

Shropshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Shropshire Council

Final Report

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2013, arc⁴ was commissioned by Shropshire Council to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to identify the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from across the County and consider requirements for provision of sites and pitches to ensure an adequate 5 year supply to meet the quantified accommodation needs.
- 1.2 The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base about the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This is required to underpin and inform the consideration of planning applications, Local Plan preparation and monitoring and future reviews of Supporting People Strategies and housing strategies.
- 1.3 The research provides information about accommodation needs and also about other services and support required by these communities.
- 1.4 The study adopts the definition of ‘Gypsies and Travellers’ set out within Annex 1 to the Government’s ‘Planning policy for traveller sites’ (March 2012) For the purposes of planning policy the terms Gypsies and Travellers is taken to mean :
- ‘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 [sic] or circus people travelling together as such.’*
- 1.5 Similarly, the following definition from Annex 1 of the Guidance in respect of Travelling Showpeople is used:
- ‘Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.’*
- 1.6 The following definitions also apply:
- ‘[A] “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often called a “yard”). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use plots for “Travelling Showpeople”, which may/will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.’¹*

¹ CLG Planning policy for traveller sites Appendix A Glossary March 2012

- 1.7 For the purposes of this study, Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches on sites, whilst Travelling Showpeople live on plots on yards.
- 1.8 The overall purpose of the study is to assess overall accommodation need and distribution undertaken in a manner which conforms to national policy and guidance and other best practice . The objectives of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment are therefore:
- To establish trends and characteristics of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population, households and their accommodation, including an assessment of drivers of need and demand;
 - To establish provision, supply and characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson's accommodation;
 - To provide a clear and robust understanding of the permanent, transit and other accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, including Travelling Showpeople; and
 - To identify key criteria for new provision where appropriate, including broad locations, and optimum site size and number of pitches etc.
- 1.9 It is important to appreciate that this research assesses the future requirements of Gypsies and Travellers using a robust methodology which seeks to engage all households currently living on pitches/plots across Shropshire, However, it should equally be recognised that some households within the travelling community are highly mobile and it may not be possible to assess the total number of households. This may be due either to movements into Shropshire from elsewhere or from households leaving the County or both.
- 1.10 The Council's Gypsy Liaison team have information on households living in bricks and mortar accommodation and with their assistance we were able to identify and interview 7 households.

Study Components

- 1.11 The study comprised five phases, which are set out below:
- Phase 1: Development of methodology. Collation and review of existing information and literature;
 - Phase 2: Stakeholder consultation;
 - Phase 3: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the study area; and
 - Phase 4: Data analysis, calculation of needs and draft report production; and
 - Phase 5: Final Report and Dissemination.

Report structure

1.12 The report structure is as follows:

- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** provides an overview of the study;
- **Chapter 2 Legislative and policy context:** presents a review of the legislative and policy context;
- **Chapter 3 Methodology:** provides details of the study's research methodology;
- **Chapter 4 Review of current provision of sites:** looks at the current provision of sites across the study area to provide a baseline picture of what is currently available;
- **Chapter 5 Review of current population:** reviews estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across Shropshire and the scale of existing site provision. A review of the current accommodation situation of Travellers identifies issues arising;
- **Chapter 6 Pitch requirements:** focuses on current and future pitch requirements. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, pitch supply and current shortfalls across the study area;
- **Chapter 7 Travelling practices and experiences:** highlights experiences of and issues relating to travelling;
- **Chapter 8 Wider service and support needs** summarises the wider needs of Gypsies and Travellers;
- **Chapter 9 Stakeholder consultation:** summarises views of stakeholders expressed through the on line survey; and
- **Chapter 10 Conclusion and strategic response:** concludes the report, identifying headline issues, and recommending ways in which these could be addressed.

1.13 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:

- Appendix A Legislative background underpinning accommodation issues for Gypsies and Travellers.
- Appendix B Policy and guidance
- Appendix C Questionnaire
- Appendix D Stakeholder survey questionnaire
- Appendix E Glossary of terms

2. Legislative and Policy Context and Implementation

- 2.1 This research is grounded in an understanding of how the national legislative and policy context has affected Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities to date.
- 2.2 It should be noted that, in this study the terms “traveller”, “travellers” and “travelling communities” is used in the context of Annex 1 to the ‘Planning policy for traveller sites’ and may indicate “gypsies” and “travellers” and “travelling showpeople”.

Legislative background

- 2.3 Since 1960, three Acts of Parliament have had a major impact on Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:
- Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;
 - Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II); and the
 - Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- 2.4 The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act abolished all statutory obligations to provide accommodation, discontinued Government grants for sites and made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner’s consent.
- 2.5 Since the 1994 Act, the only places where Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:
- Council and Registered [Social Housing] Providers Gypsy caravan sites;
 - Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission;
 - Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence along with land required for seasonal farm workers.
- 2.6 The 1994 Act resulted in increased pressure on available sites. It eventually resulted in further reviews of law and policy, culminating in the Housing Act 2004 which placed a requirement (s.225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs.
- 2.7 More detail on the legislation affecting Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can be found at Appendix A.

Policy background

- 2.8 As part of this research we have carried out a literature review. A considerable range of guidance documents have been prepared by central Government to assist local authorities in discharging their strategic housing and planning functions, and numerous research and guidance documents have been

published by other agencies. This review examines influential guidance and research which relates specifically to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople or makes reference to them; more information is provided within Appendices A and B.

- 2.9 Overall, this range of statutory documentation, advisory and guidance notes and accepted good practice has helped set a broad context within which this research can be positioned.
- 2.10 Some of the key themes to emerge from the review of relevant literature include:
- Recognising the long-standing role Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have played in society and how prejudice, discrimination and legislative change have increasingly marginalised this distinctive ethnic group;
 - A recognised shortage of accommodation and service provision for Gypsies and Travellers;
 - The importance of understanding Gypsy and Traveller issues in the context of recent housing and planning policy development;
 - Recognition that Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most socially excluded groups in society and are particularly susceptible to a range of inequalities relating to health, education, law enforcement and quality of accommodation; and
 - A need for better communication and improved understanding between, and within, Travelling communities themselves, and between Travelling communities and elected members, service providers and permanently settled communities.

Planning policy

- 2.11 In March 2012 the Government published both the National Planning Policy Framework² and its accompanying 'Planning policy for traveller sites'³. These documents replace all previous national planning policy in respect of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This new national guidance is now a material consideration in determining planning applications and its overarching aim is '*to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers*'.
- 2.12 Through Planning policy for traveller sites, local planning authorities are expected to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning, and to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. National policy aims to promote more private Traveller site provision '*while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites*' (paragraph 4).

² CLG National Planning Policy Framework March 2012

³ CLG Planning policy for traveller sites March 2012

2.13 The policy also states that⁴:

- Plan making and decision taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.
- Planning policies need to be fair, realistic and inclusive; and
- Planning policies should increase the number of Traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under-provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.

2.14 It is within this policy context that local planning authorities will have to plan future provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across their respective areas. The National Planning Policy emphasises the role of evidence and how it should be used within this context.

2.15 Using evidence to plan positively and manage development, stresses the need for timely, effective and on-going community engagement (both with Travellers and the settled community); the *'use of a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions'* is advocated. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of 'Planning policy for traveller sites' state that:

'Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling show people which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities'.

2.16 'Local planning authorities should:

- a) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;
- b) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;
- c) 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 planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);
- d) 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; and
- e) Protect local amenity and environment.'

2.17 Despite the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, the need for strategic planning remains, especially to ensure coherent planning beyond local

⁴ CLG Planning policy for traveller sites March 2012 para 4

authority boundaries. To this end the Localism Act 2011 has introduced the Duty to Co-operate which the Planning Advisory Service⁵ advises:

- Requires councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and through an on-going dialogue in relation to planning of sustainable development;
- Requires councils to consider whether to enter into agreements on joint approaches or prepare joint Local Plans (if a local planning authority); and
- Applies to planning for strategic matters in relation to the preparation of Local and Marine Plans, and other activities that prepare the way for these activities.

2.18 The Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework set out a requirement for local authorities to fulfill the Duty to Co-operate on planning issues, including provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, to ensure that approaches are consistent and address cross border issues with neighbouring authorities. The Duty is intended to act as a driver for change in order to enhance co-operation and partnership working to assist in delivering appropriate provision of future accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, which can be contentious matters.

2.19 In addition, the National Planning Policy Framework sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development to guide local authorities in the delivery of new developments whilst the 'Planning policy for traveller sites' [sections 7-11] provides specific advice as detailed above.

Progress on tackling inequalities

2.20 In April 2012 the Government published a 'Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers⁶', which summarised progress in terms of meeting '*Government commitments to tackle inequalities and promote fairness for Gypsy and Traveller communities.*'⁷ The report covers 28 measures from across Government aimed at tackling inequalities, these cover:

- Improving education outcomes;
- Improving health outcomes;
- Providing appropriate accommodation;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Improving interaction with the National Offender Management Service;
- Improving access to employment and financial services; and

⁵ PAS A simple guide to Strategic Planning and the Duty to Cooperate

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=2133454>

⁶ The study only includes reference to Gypsies and Travellers and not Travelling Showpeople

⁷ www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322

- Improving engagement with service providers.
- 2.21 In respect of provision of appropriate accommodation, the report advises that financial incentives and other support measures have been put in place to help councils and elected members make the case for development of Traveller sites within their areas. Changing perceptions of sites is also identified as a priority, and to this end the Government has made the following commitments:
- *'The Department for Communities and Local Government will help Gypsy and Traveller representative groups showcase small private sites that are well presented and maintained'.*
 - *'Subject to site owners agreeing to have their homes included we will help produce a case study document which local authorities and councillors, potential site residents and the general public could use. It could also be adapted and used in connection with planning applications.'*⁸
- 2.22 Also aimed at improving provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, the Government has committed to:
- The provision of support, training and advice for elected members services up to 2015; and
 - The promotion of improved health outcomes for Travellers through the planning system; the report states that 'one of the Government's aims in respect of traveller sites is to enable provision of suitable accommodation, which supports healthy lifestyles, and from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.'⁹

Emphasis on enforcement powers

- 2.23 In August 2012, the Government published guidance for local authorities setting out the powers available to them and landowners to remove unauthorised encampments from both public and private land. Commenting on the guidance set out in 'Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: A summary of available powers', the Chartered Institute of Housing comments that: *'Gypsy and Traveller communities are some of the most marginalised communities in modern times. Long standing difficulties in the provision of private and authorised sites, coupled with fewer stopping places across the country, have resulted in increasing numbers of unauthorised sites and the increasing marginalisation of these communities. There is a real need to develop a planning system that enables the provision of well situated, decent and accessible site provision for Gypsies and Travellers.'*¹⁰

⁸ CLG Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012 commitment 12 page 18

⁹ CLG Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012 para 4.13 page 19

¹⁰ www.cih.org Housing policy: Gypsies and Travellers

- 2.24 On 4th May 2013 the Government revoked regulations governing the issuing of Temporary Stop Notices (TSNs)¹¹ by local planning authorities, which had been in place since the introduction of TSNs in 2005. The regulations were originally introduced to mitigate the likely disproportionate impact of TSNs on Gypsies and Travellers in areas where there is a lack of sites to meet the needs of the Travelling community. Under the previous regulations, TSNs were prohibited where a caravan was a person's main residence, unless there was a risk of harm to a serious public interest significant enough to outweigh any benefit to the occupier of the caravan. Under the new arrangements, and in the spirit of Localism, local planning authorities are to determine whether the use of a TSN is a proportionate and necessary response. Concerns have been raised that, without the regulations in place, TSNs risk violating the Human Rights of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, especially in areas where there is an under-provision of sites/pitches/plots.
- 2.25 On 1st July 2013 in a Ministerial Statement issued by local government minister Brandon Lewis¹², the issue of inappropriate development in the Green Belt was highlighted. The statement specified that *'The Secretary of State wishes to give particular scrutiny to traveller site appeals in the green belt, so that he can consider the extent to which 'Planning policy for traveller sites' is meeting the government's clear policy intentions. To this end he is hereby revising the appeals recovery criteria issued on 30th June 2008 and will consider for recovery appeals involving traveller sites in the green belt.'*
- 2.26 This situation is to apply for a period of six months in the first instance, and a number of appeals have since been recovered in order to 'test' relevant policies at a national level. To this end, the Secretary of State recently upheld the Planning Inspector's decision to find in favour of an applicant seeking to extend an existing site in Runnymede, Surrey, which had previously been refused by the Council. Mr Pickles found that the Council's policy was not consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework's policies for the protection of the green belt.
- 2.27 The Statement also revoked the practice guidance on 'Diversity and equality in planning'¹³, deeming it to be outdated; the Government does not intend to replace this guidance.
- 2.28 Revised Guidance from Government¹⁴ in respect of dealing with unauthorised encampments was published on 9th August 2013; the updated guidance reflects the recent changes to TSNs. The Guidance states that:
- 'As part of the Government's commitment to protecting the nation's green spaces, these powers will help protect Green Belt land and the countryside from illegal encampments. In addition to the powers which are available to*

¹¹ Statutory Instrument 2013 No.830 Town and Country Planning (Temporary Stop Notice) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2013

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/planning-and-travellers>

¹³ ODPM Diversity and Equality in Planning: A good practice guide 2005

¹⁴ CLG Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers 9th Aug 2013

*councils to remove unauthorised traveller [sic] sites, protest camps and squatters from both public and private land, new Temporary Stop Notices now give councils powers to tackle unauthorised caravans, backed up with potentially unlimited fines. With the powers set out in this guide available to them, councils should be ready to take swift enforcement action to tackle rogue encampments and sites.*¹⁵

CLG Caravan Counts

- 2.29 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the Government in 1979, and have since been made by local authorities on a voluntary basis every January and July¹⁶. Their accuracy varies between local authorities and according to how information is included in the process. A major criticism is the non-involvement of Gypsies and Travellers themselves in the counts. However, the counts, conducted on a single day twice a year, are the only systematic source of information on the numbers and distribution of Gypsy and Traveller trailers. The counts include caravans (or trailers) on and off authorised sites (i.e. those with planning permission) but do not relate necessarily to the actual number of pitches (i.e. capacity) on sites.
- 2.30 A major review¹⁷ of the counting system was undertaken in 2003 by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which made a number of recommendations and improvements to the process.

CLG Design Guidance

- 2.31 The Government's new 'Planning policy for traveller sites' provides no guidance on design for Gypsy and Traveller sites, concentrating instead on the mechanics of the planning process, from using evidence to plan making and decision taking. The new policy does not therefore add to existing design guidance¹⁸ from CLG¹⁹, which suggests that, among other things, there must be an amenity building on each pitch and that this must include, as a minimum:
- Hot and cold water supply;

¹⁵ CLG Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers Page 3 first para

¹⁶ Historically caravan counts have not included Travelling Showpeople. Since 2010 the Government has requested that January counts include Travelling Showpeople, however, the figures relating to Travelling Showpeople are reported separately and not included in the overall count figures.

¹⁷ Counting Gypsies and Travellers: A Review of the Caravan Count System, Pat Niner Feb 2004, ODPM

¹⁸ This guidance does not apply to the provision of new yards for Travelling Showpeople. Further information about good practice in the provision of yards can be obtained from the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

¹⁹ CLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide, May 2008

- Electricity supply;
- A separate toilet;
- A bath/shower room; and
- A kitchen and dining area.

2.32 A Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) review (January 2012) of Non-Mainstream Housing Design Guidance found that the CLG Design Guide most ‘succinctly outlines the physical requirements for site provision for travellers.’ It also identified a number of ‘pointers’ for future guidance, and these are worth mentioning here:

- The family unit should be considered to be larger and more flexible than that of the settled community due to a communal approach to care for the elderly and for children;
- A distinct permanent building is required on site to incorporate washing and cooking facilities, and provide a base for visiting health and education workers; and
- Clearer diagrams setting out the parameters for design are called for, both in terms of the scale of the dwelling and the site. Incorporating requirements for maintenance, grazing, spacing, size provision, communal spaces, etc. *‘would ensure that a set of best practice principles can be established.’*²⁰

2.33 The HCA Review suggested the following design considerations:

- Travelling Showpeople should be considered in the development of provision for temporary/transit sites;
- Vehicular access is a requirement and not an option;
- Open space is essential for maintenance of vehicles and grazing of animals;
- Open play space for children needs to be provided;
- A warden’s office is required for permanent sites;
- Communal rooms for use of private health/education consultations are required; and
- An ideal ratio of facilities provision (stand pipes, parking area, recreation space) to the number of pitches.

Shropshire Council policies

2.34 Shropshire County Council has a well-established team who work closely with the Gypsy, Traveller and Showperson communities which includes education and liaison officers.

²⁰ Non-Mainstream Housing Design Guidance Literature Review, HCA January 2012 page 63

- 2.35 Shropshire Council's Core Strategy was adopted in February 2011. Core Strategy Policy CS12 is the Council's planning policy on Gypsy and Traveller Provision:

CS12: Gypsy and Traveller Provision

The accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be addressed as part of meeting the housing needs of all sectors of the community, by:

- Allocating sites to meet identified needs having regard to best practice guidance;
 - Supporting sustainable development proposals for sites close to Shrewsbury, the Market Towns and Key Centres, and Community Hubs and Community Clusters;
 - Supporting suitable development proposals for small exception sites (under 5 pitches) in accordance with Policy CS5 (Countryside and Greenbelt), where a strong local connection is demonstrated;
 - Identifying a site for Travelling Showpeople in North-West Shropshire;
 - Ensuring that all sites are reasonably accessible to services and facilities, incorporate suitable design and screening, have suitable access and areas for manoeuvring caravans and parking for all essential uses, make provision for essential business uses and recreational facilities as appropriate. All sites must comply with the requirements of policy CS6 (Sustainable Design and Development Principles) and critical infrastructure provision of policy CS9 (Infrastructure Contributions) where appropriate.
- 2.36 Policy CS12 provides locally specific criteria for the consideration of planning applications and sets out the strategic approach for future allocations. As it predates NPPF and PPTS, where there is a difference in approach, the more up to date national policy applies.
- 2.37 Further detail and guidance on the operation of the Policy CS12 is provided within the Type and Affordability of Housing SPD (adopted September 2012) . This includes the Council's affordable exceptions policy which seeks to facilitate the provision of affordable pitches in Shropshire. The SPD will be revised as appropriate to reflect current policy, guidance and best practice.

Shropshire Council Implementation

- 2.38 The Council has successfully bid for Homes and Communities Agency Funding (HCA) funding having received £2.1 million from the 2011-2015 fund. This is achieving additional pitch provision and the updating of facilities at Council Sites. There has been additional pitch provision at Park Hall and approval has been given for the redevelopment of the Long Lane Lane to make provision for 10 pitches and amenity blocks. The additional provision at

Park Hall and Long Lane is identified in Table 4.1 a. There are also current planning applications for the further redevelopment of the Park Hall site and redevelopment at Manor House Lane Higher Heath which seek to update facilities and improve the sites, with a 2 pitch gain at Park Hall. The Council is continuing to identify opportunities for additional provision and is intending to apply for further HCA funding from the 2015-2018 fund in order to continue to deliver the additional provision of pitches.

3. Methodology

3.1 In order to deliver the requirements of Government Guidance²¹ the methodology for this study has comprised:

- Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople on authorised and unauthorised sites/yards and in bricks and mortar accommodation;
- Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch/site information;
- A census of sites reviewing total number of pitches, number of pitches occupied and vacant, and total number of households; and
- A Key Stakeholder on-line questionnaire for adjoining local authorities and other professionals who have direct contact with and knowledge of local Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.

3.2 The information gathering has been carried out in three phases, as outlined below:

- Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and stakeholder discussions;
- Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across the County; and
- Phase 3: Production of Report.

Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and stakeholder consultation

3.3 This phase comprised a review of available literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

3.4 Relevant regional, sub-regional and local information has been collected, collated and reviewed, including information on:

- The national policy and legislative context;
- Current policies towards Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the County (drawn from Local Authority and sub-regional policy documents, planning documents, housing strategies and homelessness strategies); and
- Analysis of existing data sources available from stakeholders²².

²¹ CLG Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments Guidance October 2007
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7838/accommneedsassessments.pdf

²² This includes CLG caravan count data and information on unauthorised encampment data provided by the Authorities (see chapter 6 for more information on this data)

- 3.5 This information has helped to shape the development of this report, and in particular the review of the legislative and policy context set out in Chapter 2.
- 3.6 The views of a range of Key Stakeholders identified by the Authorities have been sought as part of this study, and these are summarised at Chapter 9. Stakeholders consulted as part of this process include registered providers, landlords, education officers, and housing and planning professionals.

Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across Shropshire

- 3.7 The primary fieldwork for this study comprised survey work with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This work was organised by Home Space Sustainable Accommodation (HSSA) and undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller fieldworkers, managed and monitored by arc⁴ staff. HSSA was involved in the design of the questionnaire and in the recruitment of fieldworkers.
- 3.8 Fieldwork interviews were carried out during January and March 2014. Interviews were carried out with residents living on a range of sites and yards including authorised local authority and private sites across the study area, as well as on unauthorised sites. Interviews were not held with Travellers currently resident outside the study area. Additional interviews were held with Gypsy and Traveller respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The overarching aim of the fieldwork was to maximise the number of interviews secured from households living on sites/plots within Shropshire, with additional interviews of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Consulting with stakeholders ensured that the fieldwork team had a good understanding of the local issues facing Travellers and helped to maximise the community's participation in the study.
- 3.9 Interviews were undertaken by trained members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Using members of the community as interviewers helps secure a good response rate, and ultimately deliver a more comprehensive picture of need.
- 3.10 The cultural needs of Gypsies and Travellers differ from those of the rest of the population and consideration of culturally specific requirements such as the need for additional permanent caravan sites and/or transit sites and/or stopping places (or improvements to existing sites) are key to this study. The research has therefore explicitly sought information from Travelling people across Shropshire living in housing, on authorised sites, unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments.
- 3.11 A total of 123 interviews were secured (Table 3.1), 64 with households living on a pitch on a private site, 44 living on the local authority site, 7 with people living in bricks and mortar accommodation, 2 living on unauthorised developments and 6 with Travelling Showpeople on a yard.

Table 3.1 Summary of achieved household interviews by type of dwelling

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unauthorised Encampment	Count	2				2	
	Col %	2%				100%	
Local Authority Site	Count	44	44				
	Col %	36%	100%				
Private Site	Count	64		64			
	Col %	52%		100%			
House (B&M)	Count	7			7		
	Col %	6%			100%		
Showperson	Count	6					6
	Col %	5%					100%

Note this data relates to households interviewed which may differ than the number of pitches as a pitch may accommodate more than one household.

3.12 In conjunction with interviews with members of the Travelling community, a range of complementary research methods have been used to permit the triangulation of results. These are brought together during the research process and inform the outputs of the work and include:

- Desktop analysis of existing documents and data;
- Preparing a database of authorised and unauthorised sites; and
- Conducting a Key Stakeholder on-line questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities across the Shropshire area.

3.13 Good practice guidance and evidence from other studies emphasises that building trust with Travelling communities is a prerequisite of meaningful research. In this case it has been achieved by using interviewers from Gypsy, and Traveller communities to conduct the interviews, by engaging with Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople groups, by using local resources and workers to make links, and working with officers who have already established good relationships with local Travelling communities.

3.14 We have also used the following sources of information:

- bi-annual caravan count for CLG [from July 2011 to July 2013]; and
- Local authority information on existing site provision and unauthorised developments.

3.15 The assessment of pitch [and plot] requirements has been calculated by utilising information on current supply of pitches and the results from the survey. The overall number of pitches has been calculated using local authority information, with likely capacity through turnover assessed through

the survey. A detailed explanation of the analysis of pitch requirements is contained in Chapter 6 but briefly comprises analysis of the following elements:

- Current pitch provision, households living in bricks and mortar accommodation; households planning to move in the next 5 years, and emerging households to give total demand for pitches;
- known potential for further pitch / plot provision; and
- Turnover on existing pitches and total supply.

3.16 The approach used then reconciles the demand and supply data to identify overall pitch and plot requirements.

3.17 To identify the need for transit provision, data on unauthorised encampment activity has been provided by the Council.

4. The Current Picture: provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites

- 4.1 This chapter considers the current provision of sites across Shropshire. This is based on information provided by the local planning authorities and supplemented with observations from the fieldwork team.

Provision of authorised and unauthorised sites

- 4.2 Data on the provision of sites considers both authorised and unauthorised sites and yards across the County. Broadly speaking, authorised sites are those with planning permission and can be on either local authority or privately owned land. In this instance unauthorised sites are made up of either longer term²³ unauthorised developments, that have been in existence for some considerable time and so can be considered to be indicative of a permanent need for accommodation (in some instances local authorities class these as tolerated sites and decide not to take enforcement action to remove them); and unauthorised encampments²⁴, where Travellers are residing upon land that they do not own and that does not have planning permission (see Appendix E for more detailed definitions).
- 4.3 Overall (see Table 4.1a), there are a total of 178 pitches on authorised permanent sites (131 of which are occupied); 10 pitches on two authorised temporary sites (9 occupied and 1 vacant)); and 3 pitches on unauthorised sites (all of which are occupied). As set out in Table 4.1b, there three plots on a tolerated private site for Travelling Showpeople (which is occupied).

²³ Three months or longer

²⁴ Please note that unauthorised encampments also encompass short-term illegal encampments, which are more indicative of transit need, see Section 6 for more information on these encampments.

Table 4.1a List of Gypsy and Traveller sites in Shropshire as at May 2014

Site Name	Site Location	Type of Site	Ownership	Occupied Pitches	Vacant Pitches	Total Pitches	Interviews Completed	Number of Households
Craven Arms Caravan Site	Long Lane, Craven Arms, SY7 8DU	Authorised	Council	6	10	16	10	10
Cross Houses Caravan Site	Acton Burnell, SY6 6JR	Authorised	Council	5	0	5	5	5
Park Hall Caravan Site	Whittington Road, Oswestry, SY11 2HT	Authorised	Council	13	0	13	12	13
Park Hall expansion	As above due for occupancy May 2014	Authorised	Council	0	10	10	0	0
Manor House Lane Caravan Site	Higher Heath, Whitchurch, SY14 2HT	Authorised	Council	16	2	18	17	18
The Caravan Park	Sheinton Road, Cressage, SY5 6DH	Authorised	Private	6	0	6	6	6
The Caravan Site	Sheinton Road, Cressage, SY5 6DH	Authorised	Private	2	0	2	0	2
The Caravan	Froxley, Moreton Hall, Shawbury, SY4 4ES	Authorised	Private	2	0	2	0	2
Marion Grange Caravan Park	Myddle Wood, Baschurch, SY4 3RY	Authorised	Private	12	0	12	12	12
The Bungalow	Kinnerley, SY10 8EL	Authorised	Private	12	0	12	12	12
The Oakery	Wheatcommon Lane, Richards Castle, SY8 4AF	Authorised	Private	10	0	10	10	10
Anscroft Site	NA	Authorised	Private	1	0	1	1	1
Lacon Street	Prees (field number 9752)	Authorised	Private	1	0	1	4	2
Hill View	Green Lane, Onibury, SY7 9BL	Authorised	Private	1	0	1	1	1
Adastra Services	Tern Hill, Market Drayton, TF9 3QD	Authorised	Private	1	0	1	0	1
Former Goods Yard	Hodnet, TF9 3JH	Authorised	Private	1	0	1	2	2
Land Adjacent to Brook Cottage	Wem Lane, Soulton, SY10 7AX	Authorised	Private	1	0	1	2	2
Orchard Cottage	The Orchard, Rock Green, Ludlow.	Authorised	Private	4	0	4	5	5
Pigeon Door	Frodesley, SY5 7NQ.	Authorised	Private	2	0	2	0	2
Adbo Hill	Tern Hill, Market Drayton	Authorised	Private	4	0	4	0	4
Dorrington	Old R.O.C. Post, Church Road	Authorised	Private	2	0	2	0	2
Warrant Road Caravan Park 2	Warrant Road, Tern Hill, TF9 2DZ	Authorised	Private	26	25	51	0	26
Land off Pixley Lane	Hinstock, TF2.	Authorised	Private	3	0	3	0	3
Warrant Road Caravan Park 1	Warrant Road, Tern Hill, TF9 2DZ	Temporary Authorised	Private	8	0	8	9	9
Land opposite Henlle Parks Golf Club	Gobowen, SY10 7AX.	Temporary Authorised	Private	1	1	2	0	1
Fenn Green	Alveley, WV15 6IA	Unauthorised	Private	1	0	1	0	1
Shawbury Heath	Sparrow Cottage, Shawbury Heath, SY4 4EA	Unauthorised	Private	2	0	2		2

Table 4.1b List of Gypsy and Traveller sites in Shropshire as at May 2014
Summary

	Occupied Pitches	Vacant Pitches	Total Pitches	Interviews Completed	Number of Households
Total Gypsy and Traveller	143	48	191	108	154
TOTAL AUTHORISED (PERMANENT)	131	47	178	99	141
TOTAL AUTHORISED (TEMPORARY)	9	1	10	9	10
TOTAL UNAUTHORISED	3	0	3	0	3

Table 4.1c List of Travelling Showperson yards in Shropshire as at May 2014

Yard Name	Yard Location	Type of Yard	Ownership	Occupied Plots	Vacant Plots	Total Plots	Interviews Completed	Number of Households
The Old Cattle Market	Oswestry	Temporary Tolerated*	Private Showperson	3	0	3	6	3

*Due to site redevelopment. New travelling showpersons site to be identified

5. The Current Picture: Gypsy and Traveller population and pitch availability

Population Estimates

- 5.1 This chapter looks at the current picture in terms of the existing population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the County before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the area.
- 5.2 According to the 2011 Census, a total of 312 residents and 130 households in Shropshire identified as having a White British Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity. This may include residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation. As the number of pitches on sites is known, the main issue is the number of Gypsies and Travellers in housing. Where possible, interviews have been carried out with Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation; seven interviews were achieved with such households. Where appropriate, the findings of the household survey are presented for Gypsies and Travellers living on sites, Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation, and for Showpeople at the County level.

Caravan Counts and Authorised Pitches

- 5.3 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the Government in 1979, and have since been made by local authorities on a voluntary basis every January and July. Their accuracy varies between local authorities and according to how information is included in the process. A major criticism is the non-involvement of Gypsies and Travellers themselves in the counts. However, the counts, conducted on a single day twice a year, are the only systematic source of information on the numbers and distribution of Gypsy and Traveller trailers. The counts include caravans (or trailers) on and off authorised sites (i.e. those with planning permission) but do not relate necessarily to the actual number of pitches on sites.
- 5.4 A major review of the counting system was undertaken in 2003 by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which made a number of recommendations and improvements to the process. With effect from July 2013, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) renamed the 'gypsy and traveller caravan count' as the 'traveller caravan count'. This does not reflect any change to the coverage of the count, but brings its title into line with the terminology used for planning policy purposes. Since 2011, each January count has included a count of caravans occupied by Travelling Showpeople in each local authority in England. This count is undertaken annually.
- 5.5 The latest figures available are from the July 2013 Count of Traveller Caravans. Nationally, this found that:

- There were approximately 21,100 traveller caravans in England in July 2013, up 1,700 (9 per cent) from 19,400 a year earlier;
- Most of the increase was due to an estimated 1,000 caravans being at a festival in North Somerset in July 2013;
- This was also the main cause of a decrease in the proportion of caravans on authorised sites, from 84% in July 2012 down to 77% in July 2013 – although the long-term trend remains upward;
- 6,500 caravans were on authorised socially-rented sites, down about 300 since the July 2012 count; and
- 2,100 caravans were in unauthorised developments on land owned by travellers in July 2013, up 300 from a year earlier.

5.6 The figures for the last five caravan counts for Shropshire Council are set out in Table 5.1. This shows that in July 2013 there were a total of 129 caravans across Shropshire. The majority of these were authorised sites with planning permission; over half (57%) were social rented and 40% were private. There were 2% unauthorised pitches without planning permission. These figures compare with five-count averages (July 2011-July 2013) of 49% social rented and 47% private, with 4% unauthorised.

Table 5.1 Bi-annual Caravan Count figures for Shropshire, 2011 to 2013²⁵

Count	Caravans on authorised sites with planning permission		Caravans on unauthorised pitches without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private	Total unauthorised	
Shropshire Council				
July 2013	74	52	3	129
Jan 2013	71	86	8	165
July 2012	68	22	5	95
Jan 2012	81	86	8	175
July 2011	68	100	4	172
Five-count average	72	69	6	147
Five-count % average	49%	47%	4%	100%

Source: CLG July 2013 Count of Traveller Caravans

5.7 It should be noted that there may be more than one trailer per pitch, and in the case of households doubling up on pitches there could be several trailers. For obvious reasons Gypsies and Travellers living on sites may not be present on the days on which the counts are conducted.

²⁵ Note these counts relate only to Gypsies' and Travellers' caravans and not caravans occupied by Travelling Showpeople

5.8 Table 5.2 summarises the range of sites and yards known to Shropshire Council. There are 62 pitches on council-owned sites; 116 pitches on private authorised sites, 10 pitches on private temporary authorised sites and 3 pitches on unauthorised sites. There is one tolerated private Showperson yard with 3 plots on it. Data indicates there are a total of 154 households living on a total of 143 pitches which suggests there is a degree of doubling up within Shropshire despite the availability of vacant pitches.

Table 5.2 Summary of sites and yards in Shropshire

Shropshire	No. Sites	No. Occupied Pitches	No. households	No. Vacant Pitches	Total Pitches
Council owned	4	40	46	22	62
Private authorised	18	91	95	25	116
Private temporary	2	9	10	1	10
Private unauthorised	2	3	3	0	3
Total	26	143	154	48	191
TOTAL Authorised	22	131	141	47	178
TOTAL Temporary	2	9	10	1	10
TOTAL Unauthorised	2	3	3	0	3
GRAND TOTAL	26	143	154	48	191

Shropshire	No. Yards	No. Occupied Plots	No. households	No. Vacant Plots	Total Plots
Private Showperson Tolerated	1	3	3	0	3

5.9 Residents across these sites and yards were contacted and asked to participate in the study. A total of 123 interviews were achieved as presented previously in Table 3.1.

Tenure of respondents

5.10 Overall, 98% of respondents own their own home, 2% rent privately and 1% rent from a Housing Association/Registered Provider/Registered Social Landlord (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Tenure of respondents

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Rent privately	Count	2			2		
	Col %	2%			29%		
Rent from HA / Registered Provider / Registered Social Landlord	Count	1			1		
	Col %	1%			14%		
Own home	Count	120	44	64	4	2	6
	Col %	98%	100%	100%	57%	100%	100%

Please note that these tables include rounded figures. This can result in some column or row totals not adding up to 100 or to the anticipated row or column 'total' due to the use of rounded decimal figures.

5.11 According to the responses given by respondents, there is considerable variation in land ownership across Shropshire (Table 5.4). 49% of respondents rent their pitch privately (no planning permission). A further 42% rent their pitch from the Council. 2% stated that they neither own nor rent the land (unauthorised) and 1% stated that they own the land themselves. 6% of respondents stated “not applicable”.

Table 5.4 Ownership of land where trailer/caravan located

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	106	44	58	2	2	
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Own land where trailer/ caravan is normally located (no planning permission)	Count	1		1			
	Col %	1%		2%			
Rent pitch from Council	Count	45	44	1			
	Col %	42%	100%	2%			
Rent pitch privately (no planning permission)	Count	52		52			
	Col %	49%		90%			
Neither own or rent the land (unauthorised)	Count	2				2	
	Col %	2%				100%	
Not applicable	Count	6		4	2		
	Col %	6%		7%	100%		

Repairs and improvements

5.12 99% of respondents described the state of repair of their home as being good or very good (Table 5.5). Across all respondents, there were no repairs or improvements identified as being needed (Table 5.6).

Table 5.5 State of repair

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Very Good	Count	87	26	49	5	2	5
	Col %	71%	59%	77%	71%	100%	83%
Good	Count	35	18	15	1		1
	Col %	28%	41%	23%	14%		17%
Neither Good nor Poor	Count	1			1		
	Col %	1%			14%		

Table 5.6 Repair problems

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
none	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Space Requirements

5.13 Whilst there is no set pitch size, CLG guidance states that there should be sufficient space on pitches to allow for:

- Manoeuvrability of an average size trailer of up to 15 metres in length;
- Capacity for larger mobile homes of up to 25 metres on a number of pitches on a site; and
- A minimum of six metres between every trailer, caravan or park home that is separately occupied on a site.

5.14 Good practice would suggest that sites with between six and 12 pitches are preferable.

5.15 In terms of space for trailers, wagons and horse boxes, vehicles and loads (Table 5.7), all of the survey respondents felt they had enough space.

Table 5.7 Enough space for trailers, wagons and vehicles

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	122	44	64	7	1	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	122	44	64	7	1	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

5.16 Enquiries regarding the adequacy of space in amenity blocks/sheds (Table 5.8) were considered irrelevant by Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation and unauthorised encampments. However, of respondents living on a pitch or plot, 100% of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople considered that they had enough space in their amenity block/shed.

Table 5.8 Enough space in amenity blocks/sheds

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	122	44	64	7	1	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	114	44	64			6
	Col %	93%	100%	100%			100%
Not relevant	Count	8			7	1	
	Col %	7%			100%	100%	

5.17 100% of Gypsies and Travellers on local authority and private sites felt there was sufficient space overall on their pitch (Table 5.9). Likewise, 100% of Travelling Showpeople on yards felt that they had enough space on their plot. This enquiry was again considered not relevant to Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation and on unauthorised encampments.

Table 5.9 Enough space on pitch/plot

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	122	44	64	7	1	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	114	44	64			6
	Col %	93%	100%	100%			100%
Not relevant	Count	8			7	1	
	Col %	7%			100%	100%	

Satisfaction with location of your home

5.18 Satisfaction with the location of the home is very high (Table 5.10), with 98% of respondents overall stating that they were satisfied or very satisfied, rising to 100% for Gypsies and Travellers on local authority or private sites, in bricks and mortar and for Travelling Showpeople on yards. The remaining 2% were made up of the respondents on unauthorised encampments, who stated that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the location of their home.

Table 5.10 Satisfaction with the location of your home

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	119	43	61	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Very Satisfied	Count	61	35	22	4		
	Col %	51%	81%	36%	57%		
Satisfied	Count	56	8	39	3		6
	Col %	47%	19%	64%	43%		100%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Count	2				2	
	Col %	2%				100%	

Overcrowding

5.19 Only one respondent felt their home was overcrowded; namely a Gypsy and Traveller household living in bricks and mortar accommodation (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11 Do you think your home/trailer/pitch is overcrowded?

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	Bricks & Mortar	Unauthorised Encampment	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	1			1		
	Col %	1%			14%		
No	Count	122	44	64	6	2	6
	Col %	99%	100%	100%	86%	100%	100%

Facilities shared with other households

5.20 Respondents were asked whether they have to share facilities with another household.

5.21 Sharing toilet facilities was mentioned by 25 Gypsy and Traveller households (23 on pitches on private sites and two on unauthorised encampments), with bathrooms shared by 20 households (18 on private sites and two on unauthorised encampments).

5.22 The sharing of laundry facilities was noted by 18 Gypsies and Traveller households (16 on private sites and two on unauthorised encampments).

5.23 No sharing of facilities was noted by Gypsies and Travellers on local authority sites or in bricks and mortar accommodation. Neither was sharing mentioned by Travelling Showpeople on yards.

Cost of accommodation and services

- 5.24 The household survey included a question about Housing Benefit. However, there was only one response to this question, so no representative data can be presented on this topic.
- 5.25 In addition, it was not deemed culturally sensitive to ask about income in the survey.

Location to amenities

- 5.26 Respondents were asked if they felt being near to a range of amenities was important, slightly important or not important to them (Table 5.12a-h).
- 5.27 In terms of schooling, 85% of respondents felt that it was important to be close to primary schools, compared to 77% for secondary schools.
- 5.28 All of the respondents felt that being close to a doctor and shops were important.
- 5.29 97% considered it important to be close to main roads; 94% considered it important to be close to a post office or cash point machine; and 91% considered it important to be close to public transport.
- 5.30 Only 2% of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople interviewed thought that it was important to be near to pubs. A further 26% thought that it was slightly important, but a majority of 73% thought that it was not important.

Table 5.12a Location to amenities: Primary Schools

PRIMARY SCHOOLS		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	117	43	59	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	100	39	56	2	1	2
	Col %	85%	91%	95%	29%	50%	33%
Slightly important	Count	15	4	3	3	1	4
	Col %	13%	9%	5%	43%	50%	67%
Not important	Count	2			2		
	Col %	2%			29%		

Table 5.12b Location to amenities: Secondary Schools

SECONDARY SCHOOLS		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	113	40	59	7	1	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	87	34	50	1		2
	Col %	77%	85%	85%	14%		33%
Slightly important	Count	21	6	9	1	1	4
	Col %	19%	15%	15%	14%	100%	67%
Not important	Count	5			5		
	Col %	4%			71%		

Table 5.12c Location to amenities: Doctors

DOCTORS		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	118	43	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	118	43	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 5.12d Location to amenities: Shops

SHOPS		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	116	41	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	116	41	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 5.12e Location to amenities: Post Office/Cash Point Machine

POST OFFICE / CASH POINT MACHINE		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	118	43	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	111	43	60		2	6
	Col %	94%	100%	100%		100%	100%
Slightly important	Count	1			1		
	Col %	1%			14%		
Not important	Count	6			6		
	Col %	5%			86%		

Table 5.12f Location to amenities: Pubs

PUBS		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	117	42	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	2		2			
	Col %	2%		3%			
Slightly important	Count	30	2	23	4	1	
	Col %	26%	5%	38%	57%	50%	
Not important	Count	85	40	35	3	1	6
	Col %	73%	95%	58%	43%	50%	100%

Table 5.12g Location to amenities: Public Transport

PUBLIC TRANSPORT		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	117	42	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	106	42	56	1	2	5
	Col %	91%	100%	93%	14%	100%	83%
Slightly important	Count	8		4	3		1
	Col %	7%		7%	43%		17%
Not important	Count	3			3		
	Col %	3%			43%		

Table 5.12h Location to amenities: Main Roads

MAIN ROADS		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	115	40	60	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Important	Count	111	40	60	3	2	6
	Col %	97%	100%	100%	43%	100%	100%
Slightly important	Count	4			4		
	Col %	3%			57%		

Moving

5.31 Respondents were asked whether they planned to move over the next five years. All respondents plan to stay where they are (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13 Respondents planning to move in the next five years

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Planning to stay where you are based now	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Household mobility

5.32 The household survey identified a high degree of mobility, with only 7% of respondents having lived in their current place of residence for five years or longer (Table 5.14). The majority of respondents had lived in their current residence for 2-3 years (25%) or 3-4 years (39%).

5.33 Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation demonstrated the lowest levels of mobility, with 71% living in their current residence for five years or longer. Both of the respondents on unauthorised encampments had lived in their current place of residence for less than a year. All six Showpeople responding had lived in their current place of residence for 1-2 years.

Table 5.14 Length of residence

		TABLE	Property Type				Showperson Yard
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Up to 1 year	Count	2				2	
	Col %	2%				100%	
Over 1 and up to 2 years	Count	14		8			6
	Col %	11%		13%			100%
Over 2 and up to 3 years	Count	31	6	25			
	Col %	25%	14%	39%			
Over 3 and up to 4 years	Count	48	22	25	1		
	Col %	39%	50%	39%	14%		
Over 4 and up to 5 years	Count	19	12	6	1		
	Col %	15%	27%	9%	14%		
5 years or over	Count	9	4		5		
	Col %	7%	9%		71%		

5.34 Prior to their current place of residence, the vast majority (90%) of respondents had been travelling with no permanent home (Table 5.15). 2% stated that they were homeless. The survey included a question relating to whether respondents had previously lived within or outside of the County. However, only nine responses were achieved so the data cannot be considered representative in this analysis.

Table 5.15 Summary of the origin of moving households

		TABLE	Property Type				Showperson Yard
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Town / District	Count	9	2		7		
	Col %	7%	5%		100%		
Travelling at the time (no permanent home)	Count	111	42	61		2	6
	Col %	90%	95%	95%		100%	100%
Homeless	Count	3		3			
	Col %	2%		5%			

6. Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements

Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements

- 6.1 This section reviews the overall pitch requirements of Gypsies and Travellers across Shropshire. It takes into account current pitch need and demand, as well as future need, based on modelling of data, as advocated by the CLG. Requirements for Gypsies and Travellers are reviewed.
- 6.2 The calculation of pitch requirements is based on CLG modelling as advocated in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance (CLG, 2007). The CLG Guidance requires an assessment of the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers and a projection of future needs. The focus of the calculation of pitch requirements is the need arising from Districts within the study area. The Guidance advocates the use of a survey to supplement secondary source information and derive key supply and demand information.
- 6.3 The GTAA has modelled current and future need and current and future supply of pitches.

Pitch need modelling

- 6.4 In terms of **need**, the model considers:
- The baseline number of households on authorised and unauthorised sites (as at May 2014);
 - The number of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation (a minimum baseline based on achieved interviews) and the number wanting to move to a pitch;
 - Existing households planning to move in the next five years (currently on sites and living in bricks and mortar accommodation);
 - Emerging households currently on sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation needing a pitch within the County; to derive a figure for
 - Total need.
- 6.5 In terms of **supply**, the model considers :
- Total supply of pitches on authorised sites;
 - Turnover on existing authorised sites;
 - Pitches currently vacant; and
 - Total supply of authorised pitches based on turnover and existing pitch provision.
- 6.6 The model then reconciles total need and existing authorised supply by summarising:
- Total need for pitches; and
 - Total supply of authorised pitches.

- 6.7 The assessment of current need should, in line with the guidance, take account of existing supply and need. In the CLG model, current residential supply refers to local authority residential sites and authorised privately owned sites.
- 6.8 In this assessment we have reported the existing number of pitches on authorised local authority and private sites (this is the actual number of pitches on sites available for occupancy in May 2014).
- 6.9 According to the latest data from the Council, there are a total of 178 authorised pitches and 10 temporary authorised pitches on sites across Shropshire which are available for occupancy. Discussions with the Council and evidence from the fieldwork team would suggest that there are 141 households on authorised pitches, 10 on temporary authorised pitches and 3 on unauthorised pitches. There are a total of 48 vacant pitches, 47 on authorised sites and 1 on a temporary authorised site.
- 6.10 The study also identified planned provision of 2 additional pitches at Park Hall, Oswestry as supply.
- 6.11 The study achieved responses from 108 households living on pitches which indicates that 82.4% of Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites were engaged with the research. The survey also included responses from 6 showperson households and 2 households living on unauthorised encampments. A comparison between households living on pitches and the total number of pitches indicates there are 11 more households than occupied pitches, suggesting some doubling up is taking place within Shropshire.
- 6.12 In terms of bricks and mortar households, 7 were interviewed as part of the survey. Although this may be an underestimate in the numbers living in this type of accommodation, no households were planning to move nor were there any newly-forming households identified in Bricks and Mortar accommodation who were planning to move.
- 6.13 Data for households living on pitches have been weighted by a factor of 1.305 (based on 118 households interviewed out of 154 households living on authorised and unauthorised pitches $154/118 = 1.305$) to take account of the total Gypsy and Traveller population living on sites in Shropshire.

Description of factors in the model

- 6.14 Table 6.1 provides a summary of the future pitch requirement calculation. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

6.15 Current households living on pitches (1a to 1d)

These figures are derived from Local Authority data and the site census carried out as part of the fieldwork. Data would suggest there are 154

households living on pitches compared with 143 occupied pitches, suggesting there is some 'doubling up' taking place within Shropshire.

6.16 Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (2)

This is a minimum figure based on the respondents who were interviewed as part of the fieldwork. There were a total of 7 households interviewed across Shropshire.

6.17 Households planning to move in the next five years (3)

This was derived from information from the household survey for respondents currently on authorised and unauthorised pitches and respondents in bricks and mortar accommodation. No existing households plan to move in the next 5 years.

6.18 Emerging households (4)

This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next five years based on household survey information from respondents living on authorised and unauthorised pitches (weighted to reflect the total number of households living on pitches using the weighting factor set out in paragraph 6.13) and also people living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Analysis considers where emerging households are planning to move to. Out of 31 emerging households identified in the weighted analysis, all currently live on pitches and all planned to either stay on their current site (26) or move to a site elsewhere in the County (5).

6.19 Total need for pitches (5)

This is a total of current households on pitches (authorised and unauthorised), households planning to move in the next five years (either on pitches or in bricks and mortar accommodation) and demand from emerging households.

Table 6.1 Summary of demand and supply factors: Gypsies and Travellers

1	Current pitch need from households	1a. On Council Sites	46
		1b. On Private Site - Authorised	95
		1c. On Private Site - Temporary Authorised	10
		1d. Unauthorised sites	3
		1e. Total (1a to 1d)	154
2	Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (baseline information only)	2a. TOTAL	7
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years	Currently on sites	
		3a. To another pitch/same site	0
		3b. To another site in local authority area	0
		3c. To Bricks and Mortar	0
		3d. To a site/B&M outside study area	0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	0
		3e. Planning to move to a site in LA	0
		3f. Planning to move to another B&M property	0
		3g. TOTAL net (3e-3c-3d)	0
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	26
		4b. Currently on sites and planning to live on another site in LA	5
		4c. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site	0
		4d. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4e. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4f. TOTAL (4a+4b+4c) excluding those moving to/within B&M	31
		5 Total Need	1e+3g+4f
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised pitches	6a. Current authorised pitch provision (excluding turnover)	131
		6b. Current authorised pitches that are vacant	47
		6c. Increased capacity through refurbishment on Park Hall site	2
		6d. Total current supply (excluding turnover) 6a+6b+6c	180
7	Need minus supply (excluding turnover)	6d-5	5
8	Turnover on existing pitches	8a. Annual	7
		8b. 5 years	35
9	Total supply of pitches (5 yrs)	9a. Current authorised pitch provision and turnover (6d+8b)	215
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
10	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	185
11	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6e)	180
12	Total supply of authorised pitches and turnover	5 years (from 9)	215
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2014/15 to 2018/19)			
12	Total shortfall excluding turnover	10-11	5
13	Total shortfall including turnover	10-12	-30

Supply

6.20 Current supply of authorised pitches (6)

This is a summary of the total number of authorised pitches (excluding turnover) and the number of vacant authorised pitches. This suggests a total supply of 131 authorised occupied pitches (40 Council and 91 private) plus 9 occupied temporary authorised pitches. There are 48 pitches which are currently vacant (22 LA and 25 Private Authorised and 1 Private Temporary). These figures include an additional 10 pitches (currently identified as vacant) being provided at Park Hall. This gives a total supply of 178 authorised pitches and 10 pitches with temporary permissions.

6.21 Supply minus need (excluding turnover) (7)

This is a summary of pitch supply minus need. This suggests a need for 5 pitches before turnover rates on sites is considered.

6.22 Turnover on existing pitches (8)

Turnover is based on the length of time respondents had lived on their current pitch as reported in the household survey. In the past 2 years, a total of 14 pitches have become occupied by a household moving to them. All of these households stated that they had been 'travelling all of the time' and they did not specify that they had moved from outside the County (which was one of the survey questionnaire options) and so it is assumed that they had travelled within the County. The model therefore assumes a total annual turnover of 7 pitches, which would create a supply of 35 pitches over the 5 years.

6.23 Total supply (9)

This figure is based on the total number of authorised permanent pitches available plus expected turnover and vacant pitch provision. The model assumes:

- A baseline supply of 131 authorised pitches (40 Council and 91 private)
- 47 vacant pitches (22 Council and 25 private); and
- 2 additional pitches being provided on the Park Hall site through refurbishment.

Additionally, turnover of 35 pitches is assumed for the period 2014/15 to 2018/19. The total supply figure is 215 (including turnover) and 180 (excluding turnover).

Reconciling supply and need

- 6.24 In summary, the model indicates a total need for 185 pitches across the County. This is compared with a current supply of 180 authorised pitches (131 authorised, 47 vacant and 2 additional pitches on Park Hall) plus a supply through turnover of 35 pitches over 5 years. Furthermore, analysis at this stage does not factor in the potential for additional pitches which are subject to planning permission, nor any expansion of existing sites. It should be noted that the Council are actively seeking to deliver a minimum of 5 pitches over the period 2015-2018.
- 6.25 Table 6.2 summarises current supply and future need for the local authorities over the period 2014/15 to 2018/19. Excluding turnover, analysis suggests a shortfall of 5 pitches. When turnover is taken into account, analysis indicates there is sufficient pitch provision to satisfy the need evidenced in this research across the County and to potentially accommodate an appropriate scale of in migration.

Table 6.2 Summary of current pitch requirements 2014/15 to 2018/19

	Shropshire Total
Current authorised supply	131
Vacant pitches (May 14)	47
Additional pitches on Park Hall site	2
Total authorised supply	180
Total need (5 years)	185
Total shortfall (excluding turnover)	5
Expected turnover of pitches	35
Total shortfall (including turnover) (the negative number indicates sufficient supply)	-30

Travelling Showperson Needs

- 6.26 There is currently one yard in Shropshire accommodating 5 households. There is no evidence of additional need other than to find an alternative yard for the current households living in Shropshire. It is proposed that a new yard be provided in the Oswestry locality for an initial temporary period of 2 years with a view to formalising this plot provision or finding an alternative, permanent yard in another location.

Longer-term pitch requirements

- 6.27 Assessing the future requirements of Gypsies and Travellers over the next 5 years has been based on detailed information obtained from the household survey. This exercise should be repeated at least every 5 years to ensure that the evidence base is up to date.

6.28 The household survey provides demographic information on Gypsy and Traveller households and from this the number of children expected to reach 18 can be calculated. Table 6.3 suggests that a total of 24 children are expected to reach the age of 18 over the period 2019/20 to 2026/27 (8 years). A standard assumption is that half of these children will form new households, bearing in mind that women tend to move away on marriage and men tend to stay in close proximity to their families on marriage. This would result in an increase of 12 additional households which may require pitch provision. However current pitch provision and likely turnover is expected to address the need for pitches from these households. However, the Council should continue to monitor requirements for pitches as reflected in planning policy CS12 which seeks to allocate sites to meet identified need.

Table 6.3 Baseline information on the total number children expected to reach 18 and the resulting number of households expected to form 2019/20 to 2026/27

	Time period		
	2019-23	2024-26	Total
Total number of children expected to form households at the age of 18	13	11	24
Total number of households expected to be formed	7	5	12

7. Travelling practices and experiences

- 7.1 The purpose of this chapter is to review the travelling patterns associated with respondents across the County. Broadly speaking, travelling patterns are seasonal, generally linked to seasonal employment but travelling also takes place to enable visits to family and friends and attendance at events, such as weddings and funerals. Families require safe and secure places from which to travel, and this home base is usually from where they access doctors, schools and a dentist.
- 7.2 Respondents were asked about their travelling practices in the previous year (Table 7.1). Less than one-fifth (18%) of all respondents had travelled. The proportion of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation who had travelled (57%) was much higher than for those living on a pitch (21%), at. All of the Travelling Showpeople who responded had travelled in the previous year (100%).

Table 7.1 Travelling behaviour in previous year

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	22	3	9	4		6
	Col %	18%	7%	14%	57%		100%
No	Count	101	41	55	3	2	
	Col %	82%	93%	86%	43%	100%	

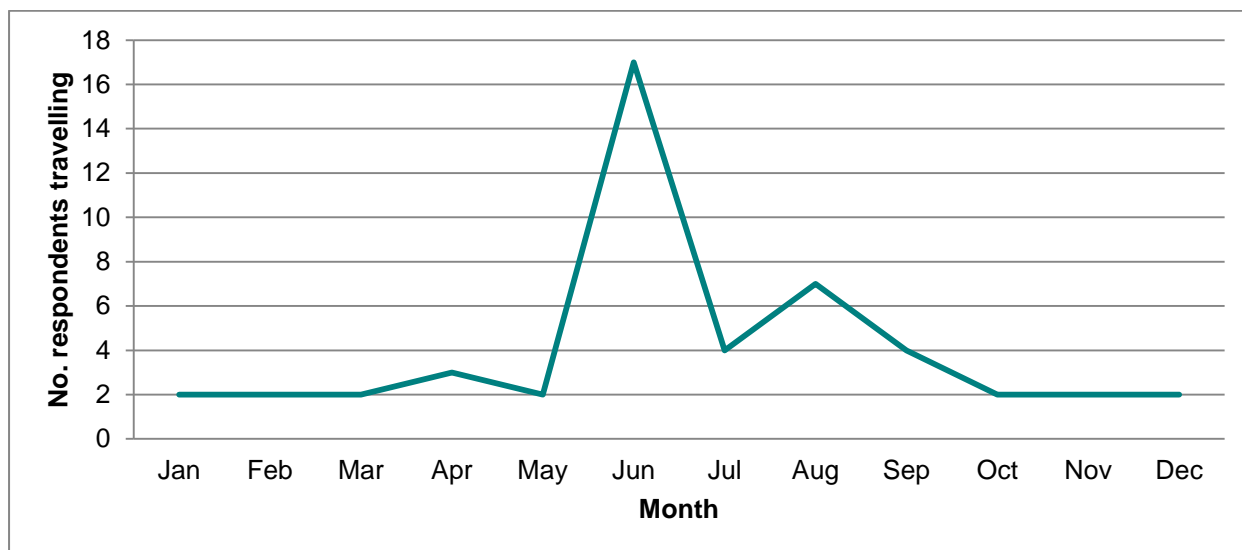
- 7.3 Of respondents that provided information on typical travelling times, the most popular duration of travel was less than two weeks, cited by 63% of respondents. A further 16% travelled for two to four weeks and 21% travelled for nine to twelve weeks. Travelling Showpeople were much more likely to travel for longer periods, with the four Showpeople who answered this question all stating nine to twelve weeks as their typical travelling period each year.

Table 7.2 Typical length of time travelling every year

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	19	3	8	4		4
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%
No more than thirteen days	Count	12	3	8	1		
	Col %	63%	100%	100%	25%		
2 to 4 weeks (or one month)	Count	3			3		
	Col %	16%			75%		
9 to 12 weeks (or 3 months)	Count	4					4
	Col %	21%					100%

7.4 Figure 7.1 summarises when respondents travelled. Most travelling activity is around June and July, particularly linked to travelling to the Appleby Horse Fair in June.

Figure 7.1 Months when travelling takes place



7.5 A range of reasons were given for travelling but the most frequently mentioned was for travelling to fairs (Table 7.3).

Table 7.3 Reasons for travelling

Reason	Number	%
Cultural (Gypsy gathering)	1	5%
Holiday	2	9%
Religious activities	2	9%
Travel to Fairs	15	68%
Visiting family/friends	2	9%
Base (responses)	22	100%

Note more than one reason for travelling could be expressed

7.6 A range of problems can be experienced whilst travelling and respondents were asked to identify these based on their experiences (Table 7.4). Most frequently the problems mentioned were 'abuse, harassment or discrimination' (80%), 'no places to stop over' (65%) and 'closing of traditional stopping places' (40%).

Table 7.4 Problems whilst travelling

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	20	3	9	2		6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%
No places to stop over	Count	13	3	9	1		
	Col %	65%	100%	100%	50%		
Closing of traditional stopping places	Count	8		2	2		4
	Col %	40%		22%	100%		67%
Abuse, harassment or discrimination	Count	16	3	9			4
	Col %	80%	100%	100%			67%
Lack of toilet facilities	Count	6		4	2		
	Col %	30%		44%	100%		
No water facilities	Count	6		4	2		
	Col %	30%		44%	100%		
Problems with rubbish collection	Count	2		1	1		
	Col %	10%		11%	50%		
Police behaviour	Count	1			1		
	Col %	5%			50%		
Behaviour of other travellers	Count	3	1	1			1
	Col %	15%	33%	11%			17%

7.7 Respondents were asked whether they felt there was a need for transit sites in Shropshire (Table 7.5). Overall, 24% of respondents believed that there was a need. This figure rises to 50% of respondents living on a showpersons yard, 57% of respondents living in bricks and mortar and 100% of respondents living in unauthorised encampments.

Table 7.5 Perceived need for transit sites

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	30	9	12	4	2	3
	Col %	24%	20%	19%	57%	100%	50%
No	Count	93	35	52	3		3
	Col %	76%	80%	81%	43%		50%

8. Wider Service and Support Needs

8.1 This research provides a valuable opportunity to review the wider service and support needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, and this chapter discusses issues raised through the household survey and stakeholder consultation.

Services used in the last year

8.2 Interviewees were asked which services they had used in the last year (Table 8.1). The most used services were Doctor (GP) and Dentist. GP services were accessed by 98% of respondents, and dentists were accessed by 50% of respondents. Additionally, 33% had used the Accident and Emergency service.

8.3 The proportion of respondents using other services tended to be considerably lower, with 3% using Gypsy Services and 3% health visitors. 13% had used Traveller Education Services and 13% had sought support from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Table 8.1 Services used in past year

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Gypsy services	Count	4	2	1		1	
	Col %	3%	5%	2%		50%	
Traveller Education	Count	16	8	4		1	3
	Col %	13%	18%	6%		50%	50%
Citizens Advice Bureau	Count	16	5	9	1	1	
	Col %	13%	11%	14%	14%	50%	
Doctor (G.P.)	Count	120	44	62	7	1	6
	Col %	98%	100%	97%	100%	50%	100%
Dentist	Count	61	14	39	7		1
	Col %	50%	32%	61%	100%		17%
Accident and emergency	Count	40	9	25	3	1	2
	Col %	33%	20%	39%	43%	50%	33%
Health visitors	Count	4	4				
	Col %	3%	9%				

Note: Some respondents indicated more than one service, hence the percentages do not add up to 100.

Adaptations

8.4 Only one respondent stated that their household needed adaptations, although the type of adaptations required were not specified.

Table 8.2 Need for adaptations in the home

		TABLE	Property Type				
		TOTAL	LA Site	Private Site	B&M	UAE	Showperson Yard
TOTAL	Count	123	44	64	7	2	6
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	1					1
	Col %	1%					17%
No	Count	122	44	64	7	2	5
	Col %	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%

9. Stakeholder Consultation

- 9.1 Stakeholders were invited to participate in a survey aimed at identifying a range of information, including establishing the key perceived issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller community within Shropshire, and ways in which these need to be addressed. Stakeholders were asked to respond to any of the questions within the survey. A total of ten separate responses to the stakeholder consultation were obtained mainly from local planning authorities.

General Support for Gypsies and Travellers

- 9.2 There were limited responses to questions relating to the understanding and awareness of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers within Shropshire. The 2007 sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was cited as the only existing evidence of the needs of Travellers with the regular updating (every five years) proposed as the means by which needs should be monitored. One respondent also identified that the employment of a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer would facilitate understanding of Travellers' needs, especially in respect of health, education, accommodation and support needs.

Provision of Accommodation – existing and new

- 9.3 Of stakeholders responding to questions regarding the provision of accommodation (both permanent and transit) for Travellers in Shropshire, responses were limited. There were no views expressed about the level of current provision for Travellers, however, it was felt that any needs identified by the study should be addressed through the Council's Local Plan policies. New provision it was felt would be best located close to good road links.
- 9.4 A number of barriers to the provision of new permanent and transit sites were identified, including:
- Identification of suitable sites;
 - Land ownership;
 - Funding;
 - Management and enforcement;
 - Local opposition; and
 - Lack of political support.
- 9.5 The level of unauthorised encampments was identified by one respondent as being important to any potential transit requirements.

Planning

- 9.6 Stakeholders felt that it was important for the Local Plan to have appropriate policies for Gypsies and Travellers, which enabled identified needs to be met. One respondent stated that the need to identify a five year supply of sites was

'problematic', and felt that meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers would be 'extremely challenging'.

9.7 Respondents were keen for the study to consider the movement of Travellers between Shropshire and neighbouring areas, as well as the impact of those travelling through the area.

9.8 Respondents generally agreed that the stakeholder survey contributed to the Council's Duty to Cooperate; however, the majority of respondents stated that further engagement was necessary. A number of points were made by respondents, including the following:

- To demonstrate constructive and positive dialogue under the Duty to Cooperate, meetings, pro-formas and memorandum of understandings need to be prepared together with on-going discussions between councils;
- One respondent sought to comment upon the methodology of the study;
- At least two respondents sought to be consulted on the draft GTAA report document; and
- One respondent seeks further engagement concerning outcomes of the study in respect of site allocations and potential issues that this may raise.

9.9 Respondents identified the following as desired outcomes for the study:

- Identification of objectively assessed need, which can inform Local Plan policy and is defensible at Public Examination; and
- Provision of new accommodation within the study area to meet the needs identified therein.

10. Concluding comments

- 10.1 This section of the report summarises the headline findings from the research, and identifies the main issues for the County.

Headline findings from the research

Current conditions

- 10.2 Across Shropshire there are a total of 22 authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites (4 Council and 18 private permanent) which have a total of 178 pitches. Additionally there are 2 private temporary sites (10 pitches) and two private unauthorised sites (3 pitches). Across the County there is one tolerated Showperson yard (one plot).
- 10.3 Overall, 98% of respondents own their own home, 2% rent privately and 1% rent from a Council/Housing Association. 98% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the location of their home.
- 10.4 99% of respondents described the state of repair of their home as being good or very good and no repairs or improvements were identified as being required.
- 10.5 Overcrowding and lack of space were not generally identified as significant problems. Only one respondent felt that their home was overcrowded; namely a Gypsy and Traveller household living in bricks and mortar accommodation; and 100% of respondents felt like they had sufficient space for their trailers, wagons and vehicles.

Permanent Pitch and Plot Requirements

- 10.6 Since the obligation to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites was abolished in 1994, a gap in the provision of permanent sites has emerged nationally. This study has provided robust estimates of the size of the population of these communities, and establishes their current and future accommodation requirements.
- 10.7 Using the CLG-approved model for calculating pitch requirements, the research has demonstrated that across Shropshire, excluding an allowance for turnover, there is a shortfall of 5 Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19. However, this does not take account of the potential for additional pitches which are subject to planning permission, nor any expansion of existing sites. It should be noted that the Council are actively seeking to deliver a minimum of 5 additional pitches over the period 2015-2018.
- 10.8 Modelling assumes a five year time horizon and further analysis has considered the number of households that are likely to form and require pitches in the period 2019/20 to 2026/27. On the basis of current evidence, there are likely to be 12 additional households which may require pitch provision in the longer-term. However, current pitch provision and likely turnover is expected to address the need for pitches from these households.

- 10.9 The research has found no evidence of additional need for Travelling Showpeople other than to find an alternative yard for the current households living in Shropshire.
- 10.10 The Council should continue to work with the Gypsy and Traveller Community to address the identified shortfall and identify any small scale needs which may arise and be considered in line with the Council's CS12 Gypsy and Traveller policy.
- 10.11 CLG guidance advocates smaller permanent sites of between six and 12 pitches. There is a need to take a long-term view of site management as it is more intensive and demanding than most conventional housing management, and it would be sensible to look at this issue in greater depth. Different management models may be appropriate for different sites, with mainstream approaches to recruitment and selection of managers needing to reflect cultural sensitivities.
- 10.12 For all communities, the method of analysis is such that it is possible to periodically update the assessment of accommodation need through the careful recording of key data. For Gypsy and Traveller Communities, the number of extant authorised pitches and a summary of the number of households on sites should be regularly updated from the baseline information provided in this assessment.

Travelling Practices and Requirements

- 10.13 The current understanding of travelling patterns and the associated requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller communities is more limited. The communities continue to travel for fairs, visiting family and friends, for religious activities, holidays and cultural reasons.
- 10.14 24% of survey respondents expressed a need for transit provision across the study area. Overall there is a recommendation for 5 transit pitches across the County over the next five years, based on the Council's knowledge of the travelling behaviour of households passing through Shropshire. Shropshire Council has identified transit provision as a priority, particularly on the M54 corridor, with liaison with an adjoining Authority ongoing. The Council is therefore currently seeking to address this need at the earliest opportunity and deliver a transit site for 5 or 6 pitches. There may be scope if required to accommodate some transit need on existing Council land.

Wider service needs

- 10.15 Respondents reported limited wider service and support needs beyond access to doctors, dentists and A&E.

Adaptations

- 10.16 There was only one mention of adaptations being required, but the type of adaptations required was not specified by the respondent.

Concluding comments

- 11.1 The overarching purpose of this study has been to identify the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across Shropshire. Analysis has demonstrated that there is a shortfall of 5 pitches over the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 but it is expected that anticipated additional pitch provision will address this shortfall. That said, the Council should continue to engage with the travelling community to identify any emerging need to ensure that the level of provision of pitches and plots remains appropriate for the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across the County.

Appendix A: Legislative Background

Overall approach

- A.1 Between 1960 and 2003, three Acts of Parliament had a major impact upon the lives of Gypsies and Travellers. The main elements of these are summarised below.
- A.2 The **1960 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act** enabled councils to ban the siting of caravans for human occupation on common land, and led to the closure of many sites.
- A.3 The **Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II)** required local authorities 'so far as may be necessary to provide adequate accommodation for Gypsies residing in or resorting to their area'. It empowered the Secretary of State to make designation orders for areas where he (sic) was satisfied that there was adequate accommodation, or on grounds of expediency. Following the recommendations of the Cripps Commission in 1980, provision began to grow rapidly only after the allocation of 100% grants from Central Government. By 1994 a third of local authorities had achieved designation, which meant that they were not required to make further provision and were given additional powers to act against unauthorised encampments. The repeal of most of the Caravan Sites Act under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in 1994 led to a reduction in provision, with some sites being closed over a period in which the Gypsy and Traveller population was increasing.
- A.4 The **1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJ&POA)**:
- Repealed most of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act;
 - Abolished all statutory obligation to provide accommodation;
 - Discontinued government grants for sites; and
 - Under Section 61 made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.
- A.5 Since the CJ&POA the only places where Gypsies and Travellers can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:
- Council Gypsy caravan sites; by 2000 nearly half of Gypsy caravans were accommodated on council sites, despite the fact that new council site provision stopped following the end of the statutory duty;
 - Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission; usually owned by Gypsies or Travellers. Such provision now accommodates approximately a third of Gypsy caravans in England; and
 - Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence, and land required for seasonal farm workers (under site licensing exemptions).

- A.6 By the late 1990s the impact of the 1994 Act was generating pressure for change on both local and national government. There was a major review of law and policy, which included:
- A Parliamentary Committee report (House of Commons 2004).
 - The replacement of Circular 1/94 by Circular 1/2006 (which has since been cancelled and replaced by the Planning policy for traveler sites 2012).
 - Guidance on accommodation assessments (ODPM 2006).
 - The Housing Act 2004 which placed a requirement (s.225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.
- A.7 More recent legislation with a direct impact on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers includes the Housing Act 2004 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- A.8 **Section 225: Housing Act 2004** imposes duties on local authorities in relation to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers:
- Every local housing authority must, as part of the general review of housing needs in their areas under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985, assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their district;
 - Where a local housing authority are required under section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003 to prepare a strategy to meet such accommodation needs, they must take the strategy into account in exercising their functions;
 - A local housing authority must have regard to section 226 ('Guidance in relation to section 225') in:
 - carrying out such an assessment, and
 - preparing any strategy that they are required to prepare.
- A.9 **The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004** set out to introduce a simpler and more flexible planning system at regional and local levels. It also introduced new provisions which change the duration of planning permissions and consents, and allow local planning authorities to introduce local permitted development rights using 'local development orders'. It made the compulsory purchase regime simpler, fairer and quicker, to support major infrastructure and regeneration initiatives.
- A.10 The Act introduced major changes to the way in which the planning system operates. Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Framework, which was subsequently amended to a Local Plan document with the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012.
- A.11 Part 8 of the Act contains a series of measures to reform the compulsory purchase regime and make it easier for local planning authorities to make a case for compulsory purchase orders where it will be of economic, social or environmental benefit to the area. This section also brings in amended procedures for carrying out compulsory purchase orders, including a widening of the category of person with an interest in the land who can object, and deals with ownership issues and compensation.

- A.12 **The Localism Act 2011** introduced a number of reforms, including changes to planning enforcement rules, which strengthen the power of local planning authorities to tackle abuses of the planning system. The changes give local planning authorities the ability to take actions against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development, and tackle abuses of retrospective planning applications. The Act also introduced the Duty to Co-operate which applies to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites; the Duty aims to ensure that neighbouring authorities work together to address issues such as provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers in a planned and strategic way.
- A.13 **Statutory Instrument 2013 No 830 Town and Country planning Act, England (Temporary Stop Notice) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2013** came into force on 4th May 2013. This Instrument revoked the regulations governing Temporary Stop Notices, which were in place to mitigate against the disproportionate impact of Temporary Stop Notices on Gypsies and Travellers in areas where there was a lack of sufficient pitches to meet the needs of the Travelling community.

Appendix B: Policy and Guidance

Introduction

B.1 As part of this research, we have carried out a review of literature, which is presented in this Appendix. A considerable range of guidance documents has been prepared by Central Government to assist local authorities discharge their strategic housing and planning functions. In addition there is considerable independent and academic research and guidance on these issues; some of the key documents are summarised here. The documents are reviewed in order of publication date.

B.2 **A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for Implementation Update, DCLG, June 2006**

Although not primarily about the provision of caravan sites, facilities or pitches, the June 2006 updated CLG guidance for social landlords provides a standard for such provision. The guidance is set out under a number of key headings:

- Community-based and tenant-led ownership and management;
- Delivering Decent Homes Beyond 2010;
- Delivering mixed communities;
- Procurement value for money; and
- Housing Health and Safety.

The guidance defines four criteria against which to measure the standard of a home:

- It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing;
- It is in a reasonable state of repair;
- It has reasonably modern facilities and services; and
- It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

B.3 **Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers - Part 1: Unauthorised Encampments, ODPM, 2006**

The Guide is the Government's response to unauthorised encampments which cause local disruption and conflict. Strong powers are available to the police, local authorities and other landowners to deal with unauthorised encampments. It provides detailed step-by-step practical guidance to the use of these powers, and sets out advice on:

- Choosing the most appropriate power;
- Speeding up the process;
- Keeping costs down;
- The eviction process; and
- Preventing further unauthorised camping.

B.4 **Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers, Commission for Racial Equality, May 2006**

This report was written four years after the introduction of the statutory duty on public authorities under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations and to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination. The CRE expressed concerns about relations between Gypsies and Irish Travellers and other members of the public, with widespread public hostility and, in many places, Gypsies and Irish Travellers leading separate, parallel lives. A dual concern about race relations and inequality led the Commission in October 2004 to launch the inquiry on which this report was based.

The Report's recommendations include measures relating to Central Government, local authorities, police forces and the voluntary sector. Among those relating to Central Government are:

- developing a realistic but ambitious timetable to identify land for sites, where necessary establishing them, and making sure it is met;
- developing key performance indicators for public sites which set standards for quality and management that are comparable to those for conventional accommodation;
- requiring local authorities to monitor and provide data on planning applications, outcomes and enforcement, and on housing and homelessness by racial group, using two separate categories for Gypsies and Irish Travellers; and
- requiring police forces to collect information on Gypsies and Irish Travellers as two separate ethnic categories.

Strategic recommendations affecting local authorities include:

- developing a holistic corporate vision for all work on Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- reviewing all policies on accommodation for Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- designating a councillor at cabinet (or equivalent) level, and an officer at no less than assistant director level, to coordinate the authority's work on all sites;
- emphasising that the code of conduct for councillors applies to their work in relation to all racial groups, including Gypsies and Irish Travellers;
- giving specific advice to Gypsies and Irish Travellers on the most suitable land for residential use, how to prepare applications, and help them to find the information they need to support their application;
- identifying and reporting on actions by local groups or individuals in response to plans for Gypsy sites that may constitute unlawful pressure on the authority to discriminate against Gypsies and Irish Travellers; and
- monitoring all planning applications and instances of enforcement action at every stage, by type and racial group, including Gypsies and Irish Travellers, in order to assess the effects of policies and practices on different racial

groups.

Among other recommendations, the Report states that police forces should

- include Gypsies and Irish Travellers in mainstream neighbourhood policing strategies, to promote race equality and good race relations;
- target individual Gypsies and Irish Travellers suspected of anti-social behaviour and crime on public, private and unauthorised sites, and not whole communities;
- treat Gypsies and Irish Travellers as members of the local community, and in ways that strengthen their trust and confidence in the police;
- provide training for all relevant officers on Gypsies' and Irish Travellers' service needs, so that officers are able to do their jobs more effectively;
- review formal and informal procedures for policing unauthorised encampments, to identify and eliminate potentially discriminatory practices, and ensure that the procedures promote race equality and good race relations; and
- review the way policy is put into practice, to make sure organisations and individuals take a consistent approach, resources are used effectively and strategically, all procedures are formalised, and training needs are identified.

Other recommendations relate to Parish and Community councils the Local Government Association, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the voluntary sector.

B.5 Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, DCLG, October 2007

This Guidance sets out a detailed framework for designing, planning and carrying out Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments. It includes the needs of Showpeople. It acknowledges that the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers are likely to differ from those of the settled community, and that they have hitherto been excluded from accommodation needs assessments.

The guidance stresses the importance of understanding accommodation needs of the whole Gypsy and Traveller population; and that studies obtain robust data. It recognises the difficulty of surveying this population and recommends the use of:

- Qualitative methods such as focus groups and group interviews;
- Specialist surveys of those living on authorised sites that are willing to respond; and
- Existing information, including local authority site records and the twice yearly caravan counts.
- The guidance recognises that there are challenges in carrying out these assessments, and accepts that while the approach should be as robust as possible it is very difficult to exactly quantify unmet need.

B.6 CLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide, May 2008

The Guide attempts to establish and summarise the key elements needed to design a successful site. In particular, the guidance intends to assist:

- Local authorities or Registered Providers looking to develop new sites or refurbish existing sites;
- Architects or developers looking to develop sites or refurbish existing sites; and
- Site residents looking to participate in the design/refurbishment process.

B.7 The National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into effect in March 2012 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It condenses previous guidance and places a strong emphasis on 'sustainable development'. It provides more focussed guidance on plan-making and refers to 'Local Plans' rather than Local Development Frameworks or Development Plan Documents. Despite the difference in terminology it does not affect the provisions of the 2004 Act which remains the legal basis for plan-making.

B.8 Planning policy for traveller sites, March 2012

In March 2012 the Government also published Planning policy for traveller sites, which together with the NPPF replaces all previous planning policy guidance in respect of Gypsies and Travellers. The policy approach encourages provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers where there is an identified need, to help maintain an appropriate level of supply. The policy also encourages the use of plan making and decision taking to reduce unauthorised developments and encampments.

B.9 Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, April 2012

In April 2012 the Government published a Progress Report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, which summarised progress in terms of meeting 'Government commitments to tackle inequalities and promote fairness for Gypsy and Traveller communities.'²⁶ The report covers 28 measures from across Government aimed at tackling inequalities, these cover:

- Improving education outcomes;
- Improving health outcomes;
- Providing appropriate accommodation;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Improving interaction with the National Offender Management Service;
- Improving access to employment and financial services; and
- Improving engagement with service providers.

²⁶ www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322

B.10 **Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers, CLG August 2012**

This guidance note summarises the powers available to local authorities and landowners to remove encampments from both public and private land. Powers available to local authorities being:

- Injunctions to protect land from unauthorised encampments;
- Licensing of caravan sites;
- Tent site licences;
- Possession orders;
- Interim possession orders;
- Local byelaws;
- Power of local authorities to direct unauthorised campers to leave land;
- Addressing obstructions to the public highway;
- Planning contravention notice;
- Temporary stop notice;
- Enforcement notice and retrospective planning;
- Stop notice;
- Breach of condition notice; and
- Powers of entry onto land.

B.11 **Statutory Instrument 2013 No.830 Town and Country Planning (Temporary Stop Notice) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2013:** Made on 11th April 2013 and laid before Parliament on 12th April 2013 this Instrument revoking the regulations applying to Temporary Stop Notices (TSNs) in England came into force on 4th May 2013. The regulations were originally introduced to mitigate against the likely disproportionate impact of TSNs on Gypsies and Travellers in areas where there is a lack of sites to meet the needs of the Travelling community. Under the regulations, TSNs were prohibited where a caravan was a person's main residence, unless there was a risk of harm to a serious public interest significant enough to outweigh any benefit to the occupier of the caravan. Under the new arrangements local planning authorities are to determine whether the use of a TSN is a proportionate and necessary response.

B.12 **Ministerial Statement 1st July 2013 by Brandon Lewis**²⁷ highlighted the issue of inappropriate development in the green belt and revised the appeals recovery criteria issued on 30th June 2008 to enable an initial six month period of scrutiny of Traveller site appeals in the green belt. This is so that the Secretary of State can assess the extent to which the National policy 'Planning policy for traveller sites' is meeting the Government's stated policy intentions. A number of appeals have subsequently been recovered. The Statement also revoked the practice

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/planning-and-travellers>

guidance on 'Diversity and equality in planning'²⁸, deeming it to be outdated; the Government does not intend to replace this guidance.

B.13 Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers 9th Aug 2013. This Guidance replaces that published in Aug 2012, and updates it in respect of recent changes to Temporary Stop Notices. The Guidance lists powers available to local authorities, including:

- More powerful temporary stop notices to stop and remove unauthorised caravans;
- Pre-emptive injunctions that protect vulnerable land in advance from unauthorised encampments;
- Possession orders to remove trespassers from land;
- Police powers to order unauthorised campers to leave land;
- Powers of entry onto land so authorised officers can obtain information for enforcement purposes;
- Demand further information on planning works to determine whether any breach of the rules has taken place;
- Enforcement notices to remedy any planning breaches; and
- Ensuring sites have valid caravan or tent site licences.

It sets out that councils should work closely with the police and other agencies to stop camps being set up when council offices are closed.

B.14 PAS spaces and places for Gypsies and Travellers: how planning can help

PAS list the following as key to successful delivery of new provision:

- **Involve Gypsy and Traveller communities:** this needs to happen at an early stage, innovative methods of consultation need to be adopted due to low levels of literacy and high levels of social exclusion within Gypsy and Traveller communities and members of the Gypsy and Traveller community should be trained as interviewers on Accommodation Assessments (Cambridgeshire, Surrey, Dorset and Leicestershire). Other good practice examples include distribution of material via CD, so that information can be 'listened to' as opposed to read. The development of a dedicated Gypsy and Traveller Strategy is also seen to be good practice, helping agencies develop a co-ordinated approach and so prioritise the issue. The report also recommends the use of existing Gypsy and Traveller resources such as the planning guide published in Traveller's Times, which aims to explain the planning process in an accessible way to members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. As well as consulting early, PAS also flags the need to consult often with communities;
- **Work collaboratively** with neighbouring authorities to address the issues and avoid just 'moving it on' to a neighbouring local authority area. With the new Duty to Co-operate established within the NPPF, working collaboratively with

²⁸ ODPM Diversity and Equality in Planning: A good practice guide 2005

neighbouring local authorities has never been more important. Adopting a collaborative approach recognises that local authorities cannot work in isolation to tackle this issue;

- **Be transparent:** trust is highly valued within Gypsy and Traveller communities, and can take a long time to develop. The planning system needs to be transparent, so that members of the Gypsy and Traveller community can understand the decisions that have been taken and the reasoning behind them. PAS states that ‘ideally council work in this area should be led by an officer who is respected both within the Council and also within Gypsy and Traveller communities: trust is vital and can be broken easily.’²⁹ Local planning authorities also need to revisit their approach to development management criteria for applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites ‘to ensure that criteria make it clear what applications are likely to be accepted by the council. Authorities need to ensure that these are reasonable and realistic. Transparent and criteria-based policies help everyone to understand what decisions have been made and why.’³⁰ Kent and Hertsmere councils are listed as examples of good practice in this regard.
- **Integration:** accommodation needs assessments need to be integrated into the Local Plan evidence base, with site locations and requirements set out within specific Development Plan Documents (DPDs); dedicated Gypsy and Traveller DPDs are advocated as a means of ensuring that the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are fully considered and addressed within the local planning process; and
- **Educate and work with councillors:** members need to be aware of their responsibilities in terms of equality and diversity and ‘understand that there must be sound planning reasons for rejecting applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites’³¹. It is helpful for members to understand the wider benefits of providing suitable accommodation to meet the requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community, such as:
 - An increase in site provision;
 - Reduced costs of enforcement; and
 - Greater community engagement and understanding of community need.

B.15 RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers

The RTPI has developed a series of Good Practice notes for local planning authorities ‘Planning for Gypsies and Travellers’; the notes cover four key areas:

- Communication, consultation and participation;
- Needs assessment;
- Accommodation and site delivery; and
- Enforcement.

²⁹ PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 8

³⁰ PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 8 & 14

³¹ PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 10

Whilst the notes were developed prior to the NPPF and the introduction of the new Planning policy for traveller sites, they remain relevant, and it is worth considering some of the papers' key recommendations.

In terms of **communication, consultation and participation** the RTPI highlight the following good practice:

- **Define potentially confusing terminology** used by professionals working in the area;
- **Use appropriate methods of consultation:** oral exchanges and face-to-face dealings are essential to effectively engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities, whilst service providers tend to use written exchanges;
- **Consultees and participants need to be involved in the entire plan making process;** this includes in-house participants, external organisations, Gypsy and Traveller communities, and settled communities. The RTPI concludes that:
 - 'Local authorities should encourage Gypsy and Traveller communities to engage with the planning system at an early stage. However, they may request other agencies that have well-established relationships with members of Gypsy and Traveller communities to undertake this role.' and
 - 'In the past, settled communities have often only become aware of the intention to develop Gypsy and Traveller accommodation when the local authority issues a notice or consultation. ... cultivating the support of the settled community for the development of sites should start as soon as possible. ... There is a sound case for front-loading and sharing information with small groups in the [settled] community, rather than trying to manage large public gatherings at the start of the process. Again, it may be beneficial for the local authority to work in partnership with organisations with established links in the community. The settled community is not a homogeneous whole. There will be separate groups with different perceptions and concerns, which the local authority must take account of.'³²
- **Dialogue methods:** the RTPI correctly identify that the experience of many Gypsies and Travellers of liaising with both public sector agencies and the settled community is both frightening and negative. As a result 'there should be no expectation that Gypsies and Travellers will participate in open meetings. Stakeholders should investigate suitable methods of bringing together individuals from the respective communities in an environment that will facilitate a constructive exchange of information and smooth the process of breaking down animosity and hostility.'³³ The use of public meetings is discouraged, and the use of organisations with experience of working within both Gypsy and Traveller, and settled communities encouraged – advice and support groups, assisted by the latter, holding regular local meetings can be an effective means of engaging constructively with both communities. Representatives from these groups can also be included on appropriate forums and advisory groups. The location and timing of meetings needs to be

³² RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 8

³³ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 13

carefully considered to maximise participation, with a neutral venue being preferable.

- **The media** has an important role to play in facilitating the delivery of sites locally, with past reporting being extremely damaging. Positive media liaison is important and requires:
 - A single point of contact with the local authority;
 - A liaison officer responsible for compilation and release of briefings, and for building positive relationships with editors, journalists, radio and television presenters;
 - All stakeholders to provide accurate and timely briefings for the liaison officer;
 - Provision of media briefings on future activities;
 - Officers to anticipate when and where the most sensitive and contentious issues will arise and use of a risk assessment to mitigate any negative impact;
 - Use of the media to facilitate engagement with both settled and Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
 - Stakeholders to provide politicians with clear, accurate and comprehensive briefings.
- **On-going communication, participation and consultation** are important. The continued use of the most effective methods of engagement once an initiative is completed ensures the maximum use of resources:
 - ‘The delivery of some services, such as the identification of sites in development plan documents, is the end of one process and the start of another. The various committees and advisory groups established to participate in the process of site identification and the accommodation needs assessment will have considerable background information and expertise embedded in their membership. This will prove useful in the management and monitoring of subsequent work. ... Whilst on-going engagement with all service users is important, it is especially important with regard to Gypsies and Travellers, given their long history of marginalisation.’³⁴

Whilst the RTPI’s Good Practice Note Planning for Gypsies and Travellers predates the NPPF, the principles that it establishes at Part C remain largely relevant in terms of the role of local plan making. The Note advises that whilst the use of the site specific DPDs to identify sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation may seem less divisive, subsequent to identification of sufficient sites to meet identified need, local planning authorities should seek to integrate provision for Gypsies and Travellers within their general housing strategies and policies. Early involvement of stakeholders, the community and special interest groups will help achieve a consensus.

³⁴ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 18

However, the RTPI point out that, due to the contentious nature of Gypsy and Traveller provision, the use of a criteria based approach to the selection of development sites is unlikely to be successful ‘in instances where considerable public opposition to the development might be anticipated.’ The paper concludes that it is not appropriate to rely solely on criteria as an alternative to site allocations where there is an identified need for the development.³⁵

The RTPI advocate adopting a pragmatic approach, whereby local planning authorities work with the Gypsy and Traveller communities within their areas to identify a range of potentially suitable sites:

‘The local authority and Gypsy and Traveller communities are both able to bring forward their suggested sites during this process, and the distribution and location of transit as well as permanent sites can be covered. The practicable options would then go forward for discussion with the local community, interest groups, and other stakeholders before the selection of preferred sites is finalised. The advantages of this approach are its transparency and the certainty it provides both for Gypsies and Travellers and for settled communities.’³⁶

The RTPI also advocates the use of supplementary planning guidance to provide additional detail on policies contained within a Local Plan; in terms of Gypsies and Travellers this could include:

- Needs assessment evidence base;
- Design principles; and
- A design brief for the layout of sites.

³⁵ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part C page 11

³⁶ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part C page 11

Appendix C: Fieldwork Questionnaire

SHROPSHIRE Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Survey

Introduction

I am an independent researcher doing a study on the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This work is being conducted on behalf of Shropshire Councils. I don't work for the Council but they have asked me to do this study on their behalf.

We want to find out:

- What sort of homes – sites, yards and houses – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople need.
- What you think of existing sites, yards and homes
- Whether you think new permanent and temporary sites and yards are needed
- Whether you think easier access to bricks and mortar accommodation is needed
- Whether you travel and if so whether you've had problems while travelling
- What you think about the costs of your homes – houses, yards and sites
- What other services you feel you need to support you

Interviewed before?

1. Have you been interviewed for this survey before?
 - ***If 'Yes' and in same location as previous interview, politely decline interview and find new respondent.***
 - ***If 'Yes' on roadside and in different location from previous interview carry on with introduction***
 - ***If 'No' carry on with introduction***

Do you have time to talk with me about these things – it will take about 40 minutes?

Your answers are completely confidential – I won't use your name in any report that I write and no one will be able to trace any answer back to you. You don't have to answer everything - if you don't want to answer any particular questions, just tell me to skip them.

[For most answers, check the boxes most applicable or fill in the blanks.]

Interview details

Attach label with interviewer details and URN

Date and time _____

Location (site name and address)

Property type

1. Unauthorised Encampment [] 1
2. Unauthorised Development [] 2
3. Caravan in Garden [] 3
4. Local Authority Site [] 4
5. Private Site [] 5
6. House (Bricks and Mortar) [] 6

No. of separate **respondent** self identified households living on pitch [this is to be added to site census sheets after all interviews completed]

1. [] 1
2. [] 2
3. [] 3
4. [] 4
5. [] 5 or more

Home base

1a. Do you usually live here? Is this your primary home base?

1. [] Yes
2. [] No

1b. Do you have any other home bases?

1. [] Yes Go to Q1c
2. [] No Go to Q2

1c. Please tell us about your other home base (record details of next most used home base). What type of home is it? (Select only one.)

1. [] Trailer or wagon
2. [] Chalet/mobile home (or similar)
3. [] House
4. [] Bungalow
5. [] Flat
6. [] Sheltered/Extra care housing
- 7 [] Other **[please state]:** _____

1d. How much time do you spend there (other home base)? (Select only one.)

1. [] up to 1 month a year
2. [] Over 1 and up to 2 months a year
3. [] Over 2 and up to 3 months a year
4. [] Over 3 and up to 4 months a year
5. [] Over 4 and up to 5 months a year

6. 5 months or over a year

1e. Do you have any other home bases?

1. Yes Go to Q1f

2. No Go to Q2

1f. Please tell us about your other home base (record details of next most used home base). What type of home is it? (Select only one.)

1. Trailer or wagon

2. Chalet/mobile home (or similar)

3. House

4. Bungalow

5. Flat

6. Sheltered/Extra care housing

7. Other **[please state]:**

1g. How much time do you spend there (other home base)? (Select only one.)

1. up to 1 month a year

2. Over 1 and up to 2 months a year

3. Over 2 and up to 3 months a year

4. Over 3 and up to 4 months a year

5. Over 4 and up to 5 months a year

6. 5 months or over a year

2. Why do you live here (at the location of interview)? (Select all that apply.)

1. Close to family and friends

2. Near to place of work

3. Nowhere else that is suitable

4. Choose to travel

5. Simply chose this place/No particular reason

6. Other **[please state]**

: _____

3. How long have you lived here (at the location of interview)? (Select only one.)

1. up to 1 year
2. Over 1 and up to 2 years
3. Over 2 and up to 3 years
4. Over 3 and up to 4 years
5. Over 4 and up to 5 years
6. 5 years or over

4. What do you normally live in (at the location of interview)? (Select only one.)

1. Trailer or wagon
2. Chalet/mobile home (or similar)
3. House
4. Bungalow
5. Flat
6. Sheltered/Extra Care housing
7. House and yard with or without trailers

8 Other **[please state]:**

5. Are you happy with your main home base/house or would you prefer to live in a different type of home? (Select only one.)

1. Happy with house/bungalow/flat/sheltered/other
Go to Q7
 2. Happy with trailer/wagon/chalet/mobile home Go to Q7
 3. Prefer trailer Go to Q6
 4. Prefer caravan Go to Q6
 5. Prefer wagon Go to Q6
 6. Prefer chalet Go to Q6
 7. Prefer house/bungalow/flat/sheltered/other Go to Q6
 8. Prefer Trailer/Mobile Home/Chalet or similar with support for older people Go to Q6
 9. Other **[please state]:** Go to Q6
-

6. If you would prefer to live in a different type of home please tell us about your reasons for this? (Select all that apply.)

1. Health/Old age/Illness
2. Lifestyle/Belief
3. Prefer bricks and mortar
4. Prefer Caravan/trailer/wagon/pitch
5. Want to travel
6. Want to settle down
7. Other **[please state]:**

7. Do you rent or own the home where you normally live? (Select only one.)

1. Rent from Council
2. Rent privately
3. Rent from Housing Association/Registered Provider/Registered Social Landlord
4. Own home
5. Not applicable
6. Other **[please state]:**_____

8. Do you own or rent the land you live on? (Select only one.)

1. Own land where trailer/wagon is normally located (with planning permission)
2. Own land where trailer/caravan is normally located (no planning permission)
3. Own land where trailer/wagon is normally located seeking planning permission
4. Rent pitch from Council
5. Rent pitch from Housing Association/Registered Provider/Registered Social Landlord
6. Rent pitch privately (with planning permission)
7. Rent pitch privately (no planning permission)
8. Neither own or rent the land (unauthorised)
9. Tolerated site
10. Not applicable
11. Other **[please state]**_____

[ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON SITES/YARDS]

9. How many pitches/plots are there currently on the site/yard where you are living?

.....

10. Are these all occupied?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

11. If no, how many pitches/plots are vacant?

12. How long have these been empty? If more than one vacant pitch/plot please comment on the one that has been vacant for the longest time.

1. up to 1 year
2. 1 to 2 years
3. 2 to 3 years
4. 3 to 4 years
5. 4 to 5 years
6. over 5 years

13. In your opinion, is there capacity for further development in the site/yard on which you live to incorporate new pitches/plots?

1. Yes
2. No

14. If yes, how many new pitches/plots?

15. Do you have development option(s) for land adjacent to the site? (select one only)

1. Yes, including ownership or lease for the land. If 'Yes' please go to Q16a
2. Yes, with no ownership or lease for the land. If 'Yes' please go to Q16a
3. No. If 'No' please go to Q17a

16a. If you do have options for land around the site where are these and how many additional pitches could potentially be accommodated?

16b. If you are interested in developing your own pitch, are you aware that the Council has a policy which allows suitable small scale development (under 5 pitches) where a strong local connection can be demonstrated?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

16c. Would you be able to meet 2 of the local connection criteria which are:

- a) you were born in Shropshire or lived here as a child
- b) you normally live in the local area and have done so for at least 3 years
- c) you have family that have lived in the local area for at least 15 years
- d) Shropshire is your main place of work?

- 1. Yes, I meet two of the four criteria
- 2. No, I do not meet two of the criteria
- 3. Don't know/not sure
- 4. Other [please specify]:

16d. If you can meet 2 of the local connection criteria, would you consider applying for planning permission?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't know

17a. Do you have an option(s) for a new site? (i.e. on land that would not be an extension to your existing site)

- 1. Yes Go to Q17b
- 2. No Go to Q18

17b. If you do have option(s) for a new site where are these and how many additional pitches could potentially be accommodated?

18. Do you have any other comments about the capacity of the site/yards you are currently living on?

ALL RESPONDENTS

19. Do you think your home/trailer/pitch is overcrowded? (Select only one.)

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

20. If yes, please tell us in what way the home is overcrowded (i.e. number of caravans/households living home on pitch)

21. What repairs or improvements, if any, are needed to your home? (Select all that apply.)

- 1. none
- 2. more space on pitch
- 3. slab/drive
- 4. roof
- 5. doors/windows
- 6. kitchen facilities
- 7. bathroom facilities
- 8. Other **[please state]:**

22. How would you describe the state of repair of your home? (Select only one.)

- 1. Very Good
- 2. Good
- 3. Neither Good nor Poor
- 4. Poor
- 5. Very Poor

23. Do you feel you have enough space:

a) for your trailers, wagons, horse boxes, vehicles and loads?

Yes 1. No 2.

b) in your own amenity block (shed) - if relevant?

Yes 1. No 2. Not relevant 3.

c) on your pitch - if relevant?

Yes 1. No 2. Not relevant 3.

d) for travelling show people only, room to repair equipment - if relevant?

Yes 1. No 2. Not relevant 3.

24. Do you have to share any of the following facilities with another household (this could be a family in another trailer/pitch)? (Select all that apply.)

1. Bathroom
2. Toilet
3. Kitchen
4. Laundry

25. How many bedrooms/sleeping trailers or wagons do you have?

Number: _____

26. How much does your home cost per week (excluding water, heating and lighting; including rent, mortgage, and ground rent)?

Please state amount

£ _____

27. How much of your housing costs, if any, are covered by housing benefit? (Select only one.)

1. None
2. Part
3. All

Neighbourhood and local services

28. How satisfied are you with the location of your home? (By home we mean the location where the interview is taking place and this covers questions 28-29. Location can mean the street/road/site) (Select only one.)

1. Very Satisfied
2. Satisfied
3. Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
4. Dissatisfied
5. Very Dissatisfied

29. Please say if being near to the following is important, slightly important or not important to you? (Near can be classed as having easy/quick access)

	Important	Slightly Important	Not important
a) Primary schools	1 []	2 []	3 []
b) Secondary schools	1 []	2 []	3 []
c) Doctors	1 []	2 []	3 []
d) Shops	1 []	2 []	3 []
e) Post Office/cash point machine	1 []	2 []	3 []
f) Pubs	1 []	2 []	3 []
g) Public Transport	1 []	2 []	3 []
h) Main roads	1 []	2 []	3 []
i) Other (specify)	1 []	2 []	3 []

Housing History

30. Where did you live before you came here (or moved to your existing home)?

1. [] Please state town/district _____
2. [] Travelling all the time (no permanent home) - **go to Q35**
3. [] Homeless - **go to Q35**

31. How long did you live there? (Select only one.)

1. [] up to 1 year
2. [] 1 to 2 years
3. [] 2 to 3 years
4. [] 3 to 4 years
5. [] 4 to 5 years
6. [] over 5 years

32. What kind of home did you have there? (Select only one.)

1. [] Trailer or wagon
2. [] Chalet/mobile home (or similar)
3. [] House
4. [] Bungalow
5. [] Flat
6. [] Sheltered
7. [] Other

[please state] _____ :

33. Why did you leave that place?

34. How many times have you moved pitch (not including travelling) in the last 2 years

Number: _____

Or b. Travelled for the whole time

Or c. None/Have not moved

Travelling

35. In the last year, have you travelled?
(Select only one.)

1. Yes

2. No - **go to Q39**

36. How many days or weeks do you normally travel every year?

(Select only one.)

1. No more than thirteen days

2. 2 to 4 weeks (or one month)

3. 5 to 8 weeks (or 2 months)

4. 9 to 12 weeks (or 3 months)

5. 13 to 26 weeks (or 6 months)

6. Over 6 months but less than 10 months

7. Over 10 months but less than 12 months

8. All year

37. Where would you normally go when you are travelling, when and why? And what is the main route you would take to get there (please specify main roads taken /towns passed through)

Location	Month	Reason	Route
a.			
b.			
c.			
d.			

38. What problems do you have while travelling?
(Select all that apply.)

1. No places to stop over
2. Closing of traditional stopping places
3. Abuse, harassment or discrimination
4. Lack of toilet facilities
5. No water facilities
6. Problems with rubbish collection
7. Police behaviour
8. Enforcement officer behaviour
9. Behaviour of other Travellers
10. Other **[please state]:**

(Tick all that apply)

39. Transit sites are intended for short-term use while in transit. Sites are usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay. Is there a need for transit sites in SHROPSHIRE?

1. Yes
2. No

40. If yes, where should the transit site(s) be located? (Select all that apply.)

Where are transit sites needed?	How big does the site need to be? (no pitches)	Who needs this transit site?	When is this transit site needed? (all the time/certain times of year – please specify)	
Shropshire Council area [please specify]				1
Other local authority area bordering Shropshire [please specify]				2

41. Who should manage transit sites? (Select all that apply.)

1. Councils
2. Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations
3. Private (Gypsy/Traveller/Showman)
4. Private (non-Gypsy or Traveller/Showman)
5. Other ***[please state]:***

42. Why do you travel?

(Select all that apply.)

1. Cultural heritage
 2. Personal preference
 3. Work related
 4. Visit family/friends
 5. Only way of life I know
 6. Limited opportunity to settle/no pitch on which to live/lack of site provision
 7. Other ***[please state]***
-

Advice, support, health and other services

43a. Have you used any of the following services in the last year?

(Select all that apply.)

1. Gypsy services
 2. Traveller Education
 3. Adult education
 4. Law Centre
 5. Citizens Advice Bureau
 6. Other welfare rights advice
 7. Doctor (G.P.)
 8. Dentist
 9. Accident and emergency
 10. Health visitors
 11. Social services
 12. Other ***[please state]:***
-

43b. Do you or anyone in your household have any health problems (Select all that apply for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Arthritis	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Asthma	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Depression/anxiety disorders	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Diabetes	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Problems with hearing	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []
Learning difficulties/dyslexia	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []
Problems with mobility	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []
Problems with vision	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []
Respiratory condition/bronchitis	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []
Other <i>[please state]:</i>	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []

43c. Have you experienced any problems accessing health services in the past year?

1. Yes Go to Q44d
2. No Go to Q44e

43d. Have these problems been due to any of the following? (Select all that apply.)

1. Language
 2. Hours the service were open
 3. Transport
 4. Knowledge of services offered
 5. Lack of privacy
 6. Getting an appointment
 7. Other **[please state]:**
-

43e. Does your home need adapting in any way, for instance to help with mobility around the home?

1. Yes Go to Q44
2. No Go to Q45

44. In your opinion, what assistance/adaptations are required to help? e.g. Handrails, re-positioned sockets etc

Adaptation 1	
Adaptation 2	
Adaptation 3	

45. What type of services (other than those you currently receive) would help you with your health care needs?

46. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your health or health services?

The future

47. ***In the next five years, is your household:***

1. Planning to stay where you are based now – **go to Q50**
2. Plan to move elsewhere - **go to Q48**

48. If you are planning to move elsewhere, are you planning to move to (select one):

1. Another pitch/plot on the same site/yard in a trailer/wagon go to Q50

2. Another pitch/plot on the same site/yard in a chalet/mobile home go to Q50

3. Onto another site/yard (if so, where)

_____ go to Q50

4. Into bricks and mortar accommodation go to Q49

5. From bricks and mortar accommodation onto a site/yard (if so, where?) go to Q50

6. Other [please specify]:_____ go to Q50

49. If you are planning to move to bricks and mortar accommodation

a. Where would it be ? _____

b. What type of accommodation?

1. House

2. Bungalow

3. Flat

4. Sheltered/extra care housing

c. Would you be renting or buying?

1. Rent from Council

2. Rent privately

3. Rent from Housing Association/RP/RSL

4. Buy

5. Other

6. **[please state]**:_____

50. How do you think sites should be managed?
(Select only one.)

1. Councils
2. Private (Gypsy/Traveller/Showman)
3. Private (non-Gypsy/Traveller/Showman)
4. Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations
5. Other **[please state]:** _____

51. Is there a need for new permanent site(s) in SHROPSHIRE?

1. Yes
2. No

52. If yes, in which of the following locations? (Tick all that apply)

Where are permanent sites needed?	Why this location?	How big does the site need to be? (no pitches)	
Shropshire Council area [please specify]			1
Other local authority area bordering SHROPSHIRE [please specify]			2

53. Is there anything else that you want to tell us about the future need for homes and sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

54. Do you have children or grandchildren who want to live in a similar way to you (e.g. Travelling lifestyle)?
(Select only one.)

- Yes
- No

Emerging Families

56. How many members of your family who are living with you now, if any, are likely or need to move on and set up by themselves in the next five years? ***[IF POSSIBLE, ASK THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO MOVE ON THE 'EMERGING FAMILIES' QUESTIONS DIRECTLY - PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX]***

(Select only one.)

- 1. 1
- 2. 2
- 3. 3
- 4. 4

Q57 (Select only one.)	✓
1. Respondent is part of emerging household	
2. Respondent is not part of emerging household	

58. What type of household (HH) are you (or they) likely to form?
 (Select only one for each household.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Single person (under 60 years)	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Single person (60 years and over)	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Lone parent	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Young couple (under 30) with no children	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Young couple (under 30) with child(ren)	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []
Couple (aged 30-under 60) with no children	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []
Couple (aged 30-under 60) with children.	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []
Older Couple (at least one over 60 years)	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []
Other <i>[please state]:</i>	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []

59. What would you (or they) want as a permanent base?

		HH1 (a)		HH2 (b)		HH3 (c)		HH4 (d)
Continue to live on current site/yard	1	[]	1	[]	1	[]	1	[]
Move to another site/yard	2	[]	2	[]	2	[]	2	[]
Move to bricks and mortar accommodation	3	[]	3	[]	3	[]	3	[]
Other (please specify)	4	[]	4	[]	4	[]	4	[]

60. If planning to move to another location, where would you (they) prefer to live? Please state village/town/district. This can be an area out with the study area.

HH1 _____

HH2 _____

HH3 _____

HH4 _____

61. If planning to move to another location, what is the main reasons for this?

HH1 _____

HH2 _____

HH3 _____

HH4 _____

62. What type of home do you (or do you think they would) want as a permanent base?
 (Select only one for each household.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Trailer or wagon go to Q63	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Chalet/mobile home or similar go to Q63	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
House - go to Q64	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Bungalow - go to Q64	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Flat - go to Q64	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []
Sheltered housing go to Q64	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []
Extra Care Housing – go to Q64	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []
No permanent base required	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []
Other (please specify)	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []

Interviewer note:

Sheltered housing is usually a group of bungalows or flats and you have your own front door. Schemes usually have a manager/warden to arrange services and are linked to a careline/alarm service

Extra Care housing is designed with the needs of frailer older people in mind. It includes flats, bungalows and retirements villages. You have your own front door. Domestic support and personal care are available.)

63. Which of the following options would you (or do you think they would) require? (Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Rent pitch/plot from Council	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Rent pitch/plot from Registered Provider/Housing Association	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Rent pitch/plot privately	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Own land where trailer/ caravan is normally located	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
To travel/Use multiple/various sites	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []
Other <i>[please state]:</i>	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []

64. If in a house, which of the following options would you (or do you think they would) require?
 (Select only one.)

		HH1 (a)		HH2 (b)		HH3 (c)		HH4 (d)
Rent house/flat from Council	1	[]	1	[]	1	[]	1	[]
Rent house/flat privately	2	[]	2	[]	2	[]	2	[]
Rent house/flat from Registered Provider/Housing Association	3	[]	3	[]	3	[]	3	[]
Own house	4	[]	4	[]	4	[]	4	[]
Other [please state]:	5	[]	5	[]	5	[]	5	[]

65. Do you (or do you think they will) want to travel for some time of the year? (Select only one.)

		HH1 (a)		HH2 (b)		HH3 (c)		HH4 (d)
Yes	1	[]	1	[]	1	[]	1	[]
No	2	[]	2	[]	2	[]	2	[]

Your Household (Respondent)

66. Family type (Select only one.)

1. Single person (under 60 years)
2. Single person (60 years and over)
3. Lone parent
4. Young couple (aged under 30) – no children
5. Young Couple (aged under 30 years) - with children
6. Couple (aged 30 to under 60) - no children
7. Couple (aged 40 to under 60) - with children
8. Older Couple (at least one of 60 years or over)
9. Other [please state]: _____

Number of Households sharing a pitch

67. How many other households are **currently** living on your pitch/plot with you? (i.e. grandparents, parents, children and their respective spouses)

Number of households:

1. 0
2. 1
3. 2
4. 3
5. 4
6. Other (please specify): _____

68. Of these households, how many want to live on their own pitch/plot on a site/yard?

1. 0
2. 1
3. 2
4. 3
5. 4
6. Other (please specify): _____

69. Over the next 15 years do you have dependents who would want to live on a pitch on a site and who will need additional pitches? Number of dependent households needing pitches or a pitch in the next 15 years:

- 1. Not applicable/No pitch on a site requirement
- 2. Dependents would prefer another type of home
- 3. 1
- 4. 2
- 5. 3
- 6. 4
- 7. Other (please specify): _____

70. If you do have dependents who will need additional pitches could you tell us their age?

	Dependent (a)	Dependent (b)	Dependent (c)	Dependent (d)	Dependent (e)	Dependent (f)	Dependent (g)
Age							

IF RESPONDENT HAS A SPOUSE OR PARTNER THEN RECORD INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PERSON IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

71. For each person in your household, starting with yourself and then your spouse (partner, husband or wife) please could you tell us their sex and age? (Select only one for each person.)

		R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Male	1	[]	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Female	2	[]	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []

72. Age

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Age							

IF NO SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN GO TO Q74

73. What type of education are your children receiving? (Select all that apply.)

- 1. Nursery education
- 2. State school
- 3. Private school
- 4. Home schooled
- 5. College or university
- 6. Other **[please state]:** _____

74. Employment status (Select only one for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Full-time employee	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employee	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-employed	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Retired	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
No paid work	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Disability benefit	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
In education	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other [please state]:	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>

75. How would you describe yourself (ethnic or cultural identity)?(Select all that apply)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Romany Gypsy	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
English Gypsy	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
English Traveller	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Irish Traveller	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Welsh Gypsy	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []
Welsh Traveller	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []
Scottish Gypsy	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []
Scottish Traveller	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []
New Traveller	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []
Showman	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []
Circus Traveller	11 []	11 []	11 []	11 []	11 []	11 []	11 []
DK/No answer	12 []	12 []	12 []	12 []	12 []	12 []	12 []
None of the above	13 []	13 []	13 []	13 []	13 []	13 []	13 []
Other [please state]:	14 []	14 []	14 []	14 []	14 []	14 []	14 []

76. Do you know of a household in bricks and mortar accommodation, could you provide some contact details as we may approach them for an interview to better understand their needs?

77. Anything else you would like to tell us?

78. Would you be happy to be contacted again? Yes [] No [].

If yes, record contact details on SEPARATE SHEET and **please now take a note of the respondents FULL TELEPHONE number for quality assurance purposes**. We may use the number provided to check the response to a small number of questions as part of our internal quality processes. FULL TELEPHONE NUMBER:-

79. If you would like us/the Council to contact you with the results of this research please provide either an email or postal address for us to advise you of the results. Yes [] No []. If yes, record contact details on SEPARATE SHEET TO THE ONE ABOVE

80. Are there any housing needs issues raised in this questionnaire that you would like your Council to contact you about? If so do we have your permission to pass on your contact details to your Council for this purpose only? Yes [] No []. If yes, record contact details on SEPARATE SHEET TO THE ONE ABOVE

Appendix D: Stakeholder Consultation

Approach

- D.1 Stakeholders were invited to participate in a survey aimed at identifying a range of information, including establishing the key perceived issues facing Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within Shropshire, and ways in which these need to be addressed. Stakeholders were asked to respond to any of the questions within the survey.
- D.2 A total of 10 separate responses to the stakeholder consultation were obtained.
- D.3 The questions and a summary of stakeholders' responses are set out below. As a general observation, it is useful to note that there was not a comprehensive response to every question. The responses to each question therefore do not represent a proportional representation of the 10 stakeholders who took part. The comments received therefore represent only an expression of the views of those who participated in that specific question, or had a specific point to make.

General

Which Local Authority areas do you work in? Please tick all that apply. If you work in an area outside Shropshire (such as a neighbouring local authority who is responding as part of the duty to co-operate guidance) then please detail where you are from by using the 'other' option below. Respondents indicated the following areas:

Cheshire East
Cheshire West and Chester
Herefordshire
Malvern Hills
Newcastle under Lyme
Powys
South Staffordshire
Stafford
Telford and Wrekin
Wrexham
Wyre Forest

Other areas listed included a response on behalf of:

Bromsgrove District Council;
Malvern Hills Districts Council;
Redditch Borough Council;

Worcester City Council, Wyre Forest District Council;
Wychavon District Council; and
Worcestershire County Council.

All respondents indicated that they wanted to be informed of the results of the study.

Q1. Do you think that there is sufficient understanding of the education, employment, health and support needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the study area? If not, what could be done to improve the current position?

- Not aware of what understanding there is in Shropshire.
- A joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Powys was undertaken in 2007 and reported in 2008. Please note that this assessment only assessed needs in South Powys. Welsh Government guidance advises that such assessments should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. Powys is currently in the process of preparing the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) for the whole of Powys. This assessment will not assess the needs of Travelling Showpeople. Until the results of the G & T AA are published, it is not possible to answer this question. Undertaking a GTANA will improve the current understanding of Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs, however, the understanding of education, employment, health & support needs can only be improved if questions relating to these are included in the assessment survey and relevant stakeholders are interviewed.

Q2. Are the health, education, accommodation and support needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople adequately monitored? If not, what more could be done?

- Not sure.
- They should be monitored by updating the GTAA on a regular basis, ideally every 5 years. Employment of a Gypsy Liaison Officer may also help to provide regular feedback on health, education, accommodation and support needs

Q3. In your opinion, is additional support required to assist Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople families living within the study area? If yes, please expand.

- Not sure - but more could always be done.
- Unable to comment as not familiar with study area.

Q4. Do you think that there is adequate awareness of the cultural, support and accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area? If not, what more could be done to raise awareness.

- Not sure - but more could always be done.
- Unable to comment.

Q5. Has your organisation undertaken any action to raise awareness of the cultural, support and accommodation requirements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area? If so, please expand.

- Of stakeholders responding to this question, either no action had been taken or they were unable to comment.

Section 2

Provision of Accommodation - Site Provision

Q6. Do you think that there is sufficient provision of permanent sites/pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across Shropshire?

Please give us your views

- The needs identified through this study should be met through Shropshire's SAMdev.
- Unable to comment. Depends on the outcome of the assessment.

Q7. If new permanent sites/pitches are needed in Shropshire where do you think that these should be located? Which location is best and why?

- Preferably, nearer to the A road network in close proximity to goods and services. This is likely to be nearer the larger settlements.
- Unable to comment.

Q8. Do you think there are barriers to the provision of new permanent sites? If so, what do you consider the main barriers to be?

- Potentially the identification of suitable sites.
- Finding a suitable site. Land ownership. Funding. Local opposition. Lack of political support.

Q9. Do you think that transit sites are needed in Shropshire? If so, why, and where do you think these should be located? Please note: Transit provision is a pitch or site

intended for short-term use whilst in transit; such provision is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time that residents can stay there.

- Current transit provision and recent short term unauthorised encampments should be considered when making a judgement on this.
- Potentially yes. Powys County Council Gypsy Liaison Officer will be able to provide advice on the travelling patterns of travellers in Powys who potentially also move to, within, and across Shropshire.

Q10. Do you think there are barriers to new transit sites provision? If so, what do you consider the main barriers to be?

- Potentially identification of suitable sites.
- Finding a suitable site. Funding. Management & Enforcement.

Existing Sites

Q11. What are your views on the standard of facilities on existing sites in the Shropshire area?

- No views were expressed by stakeholders or they felt unable to comment on this matter.

Q12. Do you have any views on how existing sites are managed in Shropshire?

- No views were expressed by stakeholders or they felt unable to comment on this matter.

Q13. *Are you aware of any issues/tensions between Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and the settled community, on existing sites within Shropshire. If so, has your organisation addressed this in any way?*

- Stakeholders were either not aware of any issues or they felt unable to comment on this matter.

Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

Q14. *Do you know of any Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation in Shropshire? Can you provide any additional information?*

- None were identified.

Q15. Do you think that additional provision of sites/pitches needs to be made to accommodate the requirements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople currently living in settled (i.e. bricks and mortar) accommodation across Shropshire Why do you think this?

- Potentially, if it is their wish to move on to a site.
- Potentially yes. Some Gypsy & Traveller Families have no alternative but to live in brick & mortar accommodation until suitable pitch provision is available.

Q16. Is there sufficient support available to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in settled accommodation to help them manage their housing effectively (i.e. help in dealing with practical tenancy issues, such as paying rent, bills and making benefit applications)?

- Of stakeholders responding to this question they were either not sure or unable to comment.

Q17. Are you aware if Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel safe in settled accommodation? If you have any information please provide. Are their specific cultural needs given consideration by the local authority when offering conventional accommodation, in your opinion?

- Of stakeholders responding to this question they were either not sure or unable to comment.

Both bricks and mortar and pitches

Q18. If your organisation provides accommodation in Shropshire how many Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households have approached you for housing during the past five years?

- There were no responses to this question.

Q19. If your organisation provides accommodation in Shropshire how many Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households have approached you for HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT during the past five years?

- There were no responses to this question.

Unauthorised encampments

Q20. If you are a local housing authority in Shropshire how many unauthorised encampments do you have each year in your area? Please note: An unauthorised encampment refers to land where Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.

- There were no responses to this question.

Q21. Are unauthorised encampments problematic for your organisation? If so, please expand.

- One respondent has experienced unauthorised encampments, but is continually working with Gypsy & Traveller Families to ensure that their accommodation needs are met suitably. Where unauthorised encampments exist, the authority seeks to either obtain temporary permission or encourage them to move to a more suitable location where authorisation can be sought. It is the role of the Gypsy Liaison Officer to work with the relevant Council departments (In particular Housing & Planning) to seek to ensure that temporary or permanent accommodation needs are met.

Q22. Have you a view on how unauthorised encampments affect local perceptions?

- Only one respondent answered this question and they did not have any views.

Section 3

Planning Policy

Q23. Are there any areas within planning policy that you consider have restricted the provision of new sites/pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople? If so, can you think of any way in which this can be overcome in the future?

The following responses were received to this question:

- No.
- I support current planning policy which seeks to encourage the provision of new sites in sustainable locations.

Q24. Do you think that more could be done through planning policy to identify and bring forward new sites for the provision of pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople? If so, please expand.

- It is a requirement that when preparing Local Development Plans, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must assess the accommodation needs of the population including ethnic and minority groups such as Gypsies and Travellers. Where accommodation needs are identified, the LPA's should identify land for suitable accommodation to meet those needs in their Local Development Plans.

Q25. What impact do you think that the Government's changes to planning policy (set out in CLG's publication 'Planning Policy for traveller sites': 23rd March 2012) will have on future provision? The key points made in the Policy guidance are:

- that 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 time-scale;*
- 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.*

- Not sure that the points stated above are a big sea change in planning for gypsies and travellers. The need for a 5 year supply of sites is problematic as this is very difficult to achieve and cannot be seen as the same as housing. With it being proposed that Local Plans are reviewed every five year and with the expectation to meet up to date needs evidence, it is considered that meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers will be extremely challenging.
- Positive.
- Please find set out below the latest Policy C6 - Provision for Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Show-people which has been considered through the hearing sessions of the independent Examination into the Plan for Stafford Borough during October & November 2013. The amended text represents Main Modifications to this policy which will be subject to a 6 week consultation exercise in February & March 2014 prior to the Inspector issuing his Final Report later in the year. 'Provision will be made for the delivery of sufficient good quality, appropriately located residential pitches to satisfy local need as

set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. Specific sites will be identified through a Site Allocations Development Plan Document. Proposals for development to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be permitted where they comply with national policy in the Planning for Traveller Sites document or successor publications and the following criteria: a. The intended occupants of the site comply with the definition of Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople; b. The development of the site minimises the potential impact on the surrounding landscape, environment, heritage assets and biodiversity; c. Good design and layout based on Government guidance in 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites' or successor documents. Matters to address include pitch sizes, the adequacy of facilities, services and amenities, the utility of outside space for leisure, recreation and for any essential employment related activities; d. The site does not compromise Green Belt or the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designations; e. The site has good safe access to the public highway system; adequate space for parking, turning and servicing on site; f. Adequate disposal of foul effluent ensures that there is no reduction in water quality within the catchment. The wording of Policy C6 may be further amended subject to the Planning Inspector's Final Report prior to adoption.

Cross boundary issues

Q26. Are you aware of any regular movements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from neighbouring areas, in or out of Shropshire?

- There was one response to this question referring on to Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Services.

Q27. Are you aware of any sites/locations close to the boundary of Shropshire where difficulties have arisen? If Yes, what type of difficulties and have you any thoughts on how these could be overcome?

- Potential future need to meet family growth of Gypsy Traveller families in the Welshpool area.

Q28. Are there any cross boundary issues, in respect of Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople that should be considered as part of this study? If yes, please provide information.

The following responses were received:

- No cross boundary issues.
- No.
- The study should examine cross boundary movement, identifying whether Gypsies and Travellers etc are moving from Shropshire into neighbouring areas and vice versa. It should also examine the impacts and implications on transit and permanent pitches, if any.

- Information sharing with respect to cross boundary movements of Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where known.
- The six Worcestershire District Councils (Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills Districts Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Wychavon District Council), together with Worcestershire County Council are also currently undertaking a revised Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). The boundaries of Malvern Hills and Wyre Forest District Councils adjoin those of Shropshire. I am not currently aware of any cross-boundary Traveller issues between Shropshire and Malvern Hills, Wyre Forest, or other Districts in Worcestershire.
- Potentially needs of Gypsy & Travellers living travelling or working in both Shropshire & Powys. Obtain further information from Powys County Council Gypsy Liaison Officer.
- There are currently 62 caravans on 37 pitches in Telford & Wrekin (excluding unauthorised sites). The majority of this provision is on two local authority owned and managed sites. There is also one small privately owned site. Telford & Wrekin Council was part of the previous GTAA in 2008, which was undertaken at a sub regional level and also covered the Shropshire, Herefordshire and Powys local authority areas. The following requirements were identified for Telford & Wrekin, based on the principle of meeting need where it arises: 2007-2012: Residential pitches (24)/Transit site/Show People plots (5) 2012-2017: Residential pitches (10) The GTAA recommended seeking provision of new residential pitches to meet locally arising needs. Transit provision would help to address issues in respect of groups passing through the area. Local evidence relating to unauthorised encampments indicates an urgent need to provide additional permanent pitches and transit provision. The Council has been working with partners and stakeholders to meet identified needs. Significant additional provision is now in the development pipeline. In the last twelve months planning consent has been granted for the following: 1. The modest extension of a small private site in the rural area (Edgmond near Newport). 2. The creation of a separate, small private site in the rural area (Woodcote near Newport). 3. The creation of a temporary transit site with 15 pitches close to the M54 at Snedshill (two year planning consent from December 2013). 4. The redevelopment and extension of the local authority owned site at Lodge Road, Donnington (with the benefit of grant funding from the Homes & Communities Agency) [this proposal is due to be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on 5 February 2014]. Telford & Wrekin Council will shortly commission an update of the 2008 GTAA at a borough level. This study will form part of the evidence base for the Council's emerging new Local Development Plan (Shaping Places), which will allocate sites for Gypsies & Travellers to meet identified need over the plan period up to 2031.

Q29. What do you think should be the key outcomes of this study?

The following responses were received:

- Identifying objectively assessed needs that are fully defensible at Examination in Public.

- Provision arising through the study research to be delivered within Shropshire Council area for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople.
- An accurate reflection of the accommodation needs of travellers and travelling show people living in or travelling through Shropshire.
- To identify future accommodation needs of Gypsy & Travellers for permanent and transient pitches for the next 5-15 years. A better understanding of the Gypsy & Traveller & Travelling Show People in Shropshire including their connection to Shropshire, location, accommodation needs, travelling & work patterns etc. This evidence should be used to inform the Shropshire Local Development Framework policies, proposals and potential land allocations for permanent or transient sites.

Section 4

Neighbouring authorities

Q30. We consider that this questionnaire contributes to our requirement on the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities as set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011) and described in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as an integral part of the Local Plan-making process and its assessment at Examination. Do you have any views on this?

- Yes. Consultation on the draft document also required.
- Yes, the needs of gypsies and travellers has cross border implications and should therefore be treated as a strategic issue. However, our interpretation of Planning Policy for traveller sites, 2012, is that there is a requirement to work collaboratively with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities when assessing the needs of gypsies and travellers. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council would therefore welcome the opportunity to comment on the methodology of the GTAA, including the extent of the study area, so it can be satisfied that cross border implications will be properly assessed and that appropriate transit provision will ultimately be made. This will help to ensure that future policies in respect of gypsies and travellers are positively prepared and effective.
- This questionnaire is one aspect of meeting the Duty to Co-operate. However to demonstrate constructive, positive dialogue meetings and Duty to Co-operate pro-formas / memorandum of understanding also need to be prepared together with on-going discussions.
- I consider it constitutes a "contribution". I would expect there to be further engagement. I would be happy to be a contact to discuss outcomes and further preparation of the site allocations document regarding any cross boundary issues that may arise. Herefordshire are embarking on their own DPD and so I would be grateful for a contact at Shropshire so that I may fulfil our own requirements of the duty to co-operate. thank you.

- The Worcestershire authorities are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Shropshire Stakeholder consultation and recognise it is an important contribution towards the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities. We would like to be kept informed about the findings of the GTAA. Malvern Hills District Council, Wyre Forest District Council and the County Council would also wish to be consulted at an early stage on any emerging Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople allocations in close proximity to our boundaries.
- Powys County Council should also be consulted on the draft Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment report. Please note - I am an officer of Powys County Council, however this response has not been approved by the Council.

Appendix E: Glossary of Terms

Caravans: Mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as trailers.

CJ&POA: Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; includes powers for local authorities and police to act against unauthorised encampments.

CRE: Commission for Racial Equality.

CLG: Department for Communities and Local Government; created in May 2006. Responsible for the remit on Gypsies and Travellers, which was previously held by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (O.D.P.M.).

Gypsies and Travellers: Defined by CLG 'Planning policy for traveller sites' (March 2012) as '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.'

Irish Traveller: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Irish Travellers have a distinct indigenous origin in Ireland and have been in England since the mid nineteenth century. They have been recognised as an ethnic group since August 2000 in England and Wales (O'Leary v Allied Domecq).

Mobile home: Legally a 'caravan' but not usually capable of being moved by towing.

Pitch: Area of land on a Gypsy/Traveller site occupied by one resident family; sometimes referred to as a plot.

Plot: see pitch

Roadside: Term used here to indicate families on unauthorised encampments, whether literally on the roadside or on other locations such as fields, car parks or other open spaces.

Romany: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Romany Gypsies trace their ethnic origin back to migrations, probably from India, taking place at intervals since before 1500. Gypsies have been a recognised ethnic group for the purposes of British race relations legislation since 1988 (CRE V Dutton).

Sheds: On most residential Gypsy/Traveller sites 'shed' refers to a small basic building with plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC, sink), which are provided at the rate of one per plot/pitch. Some contain a cooker and basic kitchen facilities.

Site: An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy/Traveller caravans; often though not always comprising slabs and amenity blocks or 'sheds'. An authorised site will have planning permission. An unauthorised development lacks planning permission.

Slab: An area of concrete or tarmac on sites allocated to a household for the parking of trailers (caravans)

Showpeople: Defined by CLG 'Planning policy for traveller sites' (March 2012) 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 own or 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.'

Stopping places: A term used to denote an unauthorised temporary camping area tolerated by local authorities, used by Gypsies and Travellers for short-term encampments, and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Tolerated site: An unauthorised encampment/site where a local authority has decided not to take enforcement action to seek its removal.

Trailers: Term used for mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as caravans.

Transit site: A site intended for short-term use while in transit. The site is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Unauthorised encampment: Land where Gypsies or Travellers reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations (roadside, car parks, parks, fields, etc.) and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent. Unauthorised encampments fall into two main categories: those on land owned by local authorities and those on privately owned land. It is up to the land owner to take enforcement action in conjunction with the Police.

Unauthorised development: Establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission, usually on land owned by those establishing the site. Unauthorised development may involve ground works for roadways and hard standings. People parking caravans on their own land without planning permission are not Unauthorised Encampments in that they cannot trespass on their own land – they are therefore Unauthorised Developments and enforcement is always dealt with by Local Planning Authorities enforcing planning legislation.

Wagons: This is the preferred term for the vehicles used for accommodation by Showpeople.

Yards: Showpeople travel in connection with their work and therefore live, almost universally, in wagons. During the winter months these are parked up in what was traditionally known as 'winter quarters'. These 'yards' are now often occupied all year around by some family members.