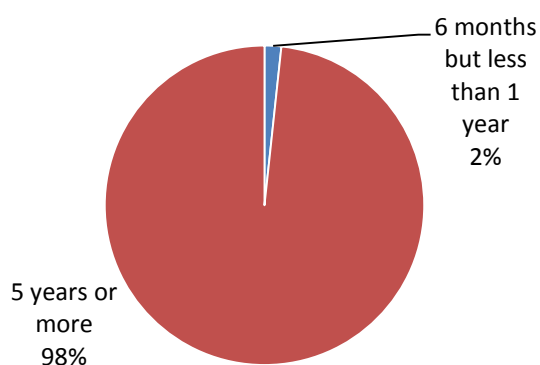
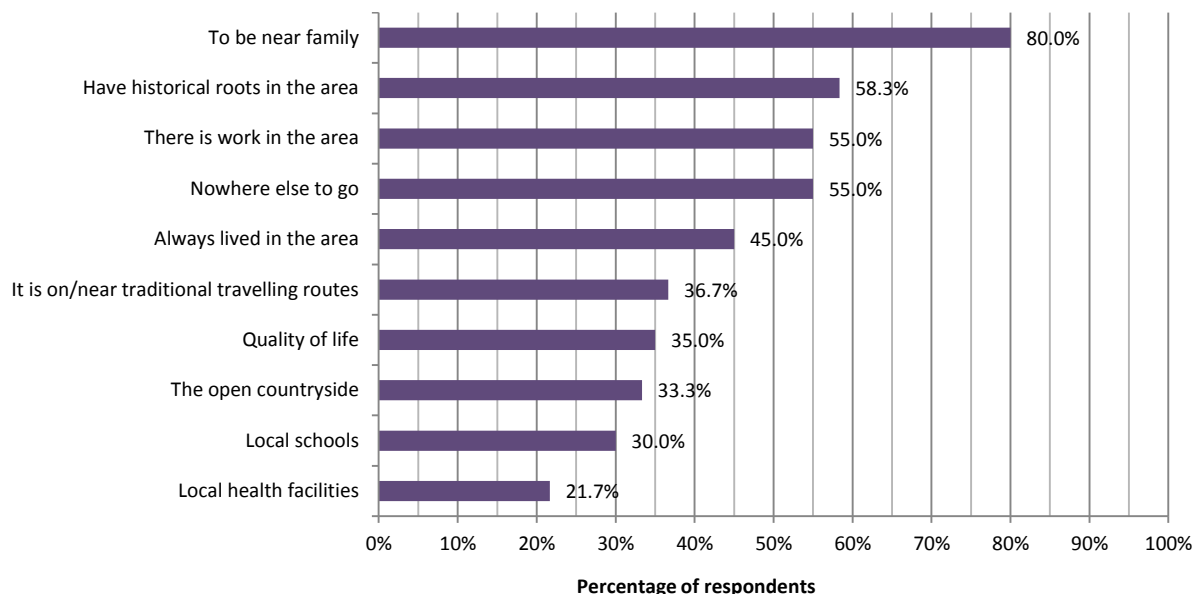
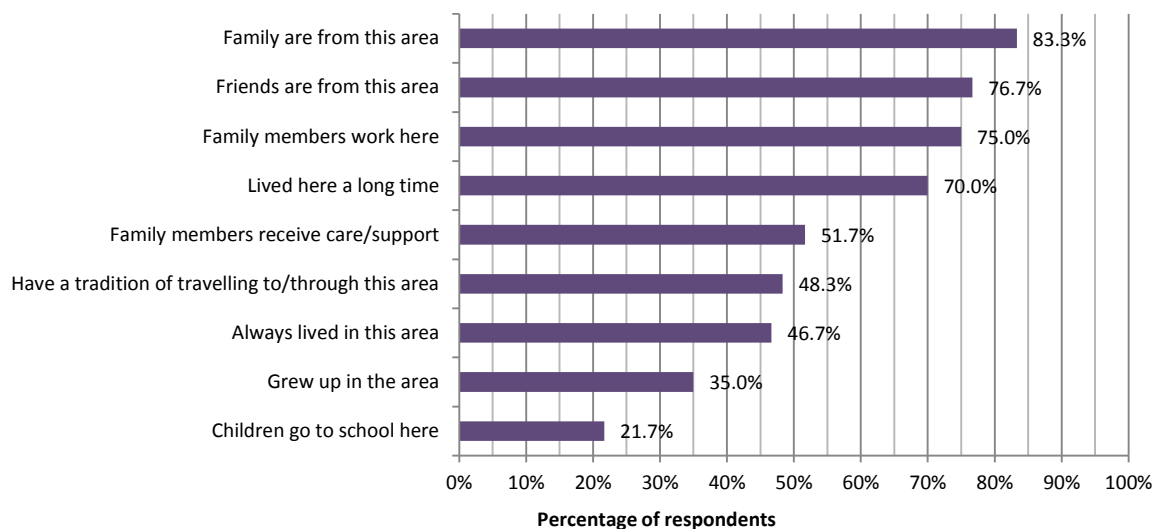


Figure 33**What attracts respondents to live in this area, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Showpeople Population 2013)**

Connections with the Area

- 7.8 Respondents noted a variety of different connections to their local areas with the main links identified being that their families are from the area (83%), that their friends are from the area (77%), or that their family members work here (75%) or that they have lived in the area a long time (70%).

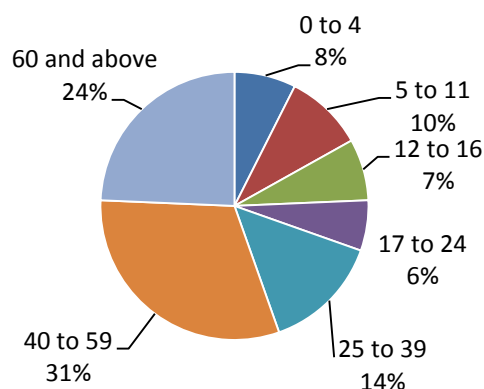
Figure 34**Nature of Local Connections, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Travelling Showpeople Population 2013)**

Age and Household Profile

- 7.9 Households surveyed showed an older age profile across their members. 3 in 10 (31%) of household members were middle aged (i.e. between 40 and 59 years), while around a quarter were aged 60 years or more (24%). Only around a quarter (24%) of household members were aged 16 or under.

Figure 35

Age profile of Household Members, by all Household Members (Source: Survey of Travelling Showpeople 2013)



Health Problems

- 7.10 27% of respondents interviewed (16 respondents) reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. The survey only sought information on whether the household contained a health problem and not which specific person this relates to.
- 7.11 Of those who reported a long term health problem within the household, only 2 respondents said their existing yard did not meet the care needs of those with health issues.

Type of Yard

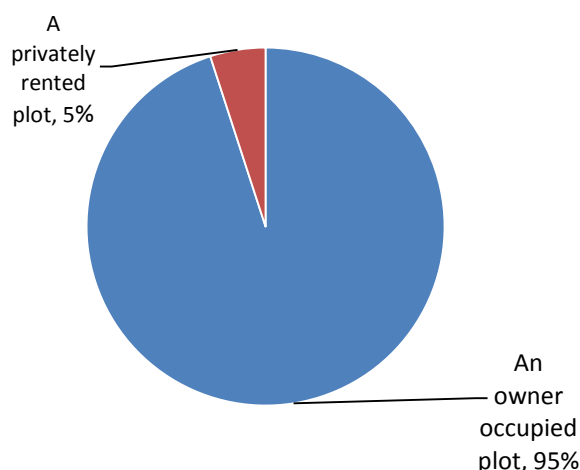
- 7.12 The majority of interviews were carried out on an owner occupied yards (95%; 57 respondents). The remaining 3 interviews were carried out on privately rented plots.

- 7.13 All respondents were asked if they required any additional chalets/caravans at their current plot. Only 7% (4 respondents) indicated that they would like additional caravans on their existing plot. All of the respondents said they needed additional chalets/caravans for their children.

- 7.14 When asked how many additional chalets/caravans were required, 1 respondent

Figure 36

Type of plot, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Travelling Showpeople population 2013)



said they needed just one additional chalet/caravan and a further 2 respondents needed 2 chalets/caravans. The remaining respondent needed 3 additional chalets/caravans. All of the respondents said that there would not be room for the additional chalets/caravans at their existing plot.

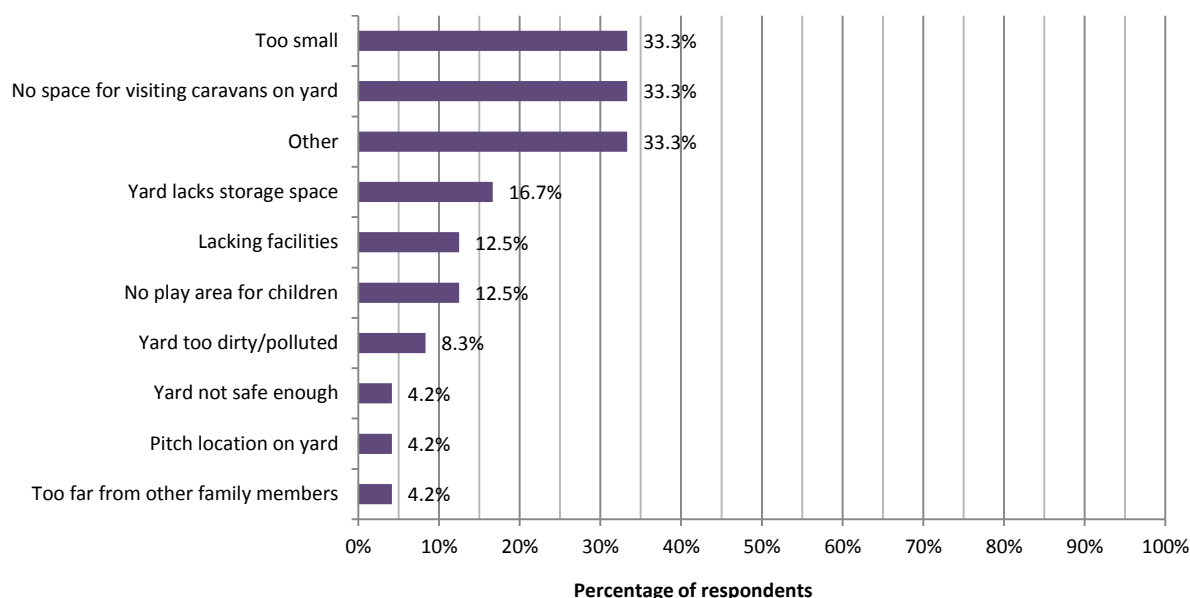
- 7.15 The phrasing of this question focused on a need rather than a demand for more chalets/caravans. Respondents were asked, irrespective of who was purchasing the chalets/caravans, whether they needed more chalets/caravans for household members. Therefore, this question simply reflected a perceived need for more chalets/caravans, rather than an ability to afford (demand for) more caravans.

Views of Accommodation and Yards

- 7.16 40% of respondents stated that their current accommodation and yard do not meet their needs in terms of accommodation quality and space; and yard facilities, location and management.
- 7.17 These respondents were most likely to say this was due to a lack of facilities, the yard being too small and that there is no space for visiting caravans on the yard. 'Other' reasons included drainage problems/flooding and the need for fire hydrants.
- 7.18 When asked what further facilities were needed, respondents were most likely to identify needing mains drainage, additional fire hydrants, improved water pressure and more space.

Figure 37

Reasons why accommodation does not meet needs, by all Respondents who stated current accommodation/yard does not meet their needs (Source: Travelling Showpeople Population 2013)



- 7.19 The majority of these respondents (21 respondents) felt that their needs could be met at their current plot; 3 respondents said they would like to move to another yard.

7.20 The vast majority (88%) of respondents expressed some degree of satisfaction with their yard, with around 3 in 10 stating that they were very satisfied. Only 5 respondents expressed dissatisfaction.

7.21 Respondents were asked what improvements, if any, could be made to the yard. Overall, 10% said there could be better yard management. 19% suggested other improvements, which included the implementation of fire safety, including fire hydrants, mains drainage, improvement of water supply and the addition of day rooms/shower rooms.

7.22 However, 63% said no improvements were required.

Figure 38

Satisfaction with accommodation, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

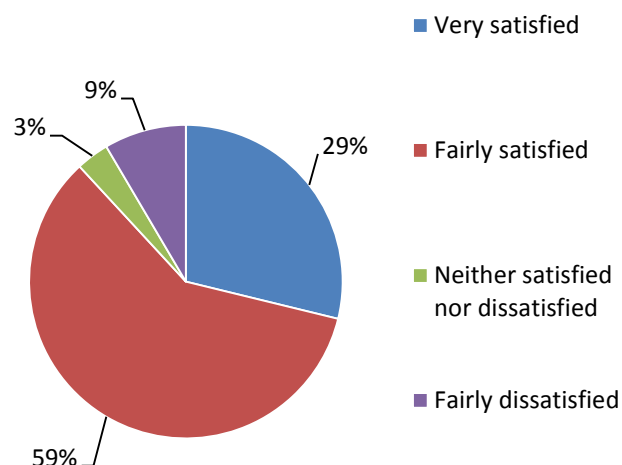
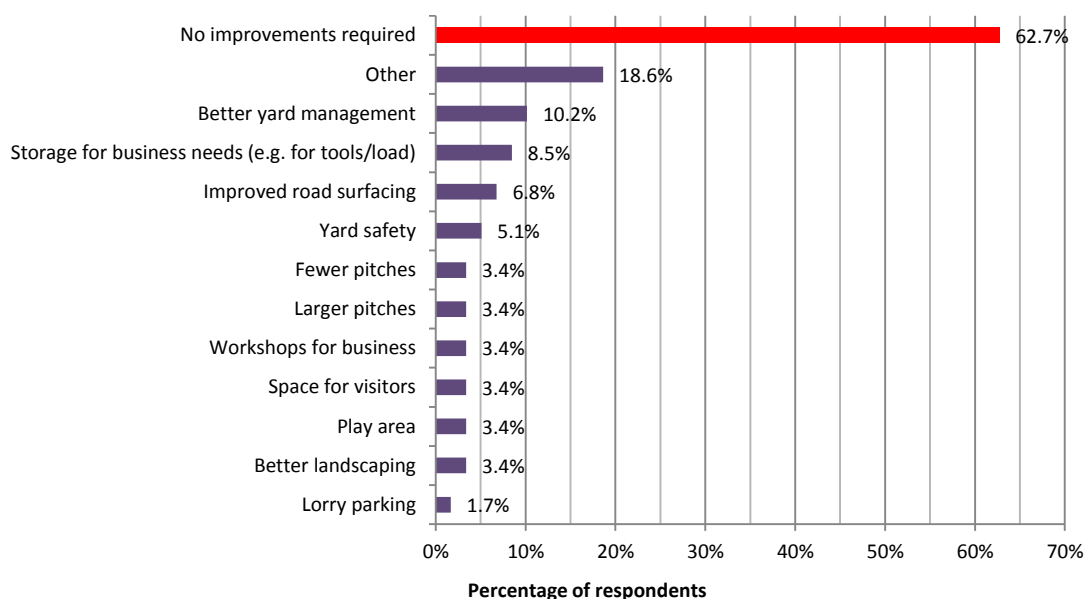


Figure 39

Suggested improvements that could be made to the yard (Source: Survey of Travelling Showpeople Population 2013)



Moving to a New Permanent Base

7.23 7 respondents indicated that they would want or need to move to a new permanent base within the next 15 years. Reasons for wanting to move to a new base include wanting more room, wanting a better yard, and wanting to become owner occupiers.

8. Current and Future Provision

Provision

- 8.1 This section focuses on the extra pitch and plot provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople which is required in the study area currently and over the next 20 years. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for extra provision based upon the evidence contained within this survey and also secondary data sources
- 8.2 We would note that this section is based upon a combination of the on-site surveys, planning records, stakeholder interviews and waiting list information. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead is used to validate information from planning records or other sources.
- 8.3 Before commencing on the identification of future needs we would wish to note some key points. Historically the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy identified required pitch provision for each Local Authority. However, with the Coalition Government abolishing of all Regional Spatial Strategies and the advent of the Localism Act 2011, National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012 it is the case that Local Plans have replaced the RSS as the main consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF make this clear in that *“The planning system is plan led. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.”* It is also the case that we have not considered provision made in the period 2006-2013 and instead we are taking June 2013 as a baseline position for our estimates. While there is a case to argue that authorities who failed to meet their needs in the period 2006-2013 should be expected to meet these in the future there is no clear mechanism in place for this to occur. Instead we have modelled on any current needs in each authority being a backlog which has derived over time and then allowed for additional future needs as they are likely to arise.
- 8.4 We would also note that the location for future provision is a key issue within studies such as this one. The estimates for Local Authorities within this study are based upon the location where needs will arise. This is not necessarily the same Local Authority as where need should be met. For example, it is difficult for households to express a desire to live on a public site in an area which currently has no provision. Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are not constrained by Local Authority boundaries and potentially the requirement for one Local Authority could be met in a neighbouring area. However, for this to occur, cooperation is required from all of the relevant planning authorities. Therefore, we have not made explicit assumptions about the allocation of needs arising in one area being met in another area.
- 8.5 To identify future need, the March 2012 CLG document ‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites’, requires an assessment for future pitch requirements, but does not provide a suggested methodology for undertaking this calculation. In October 2007 Department of Communities and Local Government produced ‘Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments: Guidance’. However, the document provided guidance on how to implement a needs assessment consistent with the now withdrawn Circular 01/06. In a letter dated

26th March 2014 from the Planning Minister, Brandon Lewis MP it was confirmed by CLG that this guidance is under review. ORS consider that the guidance was produced in the infancy of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and that best practice and evolving methodologies have supplanted much of the document. 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 for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below:

Supply of pitches

8.6 Pitches which are available for use can come from a variety of sources. These include:

- » Currently vacant pitches;
- » Pitches yet to be developed;
- » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing;
- » Pitches vacated by people moving from the study area; and
- » Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households.

Current Need

8.7 There are four key components of current need. Total current need (which is not necessarily need for additional pitches because they may be able to be addressed by space available in the study area) is:

- » Households on unauthorised developments (i.e. unauthorised pitches on land owned by the Travellers themselves) for which planning permission is not expected;
- » Concealed households;
- » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites; and
- » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

Future Need

8.8 There are three key components of future need. Total future need is the sum of the following:

- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
- » New household formation expected during the study period; and
- » Migration to sites from outside the study area.

8.9 We will firstly provide the model as set out above for Gypsies and Travellers within the whole of the study area and then for needs which arise within each individual local authority. We will then separately analyse the possible need for additional transit provision in the study area before repeating the calculation for Travelling Showpeople.

Current Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

8.10 Planning records indicate that there are approximately 798 pitches across Essex plus further space available for households in transit through the area. There is also a waiting list for public sites, and concealed households which add to the number of future households. In addition a small number of pitches will be freed by households moving to bricks and mortar. These figures exclude 20 pitches sub-let to non-Gypsy and Traveller households in Uttlesford District. The table below shows the breakdown of accommodation type for each local authority.

Figure 40
Summary of Current Gypsy and Traveller accommodation type by Local Authority in June 2013

Local Authority	Households on permanent pitches	Households on temporary pitches	Concealed households	Bricks and mortar households	Households on tolerated pitches	Households on unauthorised pitches	Total
Basildon Borough	115	8	30	6	13	9	181
Braintree District	37	0	5	3	0	21	66
Brentwood Borough	10	27	5	3	0	20	65
Castle Point Borough	2	0	0	0	0	3	5
Chelmsford City	75	0	6	4	2	2	89
Colchester Borough	20	3	2	1	1	5	32
Epping Forest District	116	10	11	6	0	10	153
Harlow District	36	0	3	2	0	0	41
Maldon District	57	0	5	3	0	1	66
Rochford District	5	1	1	1	0	9	17
Southend on Sea Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	11	0	1	1	0	1	14
Thurrock	90	0	10	6	20	18	144
Uttlesford District	38	0	3	2	1	1	45
Total	612	49	82	38	37	100	918

8.11 The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become available on existing sites. The main ways of finding this is through:

- » Current empty pitches;
- » New sites or site extensions which have already been granted permission or are likely to gain planning permission in the foreseeable future or sites which are likely to come back into use following refurbishment;

- ^{8.12} Currently, all authorised public site pitches are assumed to be occupied except for a small number on the Fernhill site in Harlow which are difficult to fill due to their poor condition and lack of funding to upgrade them. Therefore, there is no available space except for 15 new pitches with planning permission in Basildon and a private site in Uttlesford with an unimplemented permission for 2 additional pitches.
- ^{8.13} Since the time of the survey a further site in Uttlesford has been granted permission for 8 pitches, but this site has only a temporary permission which has not been implemented. This cannot be counted in the 5 year land supply and there is an argument that it will generate future needs when the permission expires. However, it postdates the baseline period for the survey and therefore has not been counted as either supply or need.
- ^{8.14} However, a new site in each of Braintree, Brentwood and Colchester has been granted planning permission and in total these account for 27 additional pitches.
- ^{8.15} We would also note that the on-site survey uncovered that 20 pitches across two sites in Uttlesford were occupied by non-Gypsy and Traveller households. Given that most Gypsy and Traveller pitches and sites are conditioned on their use for only this community we have considered whether these 20 pitches can be considered as additional supply. However, this would require the assumption of enforcement action to be taken by the Council, but no action has been scheduled at the time of writing. Therefore, we have not considered the 20 pitches occupied by non-Travellers to be vacant, but also have not considered the households occupying these pitches to form part of the future growth of Gypsy and Traveller households in the area. Support for this position comes from other studies undertaken by ORS and also in West Somerset where a number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches were occupied by non Gypsies and Travellers. However, if enforcement action is taken, or the pitches are otherwise vacated, then these pitches could be counted towards future supply.
- ^{8.16} No sites have currently been granted planning permission which are not yet developed, therefore, no additional supply is currently known to be forthcoming. We have also assumed that no current pitches will be lost in the future.
- ^{8.17} However there is an allocation for 10 pitches within the North Chelmsford AAP, together with the securing of a site and S106 funding to develop it, although planning permission has not yet been granted. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites is clear on how to consider new supply as being deliverable and available. For the needs modelling we have initially assumed that pitches are not available for use, but would note that should planning permission be granted these pitches can be used to help meet the future need identified in Chelmsford.

Figure 41
Future Supply of Pitches with Planning Permission or Currently Vacant by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of Pitches
Basildon Borough	15
Braintree District	21
Brentwood Borough	3
Castle Point Borough	0
Chelmsford City ¹²	0
Colchester Borough	3
Epping Forest District	0
Harlow District	0
Maldon District	0
Rochford District	0
Southend on Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	0
Thurrock	0
Uttlesford District	2
Total	44

Additional Site Provision: Current Need

^{8.18} The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include those:

- » Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected;
- » Concealed households;
- » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites; and
- » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

Current Unauthorised Developments

^{8.19} The household survey interviewed 29 households on unauthorised sites. A problem with many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is that they have counted all caravans on unauthorised sites as requiring a pitch in the area when in practice many are simply visiting. In order to remedy this, ORS' approach is to treat as need only those households on unauthorised sites already in the planning system (i.e. sites/pitches for which a planning application has been made), those otherwise known to the Local Authorities as being resident in the area or those identified through the household survey as requiring pitches.

^{8.20} For unauthorised sites, evidence from the Local Authorities and the household survey indicates that there are 100 households who are seeking to stay in the area. Please note this includes 10 interviews conducted

¹² Excluding 10 pitches identified in the North Chelmsford AAP

at a site in Brentwood where a recent planning application was for 4 pitches. ORS consider that there were at least 10 households present on the site. An enforcement notice for this site listed up to 17 pitches, but there was no evidence of this number of pitches in use when ORS visited the site.

- 8.21 We would note that these figures exclude a further 37 pitches which do not have planning permission but are not subject to enforcement action and have acquired lawful status (tolerated pitches). These pitches are however included in the total number of authorised pitches for the purposes of calculating new household formation.

Figure 42
Unauthorised Pitches by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of Pitches
Basildon Borough	9
Braintree District	21
Brentwood Borough	20
Castle Point Borough	3
Chelmsford City	2
Colchester Borough	5
Epping Forest District	10
Harlow District	0
Maldon District	1
Rochford District	9
Southend on Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	1
Thurrock	18
Uttlesford District	1
Total	100

Concealed Households

- 8.22 The household survey also sought to identify concealed households which require their own pitch immediately. A concealed household is one which is living within another household and would wish to form its own separate family unit on a new pitch, but is unable to do so because of a lack of space on public or private sites. In total 46 interviews occurred on pitches where the households said that there was more than one household on the site. However, many of these sites were unauthorised and the households were reporting the total number of households present. These households have already been counted as need due to them being on unauthorised sites and will not be counted again here.
- 8.23 There are also a small number of cases in Essex of three generations of families living together on pitches. However, in all cases this appears to be voluntary, with no dissatisfaction or desire to move so they have not been counted as being concealed. There were also a small number of households visiting family in the area and temporarily overcrowding sites. However, these households typically stated that they had permanent addresses elsewhere.

- 8.24 However, across the whole study area, a total of 42 households were sharing pitches, with the majority of these being linked to the former Dale Farm site in Basildon. In most cases ORS conducted interviews with all the households on the pitch. For the rest of Essex outside of Basildon, we identified 12 concealed households on pitches from the 305 interviews, including multiple interviews on some pitches, giving a concealed household rate of approximately 4%.
- 8.25 However, whilst the data from the survey suggests a concealed household rate of 4%, it must be noted that the survey was conducted in the summer when a number of households are travelling. Therefore potentially there are more concealed households who may have been away travelling or were undeclared at the time of the survey. However the household survey indicated that two thirds of households had not travelled in the past 12 months. Similar surveys undertaken in other local authorities during winter months have identified higher rates of concealed households than those undertaken during summer months. Therefore we have taken the decision to increase the estimate for the number of concealed households in the area to a figure of 8% to account for these seasonal changes based on the evidence from surveys in other local authorities. Therefore, an 8% concealed household rate has been applied to the on-site population of all local authorities. While this is slightly arbitrary it will help to ensure that local authorities do not under provide for immediate needs. It is twice the finding of the household survey and reflects the fact that some concealed households may have been missed by the survey. It clearly also creates the possibility of double or over counting of need, but this is very difficult to eliminate. This provides for a total of 52 concealed households outside of Basildon.

Figure 43
Concealed Households by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of Pitches
Basildon Borough	30
Braintree District	5
Brentwood Borough	5
Castle Point Borough	0
Chelmsford City	6
Colchester Borough	2
Epping Forest District	11
Harlow District	3
Maldon District	5
Rochford District	1
Southend on Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	1
Thurrock	10
Uttlesford District	3
Total	82

Bricks and Mortar

- 8.26 Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a population of 2,631 Gypsy and Travellers in the whole of Essex, Thurrock and Southend on Sea. The figure of 2,621 people is likely to be an under-estimate of the total population due to some Gypsies and Travellers not declaring their ethnic status or completing the Census at all, but it does still indicate a relatively small population in bricks and mortar.
- 8.27 As noted earlier, ORS worked with stakeholders, the Local Authorities and on-site interviewees to identify households in bricks and mortar and this process yielded 6 interviews, only one of which wished to move on to a site.
- 8.28 We would also note that it would be possible for the Councils to undertake an extremely expensive process to try and identify all households in bricks and mortar. However, the National Planning Policy Framework requires councils to use a proportionate evidence base and the new National Planning Policy Guidance, Section 3, para 1 recommends:

Plan makers should avoid expending significant resources on primary research (information that is collected through surveys, focus groups or interviews etc. and analysed to produce a new set of findings) as this will in many cases be a disproportionate way of establishing an evidence base.

Households on Waiting Lists for Public Sites

- 8.29 We have sought a more pragmatic approach to identifying the needs of households in bricks and mortar. We would note that households seeking to move from housing to public sites can express a desire to do so through registering on the waiting list for public sites. Meanwhile those seeking to live on a private site could seek to do so alone or pursue a privately rented pitch on an existing private site.
- 8.30 The method of registering a desire to obtain a pitch on a public site is through placing the household on the waiting list held by the County Council, or with Thurrock Council for its sites. Currently there are 440 households on the waiting list for a site, including those for Basildon. It is generally acknowledged that waiting lists for public sites are likely to include double counting as households can register in more than one area or for more than one site within an area.
- 8.31 For this survey, on behalf of Essex County Council, ORS attempted to contact 140 households who had joined the waiting list in the past 5 years to invite them to take part in a telephone survey to assess their current accommodation needs. The telephone numbers were provided by Essex County Council Gypsy and Traveller Unit from their own records.
- 8.32 Of the 140 households we attempted to contact, 53 households took part in an interview. Of these 17 households said that they no longer wished to be on the waiting list, principally because their needs had already been addressed. Of the remaining 36 households, 19 are already living on either authorised or unauthorised pitches and therefore will have been counted elsewhere as concealed households or on unauthorised sites. A further 4 households travel constantly and may not have been picked up in the survey, but we would note that we have increased the number of concealed households to account for cases like these.

- 8.33 However 13 households who were interviewed were living in bricks and mortar. This is nearly a quarter of those interviewed. If we were to extrapolate this to households who have joined the waiting list in the past 5 years, this would give a total of around 33 households in bricks and mortar outside of Basildon. We would note that the Basildon GTAA counted 6 households on the waiting list as being in need. Given the lengths that the study went to in relation to identifying households in bricks and mortar to interview it can be argued that a figure of 33 households in bricks and mortar who wish to move back to site is a reasonable estimate. However, we would also note that 5 of the 13 households currently live outside of Essex and there may be double counting between areas. Therefore, as a pragmatic decision based on previous experience from planning appeals which have argued an under-estimate of households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites, we have counted these 32 households as being in need from the waiting list.
- 8.34 For 32 households, this accounts for a 5% increase in the number of households on site and we have apportioned the needs in line with existing pitch numbers. Along with concealed households this represents a 13% rise in households compared to pitches on site in the baseline figures. As noted above this may include some double counting, but it is purposefully designed to ensure households not included in the survey have their needs represented. We would also note that none of the households on the waiting list gave an address in Southend on Sea, so no need is identified in this Borough.

Figure 2
Movements between Bricks and Mortar and Sites by Local Authority

Local Authority	Net movement to sites
Basildon Borough	6
Braintree District	3
Brentwood Borough	3
Castle Point Borough	0
Chelmsford City	4
Colchester Borough	1
Epping Forest District	7
Harlow District	2
Maldon District	3
Rochford District	1
Southend on Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	1
Thurrock	6
Uttlesford District	2
Total	39

Additional Site Provision: Future Need

- 8.35 The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include:
- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
 - » Migration to sites from outside the study area; and
 - » New household formation expected during the study period.

Temporary Planning Permissions

^{8.36} Essex currently has 43 Gypsy and Traveller pitches with temporary planning permissions. In all cases the permissions will expire within the next 5 years and no-one interviewed on any of these sites wished to leave. They have therefore been counted as need within this assessment, but not as supply of pitches. Again, it should be noted that 8 pitches on a site in Uttlesford were granted after the survey period and have not been implement and so have not been counted as a supply of pitches or a future need.

Figure 3
Temporary Planning Permissions by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of pitches
Basildon Borough	8
Braintree District	0
Brentwood Borough	27
Castle Point Borough	0
Chelmsford City	0
Colchester Borough	3
Epping Forest District	10
Harlow District	0
Maldon District	0
Rochford District	1
Southend of Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	0
Thurrock	0
Uttlesford District	0
Total	49

In-Migration from Other Sources

^{8.37} The most complicated area for a study such as this is to estimate how much need will be generated from households moving in from outside the study area. Potentially Gypsies and Travellers could move to Essex from anywhere in the country. The number of households seeking to move to Essex is likely to be heavily dependent upon pitch provision elsewhere. It has been noted that a weakness of many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments conducted across the country has been that they either allowed for out-migration without in-migration which led to under-counting of need, or they over-counted need by assuming every household visiting the area required a pitch.

^{8.38} This issue has been raised at a number of planning appeals and ORS have demonstrated that in order to include a component for net in-migration need there is also the requirement to identify where out-migration will occur from.

- 8.39 Typically there are three main sources of out-migration. Historically, London has seen a loss of Gypsy and Traveller sites and this has seen population displaced to areas across the country. However, ORS are currently working with a number of London Boroughs including Camden, Lambeth, Bexley and also the London Legacy Development Corporation to undertake their GTAAs. In all cases the authorities have been advised by their Planning Inspectors to undertake these studies and to meet the needs identified before their Local Plans can be found to be sound. Therefore, the Planning Inspectorate is requiring London Boroughs to assess needs and provide sites, which should prevent, or significantly limit any future out-migration
- 8.40 The second potential source of out-migration is from local authorities with significant areas of green belt. A Ministerial Statement in July 2013 reaffirmed that:
- ‘The Secretary of State wishes to make clear that, in considering planning applications, although each case will depend on its facts, he considers that the single issue of unmet demand, whether for traveller sites or for conventional housing, is unlikely to outweigh harm to the green belt and other harm to constitute the ‘very special circumstances’ justifying inappropriate development in the green belt.’*
- 8.41 However, while this reaffirmation of policy states that green belt development is likely to be inappropriate, it does not remove the requirement for local authorities with green belt to assess their needs and to provide pitches. There is a requirement for local authorities who have difficulties in meeting their own local need in their own area to work with neighbouring authorities through the Duty to Cooperate process to have these needs met. It is not the place of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to assume a particular authority will meet the needs of another and instead any authority unable to meet their own needs should work with neighbours to meet these. This process is already well established in general housing provision.
- 8.42 The final main source of out-migration is from the closure of unauthorised sites and encampments. There are several well documented cases of large-scale movement of Gypsies and Travellers following enforcement action against unauthorised sites – Dale Farm being a good example.
- 8.43 Overall the level of in-migration to Essex is a very difficult issue to predict. The analysis of the site interviews indicated that over 70% of residents have lived in Essex for over 5 years. However, over 11% of respondents to the survey had lived at their current site for less than a year. While a number of these were only visitors there is some movement within existing permanent sites. The household survey indicated that 11 households are currently seeking to move, but only two wish to move outside of Essex. The remaining 9 households are looking for permanent or better sites within Essex, or are seeking to move to housing. Therefore, there is little evidence that households are seeking to leave Essex. While it would be possible to extrapolate migration trends from within the household survey we would suggest that with no household seeking to leave the area this would not be a robust position to adopt.
- 8.44 Dale Farm is a major issue that this assessment needs to deal with in relation to net migration. The Dale Farm site contained 86 households and spokespeople for the site have confirmed that the remaining 56 households do still want to return to Basildon. Three of these have been counted in Castle Point, so that leave 53 households. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites when read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that local authorities must deal with anticipated in-migration and cannot

reject sites because of a lack of local connections. Therefore, following the principles adopted for Gypsies and Travellers that needs are met where they arise we have counted their needs as needing to be met in Basildon.

8.45 We would acknowledge that there is a potential for double counting with the households seeking to live in Basildon also potentially being counted as need in the areas where they currently reside, but there is no system in place which allows for a joined up consideration of needs across a region or nationally.

8.46 We would note that Planning Policy for Traveller Sites paragraph 25 states that:

- » if a local planning authority cannot demonstrate an up-to-date five-year supply of deliverable sites, this should be a significant material consideration in any subsequent planning decision when considering applications for the grant of temporary planning permission

8.47 It is therefore clear that responsibility for identifying land to address needs lies with the local authority and not potential applicants for sites. On this basis we have allowed for 56 pitches for the households seeking to live in Basildon on the basis of in-migration.

8.48 Apart from these 56 households we have allowed for a balanced level of migration on to existing private sites. The advantage of allowing for net migration to sum to zero is that it avoids the problems seen with other Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments where the modelling of migration clearly identified too low or high a level of total pitch provision. This is also consistent with the findings from the stakeholder consultation where neighbouring Local Authorities stated that they were seeking to address their own needs, but were not making provision for more than this figure. ORS would also note that we consulted with CLG in 2013 and were told that Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments were not the correct place to consider the redistribution of needs across local authority boundaries. And instead that this was the role of the Duty to Cooperate.

8.49 Beyond this, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, we would propose that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is important for the authorities to have clear criteria based planning policies in place for any new potential sites which do arise.

New Household Formation

8.50 Traditionally studies of Gypsy and Traveller populations have assumed a net growth in the population of 3% per annum, and this figure was used in the East of England Regional plan. However, a 3% per annum growth rate will see household numbers double in 23.5 years and this figure has been used without any clear underlying evidence to support it, and is significantly higher than for the population as a whole.

8.51 In a study on behalf of Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 (Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller Sites in England Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2003), Pat Niner identified that household growth rates of 2%-3% per cent a year were appropriate when projecting future formations.

- 8.52 Current guidance is clear that each individual assessment should use local evidence for future household formation rates. This position was further reiterated in the debate in the House of Commons on 4th February 2014 when the Planning Minister, Brandon Lewis MP stated:

‘That leads me directly to the comment of my Hon. Friend the Member for South West Bedfordshire about the 3% growth rate in Gypsy and Traveller household net formation. He believes the figure to be closer to 1.5% and will know from his research that the 3% figure originates in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister’s 2003 report “Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England”, which was probably written with the same pens that we still have many thousands of, paid for with taxpayers’ money back then. The figure was restated in the Department for Communities and Local Government’s 2007 report “Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies”. My Hon. Friend makes a fair point, so, bearing in mind that we have moved away from regional spatial strategies, I will go away and examine whether we can reassess the guidance.’

- 8.53 The current position was confirmed dated 26th March 2014 from the Planning Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, which stated: in a letter

‘The previous Administration’s guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure. The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority’s own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the 3% growth rate figure, though in some cases we are aware that inspectors have, in considering the level of unmet local need when demonstrating specific traveller appeals, used the 3% growth rate figure in the absence of a local authority’s own up-to-date assessment of need.’

- 8.54 ORS have also produced a detailed separate paper ‘Household Formation Rates for Gypsies and Travellers: Technical Note’ which demonstrates that the likely rate of growth for the population of Gypsies and Travellers across the whole of England based upon the best available evidence is closer to 1.5% per annum. Officials from Communities and Local Government have seen the technical note and confirmed that they have not undertaken any research on population or household growth for Gypsies and Travellers, and therefore have no information which contradicts this position. A copy of this can be found in **Appendix G**.

- 8.55 A population growth rate of 1.5% will not necessarily equate to a household growth rate of 1.5%. Instead household growth rates may be higher. For example, across the whole of England for the whole population, the Office for National Statistics project in their 2011 based population highlight a natural change in the population of 0.5% per annum and an overall change of 0.83% per annum when the effects of migration are added. 2011 based household projections produced by Communities and Local Government show a projected rise in households on 0.95% per annum.

- 8.56 ORS believe that the 3% figure often used in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is demonstrably too high to be used as a fixed value for all studies and is not based upon any form of robust evidence. Instead we believe that a range of values should be considered in light of local evidence.

- 8.57 The household survey for Essex indicates an age profile for the population which is very typical of those obtained elsewhere by ORS. Given that the age demographic of Essex’s Gypsy and Traveller community appears to be roughly representative of the wider Gypsy and Traveller population, we consider it

appropriate to allow for future projected household growth to occur in line with the long-term national trends identified above. Therefore, an annual growth rate of **2.00%** has been used in this assessment. Given that the evidence for population growth is as low as 1.5% per annum, we consider that this relatively high rate will provide enough pitches to accommodate all newly forming households in Essex, particular as this study has allowed for significant numbers of concealed households and those in bricks and mortar to form on sites. When including the impact of compound growth, a **2.00%** growth per annum provides for 10% growth over 5 years, 22% growth over 10 years, 35% growth over 15 years and 48% over 20 years. Over the same time period, using ONS 2011 based population projections and extrapolating to 2033, the total population of the whole of Essex is projected to grow by around 22%, with natural change providing for only a 6% growth and migration a further 16%.

- 8.58 In terms of the total number of household formations per District the table below sets out the baseline position for population and the growth rate based upon 48% over 20 years. It is assumed that each forming household requires a pitch of their own. We would note the Basildon figures are based upon 2.5% growth per annum, as was used in their own individual study.

Figure 46

Number of Household Formations in the Period 2013-2033

Local Authority	Households on site including those on the waiting list and concealed households	Household growth based upon 48% over 20 years
Basildon Borough*	234	149
Braintree District	66	32
Brentwood Borough	65	32
Castle Point Borough	5	2
Chelmsford City	89	43
Colchester Borough	32	16
Epping Forest District	153	74
Harlow District	41	20
Maldon District	66	32
Rochford District	17	8
Southend Borough	0	0
Tendring District	14	7
Thurrock	144	70
Uttlesford District	45	22
Total	971	507

* Basildon's assessment was based upon a growth rate of 2.5% per annum.

Overall Needs for Essex

^{8.59} The estimated extra net pitch provision that is required now and in the near future for the authorities will be **786 pitches** to address the needs of all identifiable households.

Figure 47

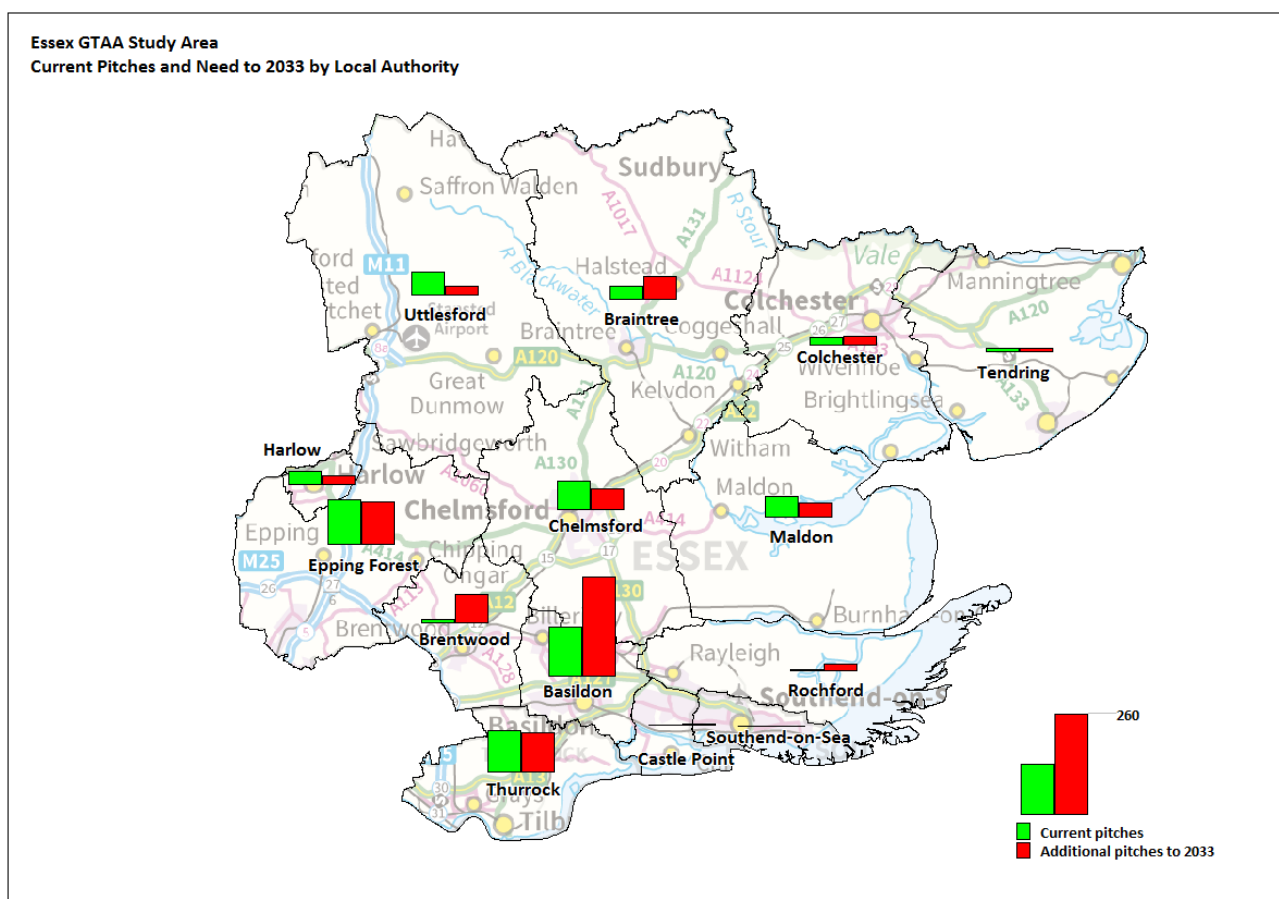
Extra Pitches which are required in the Essex Partnership area from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites ¹³	-	44	
Total Supply		44	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	100	-	
Concealed households	82	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	39	-	
Total Current Need	221		
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	49	-	
Net migration	53	-	
Net new household formation	507	-	
Total Future Needs	609	-	
Total	830	44	786

¹³ Excluding 10 pitches allocated in the North Chelmsford AAP but not yet granted planning permission

Overall Needs for Each Planning Authority

- 8.60 To provide estimates for each Local Authority we have apportioned the needs outlined above by Local Authority on the basis of where the need currently arises, or where future household growth will arise from. The only exceptions to this are to take into account the needs of households on the waiting list who wish to move anywhere to local authorities with no public sites, and also the in-migration identified for Basildon as a result of Dale Farm. As discussed earlier, this process inevitably places a low amount of need in areas which currently have low populations while placing higher needs in authorities with larger populations. Therefore, potentially the requirement being generated in one Local Authority could be met in a neighbouring area.
- 8.61 The map below provides a spatial representation that compares the current¹⁴ number of pitches and estimated need to 2033 for each local authority in the study area. The source of the data for this map can be found in Figure 37 (current pitch numbers) and Figure 59 (additional pitch numbers).



Basildon

Figure 48

Extra Pitches which are required in Basildon Borough from 2013-2032

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	15	
Total Supply		15	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	9	-	
Concealed households	30	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	6	-	
Total Current Need	45		
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	8	-	
Net migration ¹⁵	53	-	
Net new household formation	149	-	
Total Future Needs	210	-	
Total	255	15	240

¹⁵ As a result of Dale Farm

Braintree

Figure 49

Extra Pitches which are required in Braintree from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	21	
Total Supply		21	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	21	-	
Concealed households	5	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	3	-	
Total Current Need	29	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	32	-	
Total Future Needs	32	-	
Total	61	21	40

Brentwood

Figure 50

Extra Pitches which are required in Brentwood from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy		Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches				
	Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
	Additional supply new sites	-	3	
Total Supply		-	3	
Current Need				
	Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	20	-	
	Concealed households	5	-	
	Net movement from bricks and mortar	3	-	
Total Current Need		28		
Future Needs				
	Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	27	-	
	Net migration	0	-	
	Net new household formation	32	-	
Total Future Needs		59	-	
Total		87	3	84

Castle Point

Figure 51

Extra Pitches which are required in Castle Point from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches		0	
Additional supply new sites		0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	3	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	3		
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	2	-	
Total Future Needs	2	-	
Total	5	0	5

Chelmsford

Figure 52

Extra Pitches which are required in Chelmsford from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites ¹⁶	-	0	
Total Supply	-	0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	2	-	
Concealed households	6	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	4	-	
Total Current Need	12		
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	43	-	
Total Future Needs	43	-	
Total	55	0	55

¹⁶ Excluding 10 pitches allocated in the North Chelmsford AAP but not yet granted planning permission

Colchester

Figure 53

Extra Pitches which are required in Colchester from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	3	
Total Supply		3	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	5	-	
Concealed households	2	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	1	-	
Total Current Need	8	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	3	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	16	-	
Total Future Needs	19	-	
Total	27	3	24

Epping Forest District

Figure 54

Extra Pitches which are required in Epping Forest from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	10	-	
Concealed households	11	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	7	-	
Total Current Need	28	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	10	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	74	-	
Total Future Needs	84	-	
Total	112	0	112

Harlow

Figure 55

Extra Pitches which are required in Harlow from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	-	
Additional supply new sites	-	-	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	3	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	2	-	
Total Current Need	5	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	20	-	
Total Future Needs	20	-	
Total	25	0	25

Maldon

Figure 56

Extra Pitches which are required in Maldon from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	1	-	
Concealed households	5	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	3	-	
Total Current Need	9	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	32	-	
Total Future Needs	32	-	
Total	41	0	41

Rochford

Figure 57

Extra Pitches which are required in Rochford from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	-	
Additional supply new sites	-	-	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	9	-	
Concealed households	1	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	1	-	
Total Current Need	11	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	1	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	8	-	
Total Future Needs	9	-	
Total	20	0	20

Southend on Sea

Figure 58
Extra Pitches which are required in Southend on Sea from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	-	
Additional supply new sites	-	-	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Tendring

Figure 59

Extra Pitches which are required in Tendring from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	1	-	
Concealed households	1	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	1	-	
Total Current Need	3	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	7	-	
Total Future Needs	7	-	
Total	10	0	10

Thurrock

Figure 60

Extra Pitches which are required in Thurrock from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	18	-	
Concealed households	10	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	6	-	
Total Current Need	34	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	70	-	
Total Future Needs	70	-	
Total	104	0	104

Uttlesford

Figure 61

Extra Pitches which are required in Uttlesford from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Pitches			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	2	
Total Supply		2	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	1	-	
Concealed households	3	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	2	-	
Total Current Need	6	-	
Future Needs			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	22	-	
Total Future Needs	22	-	
Total	28	2	26

Split to 2033 in 5 year Time Period

^{8.63} In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods we have assumed that all unauthorised sites, concealed households and waiting list needs are addressed in the first 5 years. New household formation is apportioned over time.

Figure 62
Split by Local Authority by 5 year Time Period to 2013-2033

Local Authority	2013-2018	2018-2023	2023-2028	2028-2033	Total
Basildon Borough	122	35	39	44	240
Braintree District	14	8	9	9	40
Brentwood Borough	59	8	8	9	84
Castle Point Borough	2	1	1	1	5
Chelmsford City	22	10	11	12	55
Colchester Borough	12	3	4	5	24
Epping Forest District	54	18	19	21	112
Harlow District	9	5	5	6	25
Maldon District	17	7	8	9	41
Rochford District	14	2	2	2	20
Southend Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	4	2	2	2	10
Thurrock	49	17	18	20	104
Uttlesford District	9	5	6	6	26
Total	387	121	132	146	786

Comparisons with the 2009 Essex GTAA

^{8.64} The previous Essex wide GTAA was undertaken in 2009 and identified a need for 359 additional pitches by the end of 2013 excluding an contribution from new supply or pitches returning back to use. The 2009 GTAA starting from a based on 458 known households on authorised sites, so by the end of 2013 the GTAA was projecting a need for 817 pitches in the whole of Essex.

^{8.65} For this assessment the starting base for the number of pitches is 613 which is 155 higher than the starting base of the 2009 GTAA. It estimates a current need of 221 pitches plus 53 from in-migration and 49 from temporary planning permissions indicating that to address all needs by 2013 there would have needed to be 936 pitches in Essex ($613 + 221 + 53 + 49$). This therefore is 119 pitches higher than the figure identified in the 2009 GTAA as being needed by 2013.

^{8.66} We think there are a number of factors which explain why the 2009 GTAA figure provided for a lower figure of need by 2013 than this study has found. Firstly, the base figure of 458 authorised pitches in the 2009 GTAA was probably an underestimate of the total number of pitches in Essex and this impacts on both the total number of households projected to exist in 2013 and also on issues such as future household formation and concealed household rates.

- ^{8.67} Also, as noted in the section around in-migration, there is a clear potential to double count the in-migration associate with Dale Farm in Basildon. This may be counted as an in-migration in Basildon but represent out-migration from the rest of Essex. Therefore, when combined with the initial underestimate of the number of pitches in the 2009 GTAA this explains why this study finds a great need for pitches by 2013.

Site Delivery

- ^{8.68} While the NPPF and PPTS have some clear overlaps, PPTS has much lower requirements in terms of how needs are reported. ORS have consulted with CLG over issues such as whether paragraphs 47 and 159 of the National Planning Policy Framework apply to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople site provision and have been informed very clearly that they do not. ORS submitted written questions to CLG by email and received a verbal response, so we are not able to provide a written quote from CLG, but a number of individual planning inspectors have also confirmed to ORS that the requirements of PPTS override any requirements of the NPPF. .
- ^{8.69} Therefore, there is no need for the authorities to consider needs at their housing market area level or for them to have a 20% land supply buffer due to previous under-provision of pitches. The view of CLG is that they simply want local authorities to provide additional pitches to meet identifiable needs and that these pitches can be delivered through a variety of means and that delivery should be consistent with providing choices to the Gypsy and Traveller community. Therefore, much of the new provision is likely to be on private sites, but PPTS does acknowledge that some Gypsy and Traveller households may not be able to afford private sites and will require public provision.
- ^{8.70} As also noted earlier, HCA funding for additional pitches has now been allocated and there is no commitment to provide more beyond 2015. However, local authorities can still seek to deliver public pitches through Section 106 agreements with developers or by financing them themselves. One of the findings of this study is that the quality of pitches on some of the public sites is relatively poor and that an investment in existing pitches may be more important than new public sites. In particular there is some evidence that public pitches in Harlow are underused because they lack facilities.
- ^{8.71} It is also possible to meet needs through working with land owners to develop private rented sites and if necessary allowing the households on these to meet the rents through the local housing allowance. Other areas of the country are seeking private rented sites which will accommodate households in need of affordable accommodation. Local authorities can also look at the disposal of their own land holdings to provide for either public or private sites.
- ^{8.72} It is also the case that local authorities can work with individual land owners to provide for small family owned sites or to expand existing sites.

Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

- ^{8.73} 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 typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity and amenity blocks. They do not have a function in meeting local need which must be addressed on permanent sites.

- 8.74 An alternative to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. An emergency stopping place also typically have 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.
- 8.75 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62a of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act allows the police to direct trespassers to remove themselves and their vehicles and property from any land where a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same local authority area (or within the county in two-tier local authority areas).
- 8.76 A suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is one which is situated in the same local authority area as the land on which the trespass has occurred, and which is managed by a local authority, registered social landlord, or other person or body as specified by order by the Secretary of State. In two tier authority areas, where a district council is situated within a wider county council area, the relevant caravan site may be anywhere within the county council area. Therefore, Thurrock and Southend on Sea cannot utilise a transit site in Essex County to activate police powers to caravans to transit or emergency stop provision.
- 8.77 There are currently no operational public transit sites in the study area, with a small number of private transit pitches operating. We would also note that Local Authorities are not able to use transit provision on private sites as part of their enforcement action policies and therefore while it does provide an option for visiting households it is at the discretion of the site owner who is allowed on to the site.
- 8.78 Therefore, a public transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for greater enforcement action against inappropriate unauthorised encampments. However, ORS have spoken to a number of Local Authorities and County Councils across the country such as those in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Hertfordshire with many indicating that publicly provided transit sites are poorly used and in some cases have fallen out of use. This in part is due to the location away from major travelling routes.
- 8.79 Evidence provided by stakeholders and the Local Authorities indicates that a significant number of encampments occur each year in Essex which a transit site may help to address.
- 8.80 Therefore, given the size of Essex, to accommodate visiting households and to provide a more powerful mechanism for addressing unauthorised encampments, ORS recommend that at least two publicly provided transit sites be delivered in Essex County with at least 10 and ideally 15 pitches. 10 pitches is generally considered to be the minimum size of site necessary to be effective for addressing unauthorised encampments, but given the scale of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Essex these may be too small. The location of the transit provision should be determined by discussions between the local authorities in Essex and Essex County Council in relation to where the need is particularly acute based on the frequency and location of unauthorised encampments across Essex and also consideration of popular travelling routes.
- 8.81 Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea have a choice between accepting their current levels of encampments or providing a separate transit or emergency stopping place provision.

Travelling Showpeople

8.82 Planning records indicate that there are approximately 259 plots across Essex. Concealed households add a small number to future households. As noted earlier the situation at Buckles Lane in Thurrock is extremely complicated. From an extremely detailed households survey there are definitely 77 families on authorised plots on Buckles Lane. The yards have planning permission for more than this, but some are sub-let to non-Travelling Showpeople. There were also 97 families who are on unauthorised yards or have temporary planning permission. Most households did not know their own planning status, so we have counted them all as being temporary permissions. A further 24 households don't know their planning status so we have assumed they are not authorised and have again put them through as temporary permission's to give a total of 121 plots needed. These are all households on site now. Up to a further 150 plots at Buckles Lane are occupied by non-Travelling Showpeople and we have not counted these in the needs figures.

8.83 The table below shows the breakdown of accommodation type for each local authority.

Figure 63
Summary of Current Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Type by Local Authority

Local Authority	Permanent plots	Temporary plots	Concealed households	Bricks and mortar	Tolerated plots	Unauthorised plots	Total
Basildon Borough	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Braintree District	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Brentwood Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Point Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford City	41	0	5	0	0	0	46
Colchester Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epping Forest District	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Harlow District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maldon District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southend on Sea Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	79	121	0	0	0	0	200
Uttlesford District	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	138	121	5	0	0	0	264

8.84 The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become available on existing yards. The main ways of finding this is through:

- » Current empty plots;
- » New yards or site extensions which have already been granted permission or are likely to gain planning permission in the foreseeable future or yards which are likely to come back into use following refurbishment;

- ^{8.85} No yards have currently been granted planning permission and not yet developed, therefore, no additional supply is currently known to be forthcoming. We have also assumed that no current plots will be lost in the future, but that none are vacant. As noted above, some plots with planning permission at Buckles Lane have planning permission, but are not occupied by Travelling Showpeople. We have not assumed that these are available, but potentially they could be brought back into use.

Additional Site Provision: Current Need

- ^{8.86} The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are currently seeking plots in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking plots will include those:
- » Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected;
 - » Concealed households;
 - » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to yards; and
 - » Households on waiting lists for public yards.

Current Unauthorised Developments

- ^{8.87} On the basis of counting all plots at Buckles Lane in Thurrock without planning permission as having a temporary permission, there are no known site in Essex for Travelling Showpeople which are unauthorised.

Concealed Households

- ^{8.88} The household survey indicated a site in Writtle in Chelmsford has a number of households looking to move within the area, ideally to a new site, due to a lack of space on the existing site. We have allowed for up to 5 households needing to move now.
- ^{8.89} For Buckles lane, we have counted the number of households on yards, not the number of plots. Therefore, any concealed households are already been included in the households on temporary plots, while the authorised plots contain sub-letting, which is not counted as a concealed household.

Figure 64
Concealed Households by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of Plots
Basildon Borough	0
Braintree District	0
Brentwood Borough	0
Castle Point Borough	0
Chelmsford City	5
Colchester Borough	0
Epping Forest District	0
Harlow District	0
Maldon District	0
Rochford District	0
Southend on Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	0
Thurrock	0
Uttlesford District	0
Total	5

Bricks and Mortar

^{8.90} The on-site survey found no households who wished to move to sites, or leaver sites for bricks and mortar.

Additional Site Provision: Future Need

^{8.91} The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking plots in the area in the future. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking plots will include:

- » Households living on yards with temporary planning permissions;
- » New household formation expected during the study period; and
- » Migration to yards from outside the study area.

Temporary Planning Permissions

^{8.92} Buckles Lane in Thurrock contains at least 97 households on plots which have, or have had temporary planning permission plus another 24 households who do not know their own planning status. We have counted all 121 of these households as having temporary planning permission.

Figure 65
Temporary Planning Permissions by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of plots
Basildon Borough	0
Braintree District	0
Brentwood Borough	0
Castle Point Borough	0
Chelmsford City	0
Colchester Borough	0
Epping Forest District	0
Harlow District	0
Maldon District	0
Rochford District	0
Southend of Sea Borough	0
Tendring District	0
Thurrock	121
Uttlesford District	0
Total	1

In-Migration from Other Sources

^{8.93} As part of this assessment, ORS took out an advert in the World's Fair magazine which is the trade magazine for Travelling Showpeople. As a result of this advert, one household currently living on an unauthorised site outside of Essex contacted ORS seeking accommodation in Essex. However, they were not able to specify a specific location. We have placed them in contact with the Essex. However, over time households will come and go from Essex and therefore we have not included this one household as an additional in-migration, but instead have invited them to work with the councils to find a suitable site.

^{8.94} A further issue which may need to be addressed is that the overwhelming majority of the current population reside at Buckles Lane in Thurrock. Many of the Showpeople work elsewhere in Essex, but live in Thurrock and would potentially welcome a greater choice of accommodation across the county. However, this would represent a Duty to Cooperate issue between councils and it is not the role of this study to reallocate need across local authority boundaries.

New Household Formation

^{8.95} For household growth, the typical growth rate for the Travelling Showpeople population is lower than for Gypsies and Travellers with estimates normally being from 1%-1.5%. One household interviewed by ORS contained more than 3 children, so we have used the 1% rate. A growth rate of 1% provides for total net growth of 22% over 20 years. Given that there are approximately 264 households on site this equates to 57 additional households by 2033.

Figure 66
Number of Household Formations in the Period 2013-2033

Local Authority	Households on site including those on the waiting list and concealed households	Household growth based upon 22% over 20 years
Basildon Borough	2	0
Braintree District	6	1
Brentwood Borough	0	0
Castle Point Borough	0	0
Chelmsford City	46	10
Colchester Borough	0	0
Epping Forest District	9	2
Harlow District	0	0
Maldon District	0	0
Rochford District	0	0
Southend Borough	0	0
Tendring District	0	0
Thurrock	200	44
Uttlesford District	1	0
Total	264	57

Overall Needs for Essex

^{8.96} The estimated extra net pitch provision that is required now and in the near future for the authorities will be **183 plots** to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households on unauthorised yards, those on the waiting list for a public site, those currently seeking to develop a private site and growth in household numbers due to household formation.

Figure 4
Extra Plots which are required in the Essex Partnership area from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	5	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	5		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	121	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	57	-	
Total Future Needs	178	-	
Total	183	0	183

Overall Needs for Each Planning Authority

^{8.97} To provide estimates for each Local Authority we have apportioned the needs outlined above by Local Authority on the basis of where the need currently arises, or where future household growth will arise from.

Basildon

Figure 68
Extra Plots which are required in Basildon Borough from 2013-2032

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Braintree

Figure 69

Extra Plots which are required in Braintree from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	1	-	
Total Future Needs	1	-	
Total	1	0	1

Brentwood

Figure 5

Extra Plots which are required in Brentwood from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Castle Point

Figure 71

Extra Plots which are required in Castle Point from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Chelmsford

Figure 72

Extra Plots which are required in Chelmsford from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	5	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	5		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	10	-	
Total Future Needs	10	-	
Total	15	0	15

Colchester

Figure 73

Extra Plots which are required in Colchester from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Epping Forest District

Figure 74

Extra Plots which are required in Epping Forest from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	2	-	
Total Future Needs	2	-	
Total	2	0	2

Harlow

Figure 75

Extra Plots which are required in Harlow from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Maldon

Figure 76

Extra Plots which are required in Maldon from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Rochford

Figure 77

Extra Plots which are required in Rochford from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Southend on Sea

Figure 78

Extra Plots which are required in Southend on Sea from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Tendring

Figure 79

Extra Plots which are required in Tendring from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Thurrock

Figure 6

Extra Plots which are required in Thurrock from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	121	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	44	-	
Total Future Needs	165	-	
Total	165	0	165

Uttlesford

Figure 81

Extra Plots which are required in Uttlesford from 2013-2033

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Supply of Plots			
Additional supply from empty plots	-	0	
Additional supply new yards	-	0	
Total Supply		0	
Current Need			
Current unauthorised developments and seeking to stay in the area	0	-	
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Total Current Need	0		
Future Needs			
Currently on yards with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
Net new household formation	0	-	
Total Future Needs	0	-	
Total	0	0	0

Split to 2033 in 5 year Time Period

^{8.98} In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods we have assumed that all, concealed households and temporary planning permissions are addressed in the first 5 years. New household formation is apportioned over time.

Figure 82
Split by Local Authority by 5 year Time Period to 2013-2033

Local Authority	2013-2018	2018-2023	2023-2028	2028-2033	Total
Basildon Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Braintree District	0	0	0	1	1
Brentwood Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Point Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford City	7	2	3	3	15
Colchester Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Epping Forest District	0	0	1	1	2
Harlow District	0	0	0	0	0
Maldon District	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford District	0	0	0	0	0
Southend Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	131	11	11	12	165
Uttlesford District	0	0	0	0	0
Total	138	13	15	17	183

9. Conclusions

Introduction

- 9.1 This chapter brings together the evidence presented earlier in the report to provide some key policy conclusions for the study area. It focuses upon the key issues of future site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and also Travelling Showpeople.

Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

- 9.2 Based upon the evidence presented in this report, the estimated extra pitch provision required for Gypsies and Travellers is **786 pitches**. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifying the current and future needs of the population arising in the area.
- 9.3 The table below shows the provision required by type of site in 5 year time periods. This is based upon addressing any current backlog of need where it arises in the next 5 years and then projecting forward household growth based upon the size of the existing on-site population and a new household formation rate of 2.00%.

Table 83
New Pitch Provision in Essex in 5 Year Periods

Local Authority	2013-2018	2018-2023	2023-2028	2028-2033	Total
Basildon Borough	122	35	39	44	240
Braintree District	14	8	9	9	40
Brentwood Borough	59	8	8	9	84
Castle Point Borough	2	1	1	1	5
Chelmsford City	22	10	11	12	55
Colchester Borough	12	3	4	5	24
Epping Forest District	54	18	19	21	112
Harlow District	9	5	5	6	25
Maldon District	17	7	8	9	41
Rochford District	14	2	2	2	20
Southend Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	4	2	2	2	10
Thurrock	49	17	18	20	104
Uttlesford District	9	5	6	6	26
Total	387	121	132	146	786

Transit Sites

- 9.4 There are currently no operational public transit sites in the study area, with a small number of private transit pitches operating. We would also note that Local Authorities are not able to use transit provision on private sites as part of their enforcement action policies and therefore while it does provide an option for visiting households it is at the discretion of the site owner who is allowed on to the site.
- 9.5 Therefore, a public transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for greater enforcement action against inappropriate unauthorised encampments. However, ORS have spoken to a number of Local Authorities and County Councils across the country such as those in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Hertfordshire with many indicating that publicly provided transit sites are poorly used and in some cases have fallen out of use. This in part is due to the location away from major travelling routes.
- 9.6 Evidence provided by stakeholders and the Local Authorities indicates that a significant number of encampments occur each year in Essex which a transit site may help to address.
- 9.7 Therefore, given the size of Essex, to accommodate visiting households and to provide a more powerful mechanism for addressing unauthorised encampments, ORS recommend that at least two publicly provided transit sites be delivered in Essex County with at least 10 and ideally 15 pitches. 10 pitches is generally considered to be the minimum size of site necessary to be effective for addressing unauthorised encampments, but given the scale of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Essex these may be too small. The location of the transit provision should be determined by discussions between the local authorities in Essex and Essex County Council in relation to where the need is particularly acute based on the frequency and location of unauthorised encampments across Essex and also consideration of popular travelling routes.
- 9.8 Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea have a choice between accepting their current levels of encampments or providing a separate transit or emergency stopping place provision.

Travelling Showpeople Requirements

- 9.9 The estimated extra net pitch provision that is required now and in the near future for the authorities will be **183 plots** to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households on unauthorised yards, those on the waiting list for a public site, those currently seeking to develop a private site and growth in household numbers due to household formation.
- 9.10 The table below shows the provision required by type of site in 5 year time periods. This is based upon addressing any current backlog of need where it arises in the next 5 years and then projecting forward household growth based upon the size of the existing on-site population and a new household formation rate of 1.00%.

Figure 84
Split by Local Authority by 5 year Time Period to 2013-2033

Local Authority	2013-2018	2018-2023	2023-2028	2028-2033	Total
Basildon Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Braintree District	0	0	0	1	1
Brentwood Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Point Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford City	7	2	3	3	15
Colchester Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Epping Forest District	0	0	1	1	2
Harlow District	0	0	0	0	0
Maldon District	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford District	0	0	0	0	0
Southend Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring District	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	131	11	11	12	165
Uttlesford District	0	0	0	0	0
Total	138	13	15	17	183

Stakeholder Interviews Conclusions and Recommendations

Accommodation

- ^{9.11} Wider stakeholders felt there was an insufficient amount of accommodation nationwide and in Essex, however, the majority of Council Officers who contributed to the study were of the view that there was sufficient accommodation.

Transit Provision

- ^{9.12} Given the proximity to London and the M25, the opportunities for employment and the existing large Travelling population, Essex is a popular stopping place for the Travelling community. However, wider stakeholders did not support the idea of a transit site and preferred a policy of tolerance such as been adopted in places like Worcestershire. Importantly, it was felt that Councils that make up Essex should at the very least have a consistent policy which is communicated to the Travelling community.

Duty to Cooperate and Joined-Up Working

- ^{9.13} Both wider stakeholders and Council Officers supported the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit and felt that it is beneficial to have a joined-up County approach. For example it was understood that Travellers who move between neighbouring areas are closely monitored, which therefore enables the Local Authorities to have a better coordinated understanding of their movements and needs.

- ^{9.14} However, wider stakeholders did feel that more could be between boundaries, particularly as Travellers do not stick within boundaries. It was felt that it was unhelpful that Districts work in isolation rather than cooperation and felt that Councils and the police need to work together to have a consistent policy on the management of unauthorised encampments.
- ^{9.15} Some Council Officers made the point that the Duty to Cooperate is still in its infancy and there is confusion surrounding what it actually entails. Positively, it was felt that the results of this GTAA could provide a basis for discussion with neighbouring authorities.

Consultation and Communication

- ^{9.16} Wider stakeholders and the majority of Council Officers felt that more consultation and engagement with the Gypsy and Traveller and settled communities is required across the County and most Officers were not aware of any consultation, with the exception of this GTAA, work that has been done within their District.
- ^{9.17} Within Essex there are a number of Gypsy and Traveller representatives that could help consult with the community and Districts should attempt to engage this group. It could be beneficial to develop a Countywide Traveller Forum which includes representatives from the Travelling community, members of the wider community, Elected Members and Council Officers.
- ^{9.18} It was felt that more communication between the settled and the Gypsy and Traveller community is required and this could take the form of information on Council websites to detail for instance what obligations the Districts have towards accommodating the Gypsy and Traveller community and management of unauthorised encampments, which could also benefit the Travelling community.
- ^{9.19} Wider stakeholders felt the needs of Travelling Showpeople are often overlooked and neglected and, to an extent, this was confirmed by the majority of Officers who had little awareness of, or contact with, the Showpeople's community. The Showman's Guild is accessible and it should be good practice that each District liaises with the Guild on a regular basis.

Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Essex

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Basildon

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Hovefields Caravan Site	25
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	25
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Foxgrove, Rear of Fanton Hall Cottages Harrow Road, North Benfleet	1
Blossom, Rear of Fanton Hall Cottages Harrow Road, North Benfleet	1
Chadville, Southend Arterial Road	1
Plots 97 & 98, Hertford Drive, Fobbing	2
The Chalet, Nethermayne, Basildon	1
The Elms, Windsor Road, North Benfleet	1
Four Oaks, Windsor Road, North Benfleet	1
Nashville, Church Road, Dunton	1
The Willows, Grange Road, North Benfleet	2
Rose Cottage, Windsor Road, North Benfleet	1
Copernicus, Windsor Road, North Benfleet	1
Fox Gardens, Oak Road, Crays Hill	1
Journeys End, Victor Avenue, Pitsea	1
Mandaly Cottage, Victor Avenue, Pitsea	1
Savannah's Place, Grange Road, North Benfleet	1
2 Lawrence Road, off Pound Lane, North Benfleet	1
The Paddocks, Grange Road, North Benfleet	1
Little Meadows, Grange Road, North Benfleet	1
The Lilys, Grange Road, North Benfleet	1
Sadlers Park, London Road, Pitsea	3
Newlands Road, Wickford	1
Opposite Windsor Lodge, Windsor Road, North Benfleet	1
Oak Lane, Crays Hill	43
Hovefields Avenue, Wickford	13
Cranfield Park Avenue, Wickford	8
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	90
Sites with Temporary Permission	
Hovefields Drive, Basildon	1
Cranfield Park Close, Wickford	7
TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	8
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
The Burrows, Wickford	2
The Pump House, Hovefields Avenue	1
The Rosary, Rear of Fanton Hall Cottages Harrow Road, North Benfleet	1
Pipps Hill Road North, Crays Hill	1
Lower Dunton Road, Dunton	1
Gardiners Lane North, Crays Hill	1
Acacia Road, North Benfleet	1
Elm Road, North Benfleet	2
Victor Avenue, Pitsea	1
Hertford Drive, Fobbing	1

Rear of Rose Cottage, Grange Road, North Benfleet	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/ SITES	13
Unauthorised Developments/Encampments	
Rear of Foxgrove, Rear of Fanton Hall Cottages Harrow Road	2
Blossom, Rear of Fanton Hall Cottages Harrow Road	1
Oak Lane Crays Hill	1
Hovefields Drive	2
Cranfield Park Avenue	3
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	9
TOTAL PITCHES	145

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Braintree

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Ridgewell	12
Sandiacres	14
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	26
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Half Acres, Cressing	4
Station Road, Earles Colne	2
Ferriers Farm Road, Bures	1
Paddock Farm, Hatfield Peveral ¹⁷	-1
Custom Hall, Toppersfield	1
Compasses Lane, Pattiswick	2
Lay By, Blake End	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	11
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Twin Oaks	21 ¹⁸
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	21
TOTAL PITCHES	58

¹⁷ This is now a residential planning permission follow the outcome of a planning appeal in April 2014

¹⁸ This site has now been granted full planning permission

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Brentwood

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Lilliputs, Chelmsford Road Blackmore	1
Meadow View, Ingatestone Road Blackmore	3
Pond End, Clapgate Estate, Kelvedon Hatch	1
Ponderosa, Place Farm Lane Kelvedon Hatch	1
Poplars Farm, Roman Road Ingatestone	1
Warren Lane, Doddinghurst	1
Wenlock Meadow, Wenlock Lane	2
Clementines Farm, Muthering Lane	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	11
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
Cottage Garden, Beads Hall Lane, Pilgrims Hatch	1
Hope Farm, Horsemanside Navestock	2
Orchard View, Horsemanside Navestock	4
Rye Etch, Mill Lane, Navestock	3 ¹⁹
The Willows, Place Farm Lane, Kelvedon Hatch	3
Tree Tops, Curtis Mill Lane, Navestock	3
Roman Triangle, Roman Road, Mountnessing	5
Deep Dell Park (Willow Farm)	6
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	27
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Greenacres, Plot 3 Oaktree Farm Chelmsford Road Blackmore	8
Hunters Green, Albyns Lane Navestock	2
Lizvale Farm, Goatswood Lane, Navestock	10 ²⁰
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	20
TOTAL PITCHES	58

¹⁹ This site has now been granted full planning permission

²⁰ Pitches at this site have been recorded as high as 17 and as low as 4

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Castle Point

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Orchard Place, Arterial Road, Thundersley	2
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	2
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Janda Field, Fane Road, Thundersley	3
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	3
TOTAL PITCHES	5

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Chelmsford

Site	Number of Piches
Local Authority Sites	
Cranham Hall Caravan Site, Cranham Road, Little Waltham	10
Ladygrove Caravan Park, Ongar Road, Writtle	12
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	22
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Cooper Farm, Goatsmoor Lane, Stock	1
Hillview, Meadow Lane, Runwell	1
Railside, Waltham Road Industrial Estate, Boreham	1
Little Paddocks, Highwood Road, Writtle	1
Sandon Brook Caravans, Maldon Road, Sandon	1
Meadow Lane, Runwell, Wickford	37
Oak Vale/Orchard View, Domsey Lane, Little Waltham	2
Riverhaven, Private Road, Galleywood	1
Blundells, Rooters Hill, Pleshey	1
Barracks Field, Waltham Road, Boreham	3
Land Opposite Fristling Hall Cottages, Swan Lane, Stock	1
The Willows, Cumming Road off Vera Road, Downham, Billericay	1
Apple Blossom Drakes Lane Little Waltham	1
Greenfields, Highwood Road, Edney Common	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	53
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
Jobbs Yard, Orchard Breeds Road, Gt Waltham	1
Field Gate, Meadow Lane, Runwell, Wickford	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	2
Unauthorised Developments	
Longacre (Adjacent Anastasis), Highwood Road, Writtle	1
Littlefield, Highwood Road, Writtle	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	2
TOTAL PITCHES	79

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Colchester

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Severalls Lane	12
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	12
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Clearview, Rectory Road, Aldham	1
Colt Farm, Tiptree	2
Emmanuel, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree	1
Nunns Farm, Lower Road, Layer Breton	1
The Paddocks, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree	2
Stableview, Newbridge Road, Tiptree	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	8
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
Bridge Side, Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway	3 ²¹
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	3
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
Ponys Farm, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	1
Unauthorised Developments	
Gwynlian, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree	2
Site at Vernons Road, Chappel	3
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	5
TOTAL PITCHES	29

²¹ This site has now been granted full planning permission

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Epping Forest District

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Hop Gardens, Toothill	16
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	16
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Sedge Green, Roydon	19
Hamlet Hill, Roydon	4
Tylers Road, Roydon	1
Harlow Road, Roydon	8
Tylers Cross Nursery, Broadley Common, Roydon	18
Perry Hill, Nazeing	1
Waltham Road, Long Green, Nazeing	16
Hoe Lane, Nazeing	16
Meadgate Road, Nazeing	8
High Beach, Waltham Abbey	1
Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, North Weald Bassett	1
Kiln Road, North Weald Bassett	1
Mill Lane, Moreton, Bobbingworth and The Lavers	1
Bournebridge Lane, Stapleford Abbots	1
Tysea Hill, Stapleford Abbots	4
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	100
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
Hamlet Hill, Roydon	1
Nazeing Road, Nazeing	4
Carthegena Estate, Nazeing	5
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	10
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Lodge Chalet Estate, off High Street, Roydon	3
Hamlet Hill, Roydon	1
Carthegena Estate, Nazeing	4
Stapleford Road, Stapleford Tawney	?
Silver Lane, Willingale, Ongar	2
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	10
TOTAL PITCHES	136

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Harlow

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth Way Harlow Essex CM18 6HX	21
Fernhill Lane, Fernhill Lane Harlow Essex CM18 7HX	15
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	36
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PITCHES	36

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Maldon

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Wood Corner Caravan Park, Old London Road	20
Plots 1-6 Caravan Site, Brickhouse Road, Tolleshunt Major	6
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	26
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
The Orchards, Lea Lane, Great Braxted	7 (+3 transit)
The Oaks, Lea Lane, Great Braxted	3
The Stables, Colchester Road, Great Totham	1
Two Acres, Bickley Lane, Loamy Hill Road, Tolleshunt Major	1
The Birches, Cherry Blossom Lane, Cold Norton	3
The Poplars, Cherry Blossom Lane, Cold Norton	4
New Redgates, Fambridge Road, Purleigh	1
Post Office Lane, Little Totham	4
Tarry Wood Lane	1
Homelea, Two Elms and The Loft	4
Eaglefield, Plains Road, Little Totham	1
Land opposite Heath Farm, Tolleshunt D'Arcy	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	31
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Land at Broomfield Farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	1
TOTAL PITCHES	58

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Rochford

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
The Apple Barn, Land rear of 15-19 Southend Road	1
Goads Meadow, Murrells Lane, Hockley	1
Rayleigh Turf Yard (AKA Urquart House), Trenders Avenue, Rayleigh	1
Pudsey Hall Farm, Pudsey Hall Lane, Canewdon	1
Rob Rosa (Land west of Victoria Cottage), Lower Road, Hullbridge	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	5
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
Pear Tree, Land adjoining Hillside, New Park Road, Hockley	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	1
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Land opposite Witherdens Farm (Cherry Hill Farm), Chelmsford Road, Rawreth	6
Meadow View, Maple Drive, Rayleigh	1
Land adjacent to Pumping Station, Watery Lane, Rawreth	1
Land to the west of Goldsmith Drive	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	9
TOTAL PITCHES	15

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Southend on Sea

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PITCHES	0

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Tendring

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	0
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Land behind Woodfield Bungalow	5 ²²
Land at Gutteridge Hall Lane, Weeley	3
Esther Lee Stables, Crockleford Heath, Ardleigh	1
Woodside, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley	1
Carringtons Road, Great Bromley	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	11
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	0
Unauthorised Developments	
Land adjacent Pump Station, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market ²³	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	1
TOTAL PITCHES	12

²² Planning permission for 5 pitches but only 2 there at the moment

²³ This had temporary planning permission for a single pitch which expired on 5 March 2013. An application to make the pitch permanent is currently being considered.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Thurrock

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Ship Lane	21
Pilgrims Field	22
Gammon Lane	21
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	64
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
Biggin Lane	10
Herd Lane	10
Love Lane	1
The Willow	4
The Paddock	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	26
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
-	-
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
Echo Farm	8
Lower Crescent	7
Ship Lane (Off Love Lane)	4
Sleepy Hollow	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	20
Unauthorised Developments	
Holy Lands	3
St Chads North	5
St Chads South	5
Willows	1
Southend Road	4
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	18
TOTAL PITCHES	128

Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Uttlesford

Site	Number of Pitches
Local Authority Sites	
Felsted Travellers Site, Station Road, Little Dunmow	17
TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES	17
Private Sites with Permanent Permission	
The Ford, Braintree Road, Gt Dunmow	1
Honey Orchard, High Easter	1
The Pickle, High Roding	1
The Caravan, Brick Kiln Lane, Stebbing	1
Tall Trees, Stansted	10
Middleside, Stansted	10
Oak View, Stansted	1
Clovelly, Brick End, Broxton	1
Elmswood, Broxton	1
Adj. Elmswood, Broxton	1
The Patch, Clavering	1
Star Green, Radwinter End	1
The Caravan, Garnetts Wood, High Easter Road, Barnston	1
Tandans, Canfield Drive, Gt Canfield	3
Little Hallingbury (1-5 Oak Tree Close)	5
Willow Farm, Braintree Road, Gt Dunmow	1
The Two Willows, Grange Road, High Easter	3
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	43
Private Sites with Temporary Permission	
TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission	
Pennington Lane, Stansted	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE SITES	1
Unauthorised Developments	
Parsonage Lane, Barnston	1
TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	1
TOTAL PITCHES	62

Appendix B: Travelling Showpeople Yards in Essex

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Basildon

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	
Whitegates, lower Park Road, Wickford	2
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	2
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	2

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Braintree

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	
Blackwater Lane, Witham	2
Fair Rest, Rivenhall End	4
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	6
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	6

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Brentwood

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Castle Point

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Chelmsford

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	
Hassenbrooks Victoria Road Writtle	40
Fairhurst Highwood Road	1
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	41
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	41

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Colchester

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Epping Forest District

Yard	Number of Caravans
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL CARAVANS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	
Land at Moreton sand & gravel pit, Harlow Road, Moreton (aka Lake View)	39
TOTAL CARAVANS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PLANNING PERMISSION	39
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL CARAVANS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL CARAVANS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL CARAVANS	39

*please note: numbers are given for caravans NOT plots or yards in the above table (number of Yards = 9).

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Harlow

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Maldon

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Rochford

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Southend on Sea

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Tendring

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Travelling Showpeople Yards in Uttlesford

Yard	Number of Plots
Local Authority Yards	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY YARDS	0
Private Yards with Planning Permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON PRIVATE YARDS WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION	0
Tolerated Yards – Long-term without planning permission	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED PRIVATE YARDS	0
Unauthorised Developments	-
TOTAL PLOTS ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS	0
TOTAL PLOTS	0

Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

Amenity block/shed	A building where basic plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC, sink) are provided.
Bricks and mortar	Mainstream housing.
Caravan	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.
Chalet	A single storey residential unit which can be dismantled. Sometimes referred to as mobile homes.
Concealed household	Households, living within other households, who are unable to set up separate family units.
Development Plan Document (DPD)	Local Authority spatial planning documents that can include specific policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
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 policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.
Household formation	The process where individuals form separate households. This is normally through adult children setting up their own household.
Personal planning permission	A private site where the planning permission specifies who can occupy the site and doesn't allow transfer of ownership.
Pitch/plot	Area of land on a site/development generally home to one household. Can be varying sizes and have varying caravan numbers. Pitches refer to Gypsy and Traveller sites and Plots to Travelling Showpeople yards.
Private site	An authorised site owned privately. Can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied and rented pitches.
Site	An area of land on which Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in caravans/chalets/ vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches.
Social/Public/Council Site	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Housing Provider.
Temporary planning permission	A private site with planning permission for a fixed

	period of time.
Tolerated site/yard	Long-term tolerated sites or yards where enforcement action is not expedient and a certificate of lawful use would be granted if sought.
Transit provision	Site intended for short stays and containing a range of facilities. There is normally a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
Unauthorised Development	Caravans on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers and without planning permission.
Unauthorised Encampment	Caravans on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers and without planning permission.
Waiting list	Record held by the local authority or site managers of applications to live on a site.
Yard	Name used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site.

Appendix D: Contacts Made

Essex Partnership Officers

Braintree	Planning Policy Manager
Brentwood	Planning Policy Officer Senior Environmental Health Officer Enforcement Officer
Castle Point	Senior Planning Officer
Chelmsford	Senior Planning Officer Planning Portfolio Holder Development Policy Committee Chairman Housing Strategy Officer Planning Enforcement Manager Planning Policy Manager
Colchester	Senior Planning Officer Planning Policy Officer Environmental Control Manager
Epping Forest	Forward Planning Manager Senior Planning Officer Enforcement Officer Portfolio Holder for Planning
Harlow	Forward Planning Manager Community Safety Team Manager Planning and Building Control Manager Portfolio Holder for Environment
Maldon	Senior Planning Officer
Rochford	Head of Policy
Southend	Strategic Planning Policy Officer
Tendring	Planning Policy Manager Planning Portfolio Holder
Thurrock	Strategic Planning Team Leader
Uttlesford	Principal Environmental Health Officer Housing Planning Policy Leader of the Council Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Wider Stakeholders

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Manager
Essex Fire
Heine Planning
Brentwood Traveller Support Group
Ormiston Traveller's Initiative
Showmen's Guild Norwich Eastern Secretary

Registered Providers

Hastoe
Colne Housing
East Thames
Moat
Balkerne Gate Trust

Appendix E: Interview Topic Guide

Essex Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) COUNCIL OFFICERS / ELECTED MEMBERS / WIDER STAKEHOLDERS

Topic Guide

Introduction

Thank for participation

Stress anonymity and confidentiality and request permission to record interview

Explain

I have been asked by Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Planning and Building Control, Uttlesford) on behalf of Essex Planning Officers Association to invite you to participate in a telephone interview in relation to the ESSEX GYPSY TRAVELLER AND SHOWPEOPLE ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT 2013.

My name is xxx and I am a senior researcher at Opinion Research Services. We are an independent social research company with experience of conducting Accommodation Needs Assessments.

The Essex Councils (including Thurrock, Southend-on-Sea and Essex County Council) have commissioned ORS to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment so that the authorities can establish whether the accommodation in their districts meets the current and future needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. As part of the wider work around accommodation, these authorities will also be engaging with members of these communities around issues such as access to health and education; and the suitability of current accommodation. This will take place during June and July 2013. The results of these activities will assist the council in making decisions around the potential allocation of land for new pitches and / or plots.

As part of this study we are undertaking:

- A stakeholder engagement programme which will include interviews with Council Officers, Elected Members and neighbouring areas; and

- Representative and community groups and support services.

Your cooperation on this matter as a representative of your organisation is appreciated, which will help to ensure the study is as robust as possible.

Free to express both positives and negatives.

Background/About You:

Name

What is your job title/department?

What dealings/relationships do you have with Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the course of your role as a Council Officer?

Background

What has the Authority done to meet the need identified in the previous GTAA?

Interviewer prompt for:

Gypsies and Travellers/Travelling Showpeople

Current Accommodation Provision

Authorised Sites

In your experience to what extent does the current AUTHORISED (with permanent planning permission) provision meet the needs of Travellers?

Interviewer prompt for:

Overcrowding/under occupation issues

Quality

Access to services (health, education)

Other issues (site management, community cohesion)

Unauthorised Developments/Temporary Permission

In your experience to what extent does the current UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS /TEMPORARY PLANNING PERMISSION meet the needs of Travellers?

Interviewer prompt for:

Overcrowding/under occupation issues

Quality

Access to services (health, education)

Other issues (site management, community cohesion)

Statistics on unauthorised sites (if available)

Bricks and Mortar

Are you aware of any Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the area who live in bricks and mortar? **[Interviewer explain the Data Protection Act: It would be helpful if we could speak to those people who currently live in bricks and mortar and would like to live on a site. Would you**

be able to contact those people on our behalf and explain that we would like them to take part in a short confidential interview with an experienced member of our research team?]

If they are happy to do this, advise the interviewee that ORS can send them a letter with the relevant information and contact details. Ask interviewee what method they will use to contact individuals and if they could contact ORS to let us know what they have done – explain we will need to document efforts in the report.

How likely do you think it will be that housed Travellers will want to come forward for this study? Please explain?

In your experience to what extent does bricks and mortar accommodation meet the needs of Travellers?

Interviewer prompt for:

Overcrowding/under occupation issues

Quality

Access to services (health, education)

Other issues (cultural issues, community cohesion)

Short-term Roadside encampments/Transit

Are you aware of any short-term unauthorised encampments in the area? Are these a regular occurrence?

Why do these occur? [**Interviewer Prompt:** Traditional travelling routes? Employment? What kinds of work? Homelessness? Family connections]

Are there any locations in the area (e.g. near specific towns or villages) which are generally favoured by Travellers and do you have any suggestions why this is so?

Trends

What are your perceptions of any trends you may be experiencing with regard to Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the area [**Interviewer Prompt:** increase/decrease in privately owned sites; increase/decrease in numbers of un/authorised sites; increase/decrease in numbers of un/authorised sites]?

Future Accommodation Needs

Do you feel there is a lack of or a sufficient amount of accommodation provision? (Permanent and Transit) Please explain your reasons.

IF YES. What type of accommodation should be provided?

[**Interviewer Prompt:** Public site/private site; transit provision, temporary stopping site (seasonally provided)]

In terms of site location, what do you consider are the important criteria that must be borne in mind when determining where a site should be placed?

Could you recommend a preferred location for a site? Please explain your reasons

[**Interviewer Prompt:** constraints]

Do you have any view on the management and ownership of sites?

[Interviewer Prompt: Preferred management structure; size of pitch provision best practice examples]

Community, Employment Health and Education Issues

In your experience are you aware of any particular issues in relation to:

Community cohesion? Please explain these issues

What is being done to address these issues? (when, by whom)

What needs to be done in the future? (When, by whom)

Employment

To what extent are the community able to access employment opportunities

What is being done to address these issues? (when, by whom)

What needs to be done in the future? (When, by whom)

Health

To what extent are the community able to access services

What is being done to address these issues? (when, by whom)

What needs to be done in the future? (When, by whom)

Education

To what extent are the community able to access services

What is being done to address these issues? (when, by whom)

What needs to be done in the future? (When, by whom)

Consultation Activities

Are there any mechanisms for regular consultation with Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in your area?

What methods are used?

Are they effective?

Cross-Boundary Issues

In terms of cross-boundary issues, what in your opinion, are the main travelling routes through your area? Why is this?

Are you aware of any trend for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to move to neighbouring Districts?

Are the same local Gypsies and Travellers being shifted back and forth from district to district or are they long distance travellers passing through on traditional routes?

Are you aware of any cross-border working? Could this be improved?

[Interviewer Prompt: Examples of joint working, examples of best practice]

Do you feel the local authority is complying with the duty to cooperate with regards to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

[Interviewer Prompt: Examples? What should be done in the future]

Future Priorities

What should the Council prioritise with regard to Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in your area in the next fifteen years' time?

[Interviewer Prompt: Summary of actions/ what needs to be done by whom]

Any further issues

Are there any further issues you would like to discuss?

Appendix F: Site Survey Form



Essex Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Survey May 2013—On-Site

INTERVIEWER READ OUT: Good Morning/afternoon/evening. My name is < > from Opinion Research Services, working on behalf of Essex Planning Officers' Association and Essex Housing Officers' Group. They are undertaking a study of Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs in this area. We would like you to take part because it is important that we interview a wide cross-section of people. Your family will not be identified and all the Information collected will be anonymous and only used to help understand the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households. You do not have to answer all the questions but the more information you can provide the better the survey will be. The survey will take around 20-25 minutes to complete.

Name of Site and address:

A General Trends

A1a Do you consider this site to be your permanent base?

*INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Yes

☐

Go to A2

No

☐

Ask (b) and following

A1b *INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT SAYS IT'S NOT THEIR PERMANENT BASE.*

If this isn't your permanent base, why are you currently living on the site?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below giving as much detail as possible

A1c Where do you consider your permanent base to be?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below giving as much detail as possible or at least name of town/village

A1d Thinking of your current location, have you travelled to this area before?

*INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Yes

☐

Ask (e)

No

☐

Go to A2

A1e When did you start visiting this area?

*INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Less than 2 years ago

☐

5 years ago but less than 10 years ago

☐

2 years ago but less than 5 years ago

☐

10 years ago or longer

☐

A2 What attracts you to live in this area?

INTERVIEWER: Please read out options and code all that apply

The open countryside	☐	Always lived in the area	☐
Quality of life	☐	Local schools	☐
It is on/near traditional travelling routes	☐	Local health facilities	☐
Have historical roots in the area	☐	Nowhere else to go	☐
To be near family	☐	Other Please write in below	☐
There is work in the area	☐		

A3 What are your connections with this area?

INTERVIEWER: Please read out options and code all that apply

Always lived in this area	☐	Friends are from this area	☐
Lived here a long time	☐	Family members work here	☐
Grew up in the area	☐	Children go to school here	☐
Have a tradition of travelling to/through this area	☐	Family members receive care/support from Council/other local services here	☐
Family are from this area	☐	Other Please write in below	☐
Own land in this area	☐		

B

Your accommodation

INTERVIEWER READ OUT: I'd now like to ask you some more detailed questions about you and your family's needs and hopes.

B1 Including this accommodation, how many of each type of accommodation do you have on this pitch?

INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box in each row

	None	One	Two	Three or more
Trailer	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mobile Home	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chalet	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tourer	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other type of home (Please write in)		☐	☐	☐

B2 How long have you and your family lived on this site?

INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only

Less than a week	☐	1 year but less than 3 years	☐
1 week but less than one month	☐	3 years but less than 5 years	☐
1 month but less than 6 months	☐	5 years or more	☐
6 months but less than 1 year	☐		

B3 Is this pitch...? INTERVIEWER: READ OUT OPTIONS Please cross **one** box only

An owner occupied pitch ☐

A privately rented pitch ☐

An authorised public site (Council) ☐

An unauthorised development ☐

An unauthorised encampment ☐

A transit site ☐

Don't know ☐

Other type of site (Please write in below) ☐

B4a Does your current accommodation and site meet all of your needs in terms of accommodation quality and space; and site facilities, location and management?

INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only

Yes ☐



Go to B5

No ☐



Ask (b) and following

B4b Why does this accommodation not meet your needs?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and code all that apply

Accommodation in poor state of repair ☐

Too small ☐

Too large ☐

Lacking facilities ☐

Site too far from services ☐

Site too noisy ☐

Site not safe enough ☐

Site too dirty/polluted ☐

No play area for children ☐

Site management ☐

Pitch location on site ☐

Too far from other family members ☐

No space for visiting caravans on site ☐

Can't conduct business on site ☐

Other Please write in below ☐

B4c If you feel existing facilities are lacking, what further facilities are needed?

Please write in below giving as much detail as possible

B4d Do you feel that your needs can be addressed at this pitch or would you have to move to another pitch/site? INTERVIEWER: READ OUT OPTIONS Please cross **one** box only

Can be addressed at this pitch ☐



Go to B5a

Would like to move to another pitch at this site ☐



Ask (e)

Would like to move to another site ☐



Ask (e)

B4e Are you on any of the following accommodation waiting lists?*INTERVIEWER: READ OUT OPTIONS Please code all that apply.*

Housing (bricks and mortar)	☐	→	Ask (f)
Council site	☐	→	Ask (f)
Private site	☐	→	Ask (f)
None	☐	→	Go to B5a
Other Please write in below	☐	→	Ask (f)

B4f IF ON A WAITING LIST: INTERVIEWER READ OUT**Which waiting lists are you currently on?** *Please write in below giving as much detail as possible, i.e. Which Council or Housing Association?***B5a Is there anyone else who needs to live with you, but is not able to at present?***INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross one box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask (b) and following
No	☐	→	Go to B6a

B5b Who are the people who would need to live here that are not able to at present?*INTERVIEWER: Please code all that apply*

Husband, wife or partner	☐	Grandparent	☐
Son or daughter (inc. adopted, step-, fostered & -in-law)	☐	Grandchild	☐
Brother or sister (inc. half-, step & -in-law)	☐	Not related	☐
Parent (inc. -in-law)	☐	Other related Please write in below	☐
Niece or nephew	☐		

B5c Where do they currently live? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below giving as much detail as possible (at least town/village)***B5d In what type of accommodation do they currently live?***INTERVIEWER: Please probe and code all that apply*

Have their own pitch on an authorised site	☐	Bricks and mortar	☐
Sharing with another household on an authorised site	☐	Overseas	☐
Unauthorised development	☐	Don't know	☐
Unauthorised encampment	☐	Other Please write in below	☐
Transit site	☐		

B6a Are additional caravans/residential units needed at this pitch? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask (b) and following
No	☐	→	Go to B7a and following

B6b Which members of your household need additional caravans/residential units ?

INTERVIEWER: Please code all that apply

Older children ☐	Adult relatives ☐	Other (Please write in) ☐	
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B6c How many additional caravans/residential units are needed?

*INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

One ☐	Two ☐	Three ☐	Four ☐	Five or more ☐
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B6d In your view, is there space on your existing pitch for these extra caravans/residential units?

Yes ☐	No ☐
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B7a Would any members of your household like to leave permanently to live elsewhere in the next two years? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask (b) and following
No	☐	→	Go to B8
Don't know	☐	→	Go to B8

B7b *INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT SAYS YES*

Which members of the household would like to leave permanently to live elsewhere in the next two years and why? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below*

B7c What type of accommodation would they like to move to? *INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and probe for most desired, and cross **one** box only*

Bricks and mortar accommodation that is a:	Private site owned by others	☐
House	Private site owned by you	☐
Bungalow	Authorised transit site	☐
Flat	Unauthorised encampment	☐
Caravan/trailer that is on a:	Don't know	☐
Council run site	Other Please write in below	☐

B7d Where would they like to move to? *INTERVIEWER: Please code all that apply, and write in location(s).*

Within Essex (please specify below)

☐

Outside Essex (please specify below)

☐

Don't know

☐

B7e If it is not possible for them to move to their preferred location, where else would they consider moving to ? *INTERVIEWER: write in below.*

B7f Are they on any of the following accommodation waiting lists? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and code all that apply*

Housing (bricks and mortar)

☐

Ask (g)

Council site

☐

Ask (g)

Private site

☐

Ask (g)

None

☐

Ask (h)

Don't know

☐

Ask (h)

Other (please write in)

☐

Ask (g)

B7g IF ON A WAITING LIST: INTERVIEWER READ OUT

Which waiting lists are they currently on? *INTERVIEWER: Please write in below giving as much detail as possible*

B7h Do you expect them to be able to move to their desired location?

*INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes

☐

Ask B7i and **THEN GO TO B8**

No

☐

Ask B7i and following

B7i Why do you think this is the case? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below giving as much detail as possible*

B7j Do you expect them to move to any new permanent base in the next two years?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only

Yes

☐

Ask (k) and following

No

☐

Go to B8

Don't know

☐

Go to B8

B7k What type of accommodation would you expect them to move to? INTERVIEWER: PLEASE

READ OUT and probe for most desired.

Bricks and mortar accommodation that is a:

House

☐

Bungalow

☐

Flat

☐

Caravan/trailer that is on a:

Council run site

☐

Private site owned by others

☐

Private site owned by you

☐

Authorised transit site

☐

Unauthorised encampment

☐

Don't know

☐

Other Please write in below

☐

B7l Where do you expect them to establish this permanent base?

Please probe and write in below giving as much detail as possible

B8 What improvements, if any, could be made to this site? INTERVIEWER: Please probe but do not prompt and code all that apply.

Better toilet facilities

☐

Better washing facilities

☐

Better site management

☐

Better site layout

☐

More pitches

☐

Fewer pitches

☐

Larger pitches

☐

Better access to main road

☐

CCTV

☐

Workshops for business

☐

Storage for business needs (e.g. for tools)

☐

Refuse storage

☐

Space for visitors

☐

Car parking

☐

Lorry parking

☐

Play area

☐

Improved road surfacing

☐

Pest control

☐

Better landscaping

☐

Site safety

☐

No improvements required

☐

Not applicable (if unauthorised site)

☐

Other Please write in below

☐

B9a How satisfied or dissatisfied are you living here? *INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and cross **one** box only*

Very satisfied ☐	Fairly satisfied ☐	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ☐	Fairly dissatisfied ☐	Very dissatisfied ☐
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B9b Why do you say that? *INTERVIEWER: Probe but do not prompt. Please write in below*

B10 Are any of the following facilities available at your current accommodation for use just by you and your family? *INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and code all that apply.*

Fresh water	☐	Shower/bath	☐
Hot water	☐	Domestic rubbish storage/collection	☐
Toilet	☐	Letter box	☐
Electricity	☐	None	☐
Laundry	☐	Other <i>Please write in below</i>	☐

B11 Which of the following facilities and amenities do you think are needed on a site? *INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and code all that apply.*

Toilet	☐	Water	☐
Shower/bath facilities	☐	Visitors parking spaces	☐
Laundry	☐	Cooking facilities	☐
Play area	☐	Space for eating/sitting	☐
Lorry park	☐	Heating	☐
Post box	☐	Fire fighting equipment	☐
Telephone	☐	Emergency phone	☐
Electricity	☐	Workshops for business	☐
Gas	☐	Storage for business needs (e.g. for tools)	☐
Refuse collection	☐	None of these	☐
Parking spaces	☐	Other <i>Please write in below</i>	☐

C

Travelling

C1a How many trips, living in a caravan or trailer, have you made away from this pitch/ your permanent base in the last 12 months? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross one box only*

None –did not travel	☐	→	Go to C4a
One	☐	→	Ask C1b
Two	☐	→	Ask C1b
Three	☐	→	Ask C1b
Four	☐	→	Ask C1b
Five or more	☐	→	Ask C1b

C1b In total how much time did you spend travelling in a caravan or trailer away from this pitch / your permanent base in the last 12 months? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross one box only*

Less than 1 month	1 month but less than 3 months	3 months but less than 6 months	6 months but less than 12 months	Travelled all year round
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

C1c Which of the following types of stopping places did you travel to in the last 12 months? *INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and code all that apply,*

An authorised private site	☐	A transit site	☐
An authorised public site (Council)	☐	A travelling show site	☐
An unauthorised development	☐	Other type of site <i>Please write in below</i>	☐
An unauthorised encampment	☐		

C2a Was this level of travelling normal, or has it changed in the past few years? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only*

Normal	☐	→	Go to C3
Travelled less in recent years	☐	→	Ask (b)
Travelled more in recent years	☐	→	Ask (b)

C2b Why have your travelling patterns changed in recent years? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below*

C3a Do you travel to particular places at certain times of the year? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask (b)
No	☐	→	Go to C5

C3b What time of year/season do you typically travel? *INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and code all that apply*

Summer (June - Aug)	Autumn (Sept- Nov)	Winter (Dec - Feb)	Spring (March - May)	All year round
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

C3c What are your main reasons for travelling?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe but do not prompt and code all that apply.

For work	☐	→	Go to D1a
Family reasons	☐	→	Go to D1a
For a holiday	☐	→	Go to D1a
Fairs	☐	→	Go to D1a
Other (please write in)	☐	→	Go to D1a

C4a You reported that you did not travel in the last 12 months. Have you travelled in the past? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask (b)
No	☐	→	Go to D1a

C4b If yes, why did you not travel in the last 12 months? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and code all that apply,*

So children can receive education	☐	Want a more settled lifestyle	☐
Due to ill-health of some family members	☐	Lack of casual employment in other areas	☐
Due to old age of some family members	☐	Other Please write in below	☐
No longer easy to camp on the side of the road when travelling	☐		

D

Bricks and Mortar

D1a Do you own or rent a house, bungalow or flat? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Go to D1e
No	☐	→	Ask D1b

D1b Have you ever lived in a house, bungalow or flat? INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only

Yes ☐



Ask D1c and following

No ☐



Go to E1a

D1c Why did you leave? INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below

D1d When did you last live in this type of accommodation?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only

Less than one year ago ☐

5 years but less than 10 years ago ☐

1 year but less than 3 years ago ☐

10 years ago or longer ☐

3 years but less than 5 years ago ☐

D1e Why do you/did you live in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation? INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below

E

The Future

E1a Do you need to move to a new permanent base, either now or in the next 15 years?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only

Yes ☐



Ask E1b and following

No ☐



Go to E4

Don't know ☐



Go to E4

E1b What are your main reasons for needing a new permanent base?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below

E1c Ideally where do you want to establish this permanent base?

INTERVIEWER: Please code all that apply, and write in location(s).

Within Essex (please specify below) ☐

Outside Essex (please specify below) ☐

Don't know ☐

E1d What are your main reasons for needing to move to this location?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below

E1ei If you move to a new permanent base, would you prefer to live in an established city/ town or village, in new housing estates on the edge of a town or village, close to a town or village, or in a rural location ?

*INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

In a city/town/village	In an urban extension	Adjacent or close to a town/ village	Rural
☐	☐	☐	☐

E1eii What do you think is important when deciding where a site should be located?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below

E1f Do you expect to be able to move to your ideal location?

*INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Go to E2a
No	☐	→	Ask E1g
Don't know	☐	→	Go to E2a

E1g Why do you not expect to be able to move to your desired location?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below in as much detail as possible

E1h Do you expect to move to a new permanent base in the next two years?

*INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask E1i and following
No	☐	→	Go to E2a
Don't know	☐	→	Go to E2a

E1i Where do you expect to establish this permanent base? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in below in as much detail as possible*

E2a If you move to a new permanent base, which of the following types of accommodation would you most like to move to? *INTERVIEWER: Please READ OUT and probe for most desired.*

Cross one box only.

Bricks and mortar accommodation that is a:

House	☐	→	Go to E4
Bungalow	☐	→	Go to E4
Flat	☐	→	Go to E4

Caravan/trailer that is on a...

Council run site	☐	→	Go to E3a
Private site owned by others	☐	→	Go to E3a
Private site owned by you	☐	→	Ask E2b
Transit site	☐	→	Go to E3a
Unauthorised encampment	☐	→	Go to E3a
Don't know	☐	→	Go to E4
Other <i>Please write in below</i>	☐	→	Go to E3a

E2b If you purchased your own land to establish a site, in which of the following ways would you be most likely to live on that site?

INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and cross one box only

Just your family live on the land	☐	→	Go to E2d
Allow other families/anyone to rent/have pitches	☐	→	Ask E2c
Don't know	☐	→	Go to E2d

E2c Who in general would you let pitches to?

INTERVIEWER: PLEASE READ OUT and code all that apply.

Close family	☐	Anyone	☐
Extended family	☐	Other <i>Please write in below</i>	☐
Close friends	☐		

E2d Ideally, how many pitches would you expect to accommodate on the land?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe for estimate and write in below. If answer is given in trailers MAKE SURE this is CLEARLY stated.

E2e Would you be able to afford to buy your own land?

INTERVIEWER: Please cross one box only

Yes	No	Don't know
☐	☐	☐

E3a Do you know of any sites or land that would be suitable for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople use which would need permanent planning permission?

*INTERVIEWER: The Council are looking for potential sites anywhere in the district. Please cross **one** box only*

Yes	☐	→	Ask E3b
No	☐	→	Go to E4
Don't know	☐	→	Go to E4

E3b Where is the land/site located?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe for as much detail as possible on location and write in

E3c Who owns the land/site? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe for as much detail as possible and write in*

E3d Can you provide contact details for the landowner? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe for as much detail as possible and write in*

E4 Do you think that current and potential future Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites should be identified on maps to be used and published by the Council in their local plan ? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Yes	No	Don't know
☐	☐	☐

F

Family Profiles

F1 To which of these groups do you consider (i) you and (ii) other members of your household belong? Choose as many or as few as apply.

*INTERVIEWER: READ OUT and code **one** for (i) and all that apply for (ii)*

(i) You

(ii) Other household members

Romany Gypsy	☐	☐		
Irish Traveller	☐	☐		
Scots Gypsy or Traveller	☐	☐		
Showperson	☐	☐		
New Traveller	☐	☐		
English Traveller	☐	☐		
Welsh Gypsy	☐	☐		
Bargee Traveller	☐	☐		
Other <i>Please write in below</i>	<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr></table>	 	<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr></table>	

F2a For each person in your household, including yourself, please provide their age, gender and relationship to you. For each child in the household (anyone under 16) please provide the same details, and also whether they are enrolled in school locally or elsewhere, and how often they attend.

INTERVIEWER: Please write in gender as 'M' or 'F', the age in years and write in the relationship to the respondent.

For all children in the household (aged 16 and under) please use the child boxes and code the appropriate response for if they are enrolled in school locally or elsewhere (leave blank if they are not enrolled in school) and also cross the appropriate box for how often they attend (leave blank if they are not enrolled in school).

Adult 1– YOU

Gender	Age
YOU	

Adult 2

Gender	Age
Relationship	

Adult 3

Gender	Age
Relationship	

Adult 4

Gender	Age
Relationship	

Adult 5

Gender	Age
Relationship	

Child 1

How often attending school

Gender	Age
Relationship	
Enrolled in local school	Some of the time
☐	Rarely
Enrolled at school elsewhere	Never
☐	Prefer not to say

Child 2

How often attending school

Gender	Age
Relationship	
Enrolled in local school	Some of the time
☐	Rarely
Enrolled at school elsewhere	Never
☐	Prefer not to say

Child 3

How often attending school

Gender	Age
Relationship	
Enrolled in local school	Some of the time
☐	Rarely
Enrolled at school elsewhere	Never
☐	Prefer not to say

Child 4

How often attending school

Gender	Age
Relationship	
Enrolled in local school	Some of the time
☐	Rarely
Enrolled at school elsewhere	Never
☐	Prefer not to say

Child 5

How often attending school

Gender	Age
Relationship	
Enrolled in local school	Some of the time
☐	Rarely
Enrolled at school elsewhere	Never
☐	Prefer not to say

Child 6

How often attending school

Gender	Age
Relationship	
Enrolled in local school	Some of the time
☐	Rarely
Enrolled at school elsewhere	Never
☐	Prefer not to say

F2b How many households live at this pitch?*INTERVIEWER: WRITE NUMBER IN BELOW*

**IF THIS NUMBER IS MORE THAN ONE THEN PLEASE SEEK TO
CARRY OUT ANOTHER FULL INTERVIEW WITH OTHER
HOUSEHOLD(S) LIVING AT THE PITCH.**

F2c How many people live at this pitch?*INTERVIEWER: WRITE NUMBER IN BELOW***F3a For each permanent household member aged 16 or over including yourself, please tell me their current working status. Are they?***INTERVIEWER: Please code all
that apply for each relevant
person*

	Person 1 (Respondent)	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
Working in a permanent job	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking casual/ temporary work	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking seasonal work	☐	☐	☐	☐
Registered unemployed	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student/full-time education	☐	☐	☐	☐
Retired	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long term sick/disabled	☐	☐	☐	☐
Looking after home/family	☐	☐	☐	☐
Full time carer	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other <i>Please write in below</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

F3a Continued.....For each permanent household member aged 16 or over including yourself, please tell me their current working status. Are they?

INTERVIEWER: Please code all that apply for each relevant person

	Person 5	Person 6	Person 7	Person 8
Working in a permanent job	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking casual/temporary work	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking seasonal work	☐	☐	☐	☐
Registered unemployed	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student/full-time education	☐	☐	☐	☐
Retired	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long term sick/disabled	☐	☐	☐	☐
Looking after home/family	☐	☐	☐	☐
Full time carer	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other <i>Please write in below</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐

INTERVIEWER: If respondent or anyone else in the household is currently undertaking work, please ask F3b. If respondent is not currently working, please go to F3c.

F3b *INTERVIEWER: Please ask if respondent or another household member is currently working.*

What type of work do you or any other household members currently undertake?

INTERVIEWER: Please write in type of work (e.g. building work or gardening)

F3c Have you undertaken any other type of work during the last two years? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe and cross one box only*

Yes ☐



Ask F3d

No ☐



Go to F4a

F3d What other types of work have you undertaken?

INTERVIEWER: Please write in types of work (e.g. building work or gardening) for respondent only.

F4a Do you or any of the people currently living as part of your household suffer from any health problem? *INTERVIEWER: Please probe such as asthma, back problem, nerves or depression and cross **one** box only*

Yes ☐



Ask F4b

No ☐



Go to F5

F4b Does your existing pitch meet the needs of those suffering with health problems identified in F4a? *INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Yes ☐



Go to F5

No ☐



Ask F4c

F4c If not why?

INTERVIEWER: Please probe and write in.

F5 Are you aware of anyone in the Gypsy and Traveller community living in bricks and mortar housing in the Essex area who may wish to take part in this survey?

*INTERVIEWER: Please cross **one** box only*

Yes ☐



Please provide contact details below

No ☐



Go to end

Name

Address

Telephone

INTERVIEWER: READ OUT: Thank you very much for your time.

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

INTERVIEWER: IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WE REQUIRE THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER, FOLLOWED BY THEIR POSTAL ADDRESS

RESPONDENT'S NAME

RESPONDENT'S TEL

RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS

RESPONDENT'S POSTCODE

INTERVIEWER: IF THE RESPONDENT REFUSES ON ANY OF THE ABOVE DETAILS, PLEASE TRY TO OBTAIN AN EMAIL ADDRESS

RESPONDENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS

Thank you for your time and help completing this questionnaire.

Interviewer Declaration

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

Interviewer's signature

Interview Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of interview
(DD/MM/YYYY)

Time of interview
(24HR CLOCK)

Duration of Interview

Appendix G: Technical Note on Household Formation Rates

HOUSEHOLD FORMATION RATES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

TECHNICAL NOTE

November 2013

Version 1.0

1. Household Formation Rates

Introduction

- 1.1 The rate of future household formations is a key component to any housing assessment, and is particularly important for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The relative youthfulness of Gypsy and Traveller populations implies that they are likely to grow more quickly than the wider population and therefore will see a higher proportionate rate of new household formation.
- 1.2 Despite the importance of household formations in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, very little work has been undertaken to assess the likely rates of new formations.

History

- 1.3 At the outset we would note that all studies below use net household formation which is the gross household formation rate, minus any loss of households through dissolution.
- 1.4 In a study on behalf of Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 (Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller Sites in England Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2003), Pat Niner identified that household growth rates of 2%-3% per cent a year were appropriate when projecting future formations.
- 1.5 In October the Department of Communities and Local Government issued guidance for conducting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments ('Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments: Guidance'). On page 25 this provides a worked example using a 3% per annum household formation rate, but notes in footnote 6 that:

'The 3% family formation growth rate is used here as an example only. The appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local survey, information from agencies working directly with local Gypsy and Traveller communities, and trends identified from figures previously given for the caravan count.'

- 1.6 Therefore, the current guidance is clear that each individual assessment should use local evidence for future household formation rates.
- 1.7 A further key source of information for the use of household formation rates were Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) which were either produced, or in production across the whole country until their planned abolition was announced in 2010. All of the RSS across the country used a household formation rate of 3% per annum for Gypsies and Travellers. However, none of the published documents (such as 'Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the East of England: A Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England July 2009') provide any evidence for this position. Instead the 3% simply forms part of the calculation.
- 1.8 Therefore, while there is precedent for using a net household formation rate of 3% per annum for Gypsies and Travellers there is little published evidence to justify this position. This document seeks to bring together all available information on household formation rates to provide a more robust position to assess the appropriate rates to use on future assessments.

Compound Growth

- 1.9 A net household growth rate of 3% does not imply that household numbers will double in 33 years ($100/3$). Instead the impact of compound growth where the 3% for any year is added to the base population and any subsequent household growth implies that the doubling of household numbers will occur much more quickly. For 3% compound growth the time it would take to double the household numbers is 23.5 years.
- 1.10 The table below shows the impact of a range of compound growth rates on how long they would lead to the household numbers doubling. If the growth rate was 1.5% per annum household numbers would double in 46.5 years.

Figure 1
Compound Growth Rates and Time Taken for Household numbers to Double

Growth Rate per Annum	Time Taken for Household Numbers to Double
3%	23.5 years
2.75%	25.5 years
2.5%	28 years
2.25%	31 years
2%	35 years
1.75%	40 years
1.5%	46.5 years

Evidence for Household Growth

- 1.11 A key source of quantitative information available on Gypsy and Traveller communities derives from a bi-annual survey of Gypsy and Traveller caravans which is conducted by each local authority in England on a specific date in January and July of each year. This count is of caravans and not households which makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this.
- 1.12 In January 1979, the date of the first count, there were 8,300 caravans recorded on sites across England. On the date of the most recent count in January 2013 there were 18,729 caravans counted. This equates to a rise of 126% over 34 years. This represents a rise of just over 2.4% per annum. The January 2013 count was lower than the figure for July 2012, but even using that figure sees a growth rate of 2.5% per annum.
- 1.13 Therefore, the number of caravans being counted on sites across England has been growing over the past 34 years at close to 2.5% per annum. There are good reasons for think that this is an overestimate of household formation rates. These include:
- There has been a significant in-migration of Irish Traveller households to England in the past 34 years. While many Irish Travellers have been established in England since before 1979, many are more recent migrants and this will have boosted caravan numbers through migration, not formations;

- Many pitches across the country are sub-let or partially occupied by non Travellers. ORS has visited many hundreds of pitches across the country with non Traveller occupants. These households will again potentially boost caravan count numbers without representing a growth in the number of Gypsy and Traveller households.

^{1.14} Therefore ORS would consider that 2.5% represent a high end estimate of the growth in the number of caravans on sites nationally due to formations, with the real rate of growth from Gypsy and Traveller household formations being lower than this figure.

Evidence for Population Growth

^{1.15} There are two main sources of information for the rate of population growth for the Gypsy and Traveller community, namely the UK Census of Population 2011 and ORS' own household survey data which includes over 2,000 face to face surveys since the start of 2012. These provide a supporting picture for the likely rate of growth among the Gypsy and Traveller population.

^{1.16} The ethnic status question from the UK Census of Population 2011 for the first time included Gypsy and Irish Traveller as an ethnic category. While it is accepted that non response bias has underestimated the total size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the Census, the age profile it provides mirrors that obtained by ORS in household surveys. Therefore, there is strong reason to believe that the age profile shown in UK Census of Population 2011 is a valid reflection of the true age profile of the population.

^{1.17} The table below shows this age profile. Assuming that no deaths occur, for a population to double every 23.5 years (3% compound growth), half the population should be under 23.5 years and half should be over 23.5 years. In fact the midway point for the Gypsy and Traveller population is 26 years. Allowing for deaths, the number of younger people in the population must be even higher for the population to double and therefore the age profile of the Gypsy and Traveller population does not come close to doubling in 23.5 years.

Figure 2

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

Modelling Population Growth Rates

- ^{1.18} ORS undertook demographic modelling to illustrate the true likely rate of growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population. For this we used PopGroup, the leading software in population and household forecasting.
- ^{1.19} The two key inputs to the PopGroup model are birth rates and death rates. For birth rates much detailed work has been undertaken in Hungary and this has shown that for their Roma population total fertility rates (TFR) are around 3. This implies the each woman on average can be expected to have three children who reach adulthood. By comparison the TFR for the whole UK population is current just below 2. ORS have not been able to find an equivalent work for the UK Gypsy and Traveller community. The links below provides more information on the Hungarian Roma population.
- <http://www.romaniworld.com/cessmod01.htm>
- <http://www.tarki.hu/adatbank-h/kutjel/pdf/a779.pdf>

- ^{1.20} While not directly applicable in this case, a TFR of 3 is consistent with ORS' survey data. This shows the average Gypsy and Traveller women aged 32 years has on average 2.5 children. From this point onwards children start to leave home, so we are not able to follow this through to a full TFR, but we have used 3 in our modelling. We would also note that the equivalent figure for a women aged 24 years is 1.5 children, which is significantly short of the number needed to double the population.
- ^{1.21} For death, the average life expectancy across the whole population of the UK is currently just over 80 years. However a report by Sheffield University found that the life expectancy of Gypsies and Travellers was 10-12 years less than this figure (Parry et al (2004) The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers: Report of Department of Health Inequalities in Health Research Initiative, University of Sheffield). We have therefore, used an average life expectancy of 72 years in our model.
- ^{1.22} The impact of using a TFR of 3 and a life expectancy of 72 years for the Census population age profiles is that the Gypsy and Traveller population is projected to increase by 66% in the next 40 years. This equates to a growth rate of 1.25% per annum, well below 3% per annum.
- ^{1.23} In the most recent Office of National Statistics 2011 based Interim Population Projections the projected growth rate of the whole population of England to 2021 is 0.83% per annum. Of this 60% is due to natural change and 40% migration, so the rate of natural population growth in whole population of England is almost exactly 0.5% per annum. Therefore the figures modelled by ORS for Gypsies and Travellers show a population growth which is two and half times greater than for the whole population of England.
- ^{1.24} We would note that population and household growth rates do not run in parallel. The most recent Communities and Local Government 2011 based Household Projections convert these population projections to a projected household growth of 0.95% per annum. The difference between the two figures is due to the impact of an ageing population and more single older people in the population. However, this is being driven by an ageing population, while the Gypsy and Traveller population is relatively young. Therefore, a household growth figure not far in excess of 1.25% per annum is plausible and 3% is highly implausible.

Summary

- ^{1.25} Household formation rates are an important component of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, but little detailed work has been undertaken to assess their likely scale.
- ^{1.26} A growth rate of 3% has been commonly used in assessments, but no statistical evidence exists to support households growing this quickly. Caravan count data has shown the on-site number of caravans growing at less than 2.5% per annum and this is likely to be overstating formation rates with the national figure likely to be closer to 2% per annum.
- ^{1.27} Population modelling shows the true growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.25% per annum and this figure would be two and half times greater than the equivalent number for the settled community.
- ^{1.28} In practice the evidence supports using formation rates of between 1.5% and 2.5% per annum depending upon the relative youthfulness of the local area population. A figure of 3% net growth per annum would be exceptional and would require clear justification and statistical support before being used. In areas where an on-site survey indicates that there are few children in the population a lower figure may be used.

Appendix H: Letter from CLG



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Andrew Selous MP
House of Commons
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SW1A 0AA

Brandon Lewis MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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26 MAR 2014

Dear Andrew,

I would like to thank you for raising the debate on traveller planning policy held on 4 February, in which you highlighted concerns about the use of the 3% annual growth rate for the traveller population in assessing future site needs.

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

Through powers in the Localism Act we revoked the last Administration's regional strategies, which imposed top-down traveller pitch targets on local councils, and through our planning policy for traveller sites returned to councils the freedom and responsibility to plan to meet their traveller community's site needs.

In much the same way as we expect councils to plan to meet the housing needs of their settled community, our policy sets out that local authorities should undertake and update their own assessment of future traveller site need, based on robust evidence.

The previous Administration's guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure. The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority's own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the 3% growth rate figure, though in some cases we are aware that inspectors have, in considering the level of unmet local need when determining specific traveller appeals, used the 3% growth rate figure in the absence of a local authority's own up-to-date assessment of need.

I consider the current guidance is in need of up-dating. Following the recent consolidation of planning guidance (as announced in Nick Boles' recent written statement), we will be seeking to consult on updating and streamlining the remaining elements of traveller planning practice guidance and also on strengthening traveller planning policy, as outlined in my written statement of 17 January. We will ensure that any new guidance supports councils to accurately assess their needs and would remove ambiguous references to the 3% growth rate figure, which, I stress, is only illustrative. This would, once published, have the effect of cancelling the last Administration's guidance.

I will ask my officials to raise this matter with the Planning Inspectorate to re-confirm that planning policy requires local authorities to robustly assess their own needs. I hope this clarifies the Government's position on this issue and addresses the concerns you raise. I am placing this letter in the Library of the House, given the important policy points you raise and sending a copy to those MP's present at the debate on 4 February.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Brandon Lewis', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

BRANDON LEWIS MP