



Southend-on-Sea City Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

Final Report

December 2024

Note:

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) was updated in December 2024 and the planning definition of a Traveller in Annex 1 was amended. As a result of this an updated version of this GTAA Report will be prepared in due course that reflects the changes in the PPTS. The need figures that are included in this Report will not change.



Opinion Research Services, The Strand, Swansea SA1 1AF

Steve Jarman, Michael Bayliss, Elliot Muldoon, Hanna Lloyd, Rhys Evans, Jonathan Lee and Nigel Moore

Enquiries: 01792 535300 · info@ors.org.uk · www.ors.org.uk

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 The primary objective of this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Southend-on-Sea Council (the Council) area.
- 1.2 As well as updating previous GTAAs, the GTAA provides a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of Local Plan Policies and, where appropriate, the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the period 2023 - 2042 to cover the Council's Local Plan period and the 15-year requirements set out in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS).
- 1.3 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in the Council area through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder interviews, and engagement with members of the Travelling Community living on all known sites, yards, and encampments.
- 1.4 No interviews or proxy interviews were completed with Gypsies, Travellers or Travelling Showpeople as there were none identified living on sites or yards in Southend-on-Sea.
- 1.5 A total of 3 stakeholder interviews were completed.
- 1.6 The baseline date for the study is September 2023¹.

Key Findings

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.7 As there were no Gypsy or Traveller sites identified in Southend-on-Sea there is no current or future need for pitches identified.
- 1.8 However, the Council will need to carefully consider how to address any need associated with windfall sites, future in-migration, or from households living in bricks and mortar. In terms of Local Plan Policies, the Council should consider the use of a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) to deal with any windfall applications and need from bricks and mortar.
- 1.9 The findings of this report should be considered as part of future housing mix and type within the context of the assessment of overall housing need in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Whilst the findings in this report are aggregated totals for the whole of Southend-on-Sea, due to data protection issues, the Council have more detailed data to support the preparation of any future Local Plan Policies.

¹ Whilst the baseline is September 2023, households were subsequently assessed against the December 2023 PPTS planning definition of a Traveller.

Figure 1 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Southend-on-Sea (2023 - 2042)

Status	2023 – 2042
Meet Planning Definition	0
Undetermined	0
Do not meet Planning Definition	0
TOTAL	0

Figure 2 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households by year periods

Year Period	Dates	Need
0 – 5	2023-27	0
6 – 10	2028-32	0
11 – 15	2033-37	0
16 – 20	2038-42	0
0 – 20	2023-42	0

Plot Needs – Travelling Showpeople

1.10 As there were no Travelling Showpeople yards identified in Southend-on-Sea there is no current or future need for plots identified.

1.11 However, the Council will need to carefully consider how to address any need associated with windfall applications, future in-migration, or from households living in bricks and mortar. In terms of Local Plan Policies, the Council should consider the use of a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) to deal with any windfall applications and need from bricks and mortar.

Figure 3 – Need for Travelling Showpeople households in Southend-on-Sea (2023 – 2042)

Status	2023 – 2042
Meet Planning Definition	0
Undetermined	0
Do not meet Planning Definition	0
TOTAL	0

Figure 4 – Need for Travelling Showpeople households by year periods

Year Period	Dates	Need
0 – 5	2023-27	0
6 – 10	2028-32	0
11 – 15	2033-37	0
16 – 20	2038-42	0
0 – 20	2023-42	0

Transit Recommendations

^{1.12} Local Authorities in Essex have commissioned ORS to complete a detailed Greater Essex Transit Study to seek to determine the need for any transit provision across Essex. This study is currently ongoing and the outcomes are due to be reported in 2025.

^{1.13} The overall objectives for the Greater Essex Transit Study are:

- » To complete a review of historic primary and secondary data on encampments and transit movements across Greater Essex.
- » To complete interviews with key stakeholders who are involved in managing encampments.
- » To seek to gain a greater understanding of the nature of encampments, including a potential need for permanent pitches.
- » To complete a review of options to address transit needs across Greater Essex.
- » To provide recommendations on how to meet any identified transit need across Greater Essex including recommendations on broad locations for new transit sites.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The primary objective of this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Southend-on-Sea City Council.
- 2.2 The outcomes of the study supersede the outcomes of the previous Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) completed in Southend-on-Sea City Council.
- 2.3 The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 1985, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2023, the Housing and Planning Act (2016), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023, and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 2021.
- 2.4 The GTAA provides a robust assessment of need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the study area. It is a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of the Council's District Plan Policies and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots covering the period 2023 to 2042 to meet the 15-year requirements of the PPTS and the Councils Local Plan period.
- 2.5 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy and Traveller (and Travelling Showpeople) Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- 2.6 The baseline date for the study is September 2023.

Definitions

- 2.7 The planning definition for a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson is set out in PPTS (2023). This replaced the previous definition that was set out in PPTS (2015). In addition the housing definition of a Traveller that was set out in the Housing Act (2004) was repealed by the Housing and Planning Act (2016).

The Planning Definition in PPTS (2023)

- 2.8 For the purposes of the planning system, the definition of a Travellers was changed in PPTS (2023). The planning definition is set out in Annex 1 and states that:

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

Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.

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

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

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

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

***Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Department for Communities and Local Government
(DCLG)
December 2023***

- ^{2.9} The key change that was made to both definitions in the December 2023 revision to PPTS was the reintroduction of those who have ceased to travel permanently. These households were excluded from the 2015 PPTS planning definition of a Traveller.

Definition of Travelling

- ^{2.10} One of the most important questions that GTAA’s will need to address in terms of applying the planning definition is *what constitutes travelling?* This has been determined through case law that has tested the meaning of the term ‘nomadic’.
- ^{2.11} **R v South Hams District Council (1994)** – defined Gypsies as “*persons who wander or travel for the purpose of making or seeking their livelihood (not persons who travel from place to place without any connection between their movements and their means of livelihood.)*” This includes ‘born’ Gypsies and Travellers as well as ‘elective’ Travellers such as New Age Travellers.
- ^{2.12} In **Maidstone BC v Secretary of State for the Environment and Dunn (2006)**, it was held that a Romany Gypsy who bred horses and travelled to horse fairs at Appleby, Stow-in-the-Wold and the New Forest, where he bought and sold horses, and who remained away from his permanent site for up to two months of the year, at least partly in connection with this traditional Gypsy activity, was entitled to be accorded Gypsy status.
- ^{2.13} In **Greenwich LBC v Powell (1989)**, Lord Bridge of Harwich stated that a person could be a statutory Gypsy if he led a nomadic way of life *only seasonally*.
- ^{2.14} The definition was widened further by the decision in **R v Shropshire CC ex p Bungay (1990)**. The case concerned a Gypsy family that had not travelled for some 15 years in order to care for its elderly and infirm parents. An aggrieved resident living in the area of the family’s recently approved Gypsy site sought judicial review of the Local Authority’s decision to accept that the

family had retained their Gypsy status even though they had not travelled for some considerable time. Dismissing the claim, the judge held that a person could remain a Gypsy even if he or she did not travel, provided that their nomadism was held in abeyance and not abandoned.

- 2.15 That point was revisited in the case of **Hearne v National Assembly for Wales (1999)**, where a traditional Gypsy was held not to be a Gypsy for the purposes of planning law as he had stated that he intended to abandon his nomadic habit of life, lived in a permanent dwelling and was taking a course that led to permanent employment.
- 2.16 **Wrexham County Borough Council v National Assembly of Wales and Others (2003)** determined that households and individuals could continue to lead a nomadic way of life with a permanent base from which they set out from and return to.
- 2.17 The implication of these rulings in terms of applying the planning definition is that it will only include those who travel for work purposes, or for seeking work, and in doing so stay away from their usual place of residence. It can include those who have a permanent site or place of residence, but that it will not include those who have never travelled for work, or those who have never travelled. It will not cover those who commute to work daily from a permanent place of residence (**see APP/E2205/C/15/3137477**).
- 2.18 It may also be that within a household some family members travel for nomadic purposes on a regular basis, but other family members stay at home to look after children in education, or other dependents with health problems etc. In these circumstances the household unit would be defined as travelling under the planning definition.
- 2.19 Households will also fall under the planning definition if they can demonstrate that they have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently as a result of their own or their family's or dependants' educational, health needs or old age. In order to have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently these households will need to demonstrate that they have travelled for work, or for seeking work, in the past.
- 2.20 This approach was endorsed by a Planning Inspector in Decision Notice for an appeal in East Hertfordshire (**Appeal Ref: APP/J1915/W/16/3145267**) that was issued in December 2016. A summary can be seen below.

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

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

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

Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

2.22 Decision-making for policy concerning Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation and guidance. For example, the following key pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when developing policies relating to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:

- » The Housing Act, 1985
- » Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), 2023
- » The Housing and Planning Act, 2016
- » National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2023
- » Planning Practice Guidance² (PPG), 2021

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

2.24 The primary guidance for undertaking the assessment of housing need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is set out in the PPTS (2023). It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023. In addition, the Housing and Planning Act (2016) makes provisions for the assessment of need for those Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households living on sites and yards who do not meet the planning definition – through the assessment of all households living in caravans.

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2023

2.25 PPTS (2023), sets out the direction of Government policy. As well as introducing the planning definition of a Traveller, PPTS is closely linked to the NPPF. Among other objectives, the aims of the policy in respect of Traveller sites are (PPTS Paragraph 4):

- » Local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning.
- » To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.
- » To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.

² With particular reference to the sections on Housing needs of different groups (May 2021).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)³

- 2.29 The most recent version of the National Planning Policy Framework was issued in December 2023. Paragraph 61 of the NPPF sets out that in determining the minimum number of homes needed, strategic plans should be based upon a local housing need assessment conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance.
- 2.30 Paragraph 63 then states that [emphasis added] *‘Within this context of establishing need, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. These groups should include (but are not limited to) those who require affordable housing; families with children; older people (including those who require retirement housing, housing-with-care and care homes); students; people with disabilities; service families; travellers; people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes’*. The footnote to this section states that *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document.’*
- 2.31 This essentially sets out that the needs of households that meet the planning definition should be assessed under the PPTS and that the needs of households that are not found to meet the planning definition should be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of an area.
- 2.32 In an Appeal Decision that was published in March 2020 for an appeal in Central Bedfordshire (**APP/P0240/C/18/3213822**) the Inspector concluded in relation to the then Paragraph 61 of the NPPF (now paragraph 62) that:

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

Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (2023)

- 2.33 Among other things, this Act seeks to make provision about town and country planning. The Act received Royal Assent in October 2023. Whilst there is currently no specific reference to changes to policy and guidance for Gypsies and Travellers, the Council may need to consider the outcomes of any changes to planning legislation that may impact on the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. In addition, the Act has also abolished the Duty to Cooperate that was introduced by the Localism Act in 2011, but it is understood that the Government are considering a replacement to this – currently referred to as the Alignment Test.

³ At the time of reporting the Government were consulting on changes to the NPPF. Other than now including a new footnote setting out that 5-year supply for Travellers should be assessed separately to overall 5-year supply, there are no other proposed changes to the NPPF in relation to Travellers.

Lisa Smith v The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and others [2022]

- ^{2.34} In October 2022 the Court of Appeal handed down judgment in *Lisa Smith v The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities [2022] EWCA Civ 1391*. The case was a challenge to a specific appeal decision and concerned whether the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers contained in Annex 1 of the PPTS (2015) is discriminatory against Travellers who are settled and who no longer travel for work due to old age or disability. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal and quashed the Inspectors decision from 2018 and referred the case back to The Secretary of State for redetermination.
- ^{2.35} Whilst certain parts of the PPTS planning definition of a Traveller were found to be discriminatory, as the PPTS 2015 itself was not the subject of the case it has not been quashed or declared unlawful at this time.
- ^{2.36} As a result of the Lisa Smith Judgement to Government made changes to the PPTS in December 2023 to reintroduce those who have ceased to travel permanently under the definition.

3. METHODOLOGY

Background

- 3.1 Over the past 10 years, ORS has continually refined a methodology for undertaking robust and defensible Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments. This has been updated in light of changes to PPTS 2023, the Housing and Planning Act (2016) the NPPF (2023), and the PPG (2021). It has also responded to changes set out by Planning Ministers, with particular reference to new household formation rates. This is an evolving methodology that has been adaptive to changes in planning policy as well as the outcomes of Local Plan Examinations and Planning Appeals.
- 3.2 PPTS contains a number of requirements for local authorities which must be addressed in any GTAA methodology. This includes the need to pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves); identification of permanent and transit site accommodation needs separately; working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; and establishing whether households fall within the planning definition for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 3.3 ORS would note that the ORS GTAA methodology has been repeatedly found to be sound and robust, including through Local Plan Examinations in Bedford, Brentwood, Cambridge, Castle Point, Central Bedfordshire, Cheltenham, Cotswold, Daventry, East Hertfordshire, Gloucester, Maldon, Milton Keynes, Newham, Runnymede, South Cambridgeshire, South Northamptonshire, Tewkesbury, and Waverley.
- 3.4 An Appeal Decision for a Hearing in Central Bedfordshire (**APP/P0240/C/18/3213822**) that was issued in March 2020 concluded:

'...whilst there have been some queries in previous appeal decisions over the conclusions of other GTAAs produced by ORS, the methodology, which takes into account the revisions made in 2015 to the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), has nevertheless been accepted by Inspectors in a considerable number of Local Plan Examinations.'

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

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

- 3.6 The stages below provide a summary of the methodology that was used to complete this study. More information on each stage is provided in the appropriate sections of this report.

Desk-Based Review

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

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

Stakeholder Engagement

3.8 Engagement was undertaken with key Council Officers from Southend-on-Sea through email and telephone interviews. A total of 1 interview was completed with a Council Officer from the study area.

Working Collaboratively with Neighbouring Planning Authorities

3.9 To provide background information for the study, email and telephone interviews were conducted with Planning Officers in neighbouring planning authorities. These interviews will help to ensure that wider issues that may impact on this project are fully understood. This included interviews with Officers from the Councils set out below.

- » Castle Point Borough Council
- » Rochford District Council

Survey of Travelling Communities

3.10 Through the desk-based research and the stakeholder interviews, ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites/yards and encampments in the study area. None were identified so no household interviews were completed.

Engagement with Bricks and Mortar Households

3.11 The 2021 Census recorded 57 households who identified as either Gypsies or Irish Travellers, or Roma who lived in a house or bungalow in Southend-on-Sea and 105 living in a flat or maisonette.

3.12 ORS apply a rigorous approach to making contact with bricks and mortar households as this is a common issue raised at Local Plan Examinations and Planning Appeals. Contacts were sought

through a range of sources including intelligence from the stakeholder interviews; information from housing registers; and other local knowledge from stakeholders. Through this approach the GTAA endeavoured to do everything to give households living in bricks and mortar the opportunity to make their views known.

3.13 As a rule, ORS do not make any assumptions on the overall needs from household in bricks and mortar based on the outcomes of any interviews that are completed, as in our experience this leads to a significant over-estimate of the number of households wishing to move to a site or a yard.

Applying the PPTS Planning Definition

3.14 The primary change to PPTS in December 2023 in relation to the assessment of need was the change to the definition of a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson for planning purposes.

3.15 However, as there were no Traveller sites or yards identified in Southend-on-Sea it has not been necessary to apply the PPTS definition to households for this GTAA.

Calculating the Current and Future Need

3.16 As there were no Traveller sites or yards identified in Southend-on-Sea it has not been necessary to apply any calculations to identify current or future levels of need.

Transit Provision

3.17 GTAA studies require the identification of demand for transit provision. While the majority of Gypsies and Travellers have permanent bases either on Gypsy and Traveller sites or in bricks and mortar and no longer travel, other members of the community either travel permanently or for part of the year. Due to the mobile nature of the population a range of sites can be developed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers as they move through different areas.

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

3.18 Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through on the way to somewhere else. A transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of usually around 12 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity, and amenity blocks.

- 3.19 An alternative to or in addition to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.
- 3.20 Another alternative is 'negotiated stopping'. The term 'negotiated stopping' is used to describe agreed short-term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not describe permanent 'built' transit sites but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the authority and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides.
- 3.21 Temporary stopping places can be made available at times of increased demand due to fairs or cultural celebrations that are attended by Gypsies and Travellers. A charge may be levied as determined by the local authority although they only need to provide basic facilities including: a cold-water supply; portaloos; sewerage disposal point and refuse disposal facilities.
- 3.22 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Section 62a) is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62a of the Act allows the police to direct trespassers to remove themselves and their vehicles and property from any land where a suitable transit pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same local authority area (or within the county in two-tier local authority areas).
- 3.23 Consideration will also have to be given to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act which came in to force in June 2022. Part 4 of the Act gives the Police additional powers to deal with unauthorised encampments through new offences relating to residing on land without consent in or with a vehicle and new powers in relation to the seizure of property.
- 3.24 In order to investigate the potential need for transit provision across Greater Essex a separate Greater Essex Transit Study has been commissioned and this is due to be completed in 2025.

4. GYPSY, TRAVELLER & TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE SITES AND POPULATION

Introduction

- 4.1 One of the main considerations of this study is to provide evidence to support the provision of pitches and plots to meet the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. A pitch is an area normally occupied by one household, which typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size⁴. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. For Travelling Showpeople, the most common descriptions used are a plot for the space occupied by one household and a yard for a collection of plots which are typically exclusively occupied by Travelling Showpeople. Throughout this study the main focus is upon how many extra pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople are required in the study area.
- 4.2 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of a Gypsy and Traveller site is the publicly provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Registered Provider (usually a Housing Association). Pitches on public sites can be obtained through signing up to a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the tenants (similar to social housing).
- 4.3 The alternative to a public residential site is a private residential site and yard for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, respectively. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing. Generally, the majority of Travelling Showpeople yards are privately owned and managed.
- 4.4 The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population also has other types of sites due to its mobile nature, as described more fully in Chapter 3 above. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum occupancy period of residence which can vary from a few days or weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is an emergency or negotiated stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it but has much more limited facilities. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate, for a temporary period, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople whilst they travel. A number of authorities also operate an accepted encampments policy where short-term stopovers are tolerated without enforcement action.
- 4.5 Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and

⁴ Whilst it has now been withdrawn, *Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites* recommended that, as a general guide, an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a large trailer [a static caravan or park home for example] and touring caravan, parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area.

Travellers or with the approval of the landowner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers.

Sites and Yards

4.6 In the area on the base date for the GTAA, there were

- » No public sites;
- » No private sites with permanent planning permission;
- » No private sites with temporary planning permission;
- » No sites that are tolerated for planning purposes;
- » No unauthorised sites;
- » No Travelling Showpeople yards;
- » No public transit sites.

Figure 5 - Total amount of provision in Southend-on-Sea (September 2023)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Public sites	0	0
Private with permanent planning permission	0	0
Private with temporary planning permission	0	0
Tolerated pitches	0	0
Unauthorised sites	0	0
Public transit sites	0	0
Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
TOTAL	0	0

MHCLG Traveller Caravan Count

4.7 Another source of information available on the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population is the bi-annual Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in England on a specific date in January and July of each year and reported to MHCLG. This is a statistical count of the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. With effect from July 2013, the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count was renamed the Traveller Caravan Count due to the inclusion of information on Travelling Showpeople caravans.

4.8 As this count is of caravans and not households, it makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. The count is merely a 'snapshot in time' conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise, any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. As such it is not considered appropriate to use the outcomes from the Traveller Caravan Count in the calculation of current and future need as the information collected during the site visits is seen as more robust and fit-for-purpose. However, the Caravan Count data has been used to support the identification of the need to provide for transit provision and this is set out later in this report.

4.9 The most recent Traveller Caravan Count in January 2024 recorded no caravans.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Introduction

- 5.1 ORS undertook a stakeholder engagement programme to complement the information gathered through interviews with members of the Travelling Community. This consultation took the form of telephone interviews which were tailored to the role of the individual.
- 5.2 The aim of these interviews was to provide an understanding of current provision and possible future need; short-term encampments; transit provision; and cross-border issues.
- 5.3 A total of 1 interview was undertaken with a Council Officer from the study area.
- 5.4 In order to explore issues relating to cross boundary working, ORS interviewed a Planning Officer from 2 neighbouring local authorities:
- » Castle Point District Council
 - » Rochford District Council
- 5.5 Due to issues surrounding data protection, and in order to protect the anonymity of those who took part, this section presents a summary of the views expressed by interviewees and verbatim comments have not been used. The views expressed in this section of the report represent a balanced summary of the views expressed by stakeholders, and on the views of the individuals concerned, rather than the official policy of their Council or organisation.

Views of Key Stakeholders and Council Officers in Southend-on-Sea

Accommodation Needs

- 5.6 There is no historic need or demand for Gypsy and Traveller sites in Southend-on-Sea.

Short-term Encampments and Transit Provision

- 5.7 Encampments in the area over recent years have been infrequent and only for short periods of time.

Cross Border Issues

- 5.8 No cross-border issues were identified.

Future Priorities and Any Further Issues

- 5.9 No priorities were discussed.

Neighbouring Authorities

^{5.10} The following authorities responded to indicate no potential cross-border issues:

- » Castle Point Borough Council
- » Rochford District Council

6. SURVEY OF TRAVELLING COMMUNITIES

Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers

- 6.1 One of the major components of this study was an attempt to complete a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population living in the study area, and also efforts to engage with the bricks and mortar community.
- 6.2 In Southend-on-Sea, at the base date for the GTAA, there were no public Gypsy and Traveller sites; no privately owned sites with permanent planning permission; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; no authorised Travelling Showpeople yards; and no unauthorised Travelling Showpeople yards. There were also no public transit sites identified.

Figure 6 – Interviews completed in Southend-on-Sea

Site Status	Pitches/ Plots	Interviews	Reasons for not completing interviews/additional interviews
Public Sites			
None	-	-	-
Private Sites			
None	-	-	-
Temporary Sites			
None	-	-	-
Tolerated Sites			
None	-	-	-
Unauthorised Sites			
None	-	-	-
Public Transit Sites			
None	-	-	-
TSP			
None	-	-	-
Roadside			
None	-	-	-
B&M			
None	-	-	-
TOTAL	0	0	

7. CURRENT AND FUTURE PITCH PROVISION

Introduction

- 7.1 This section focuses on the pitch provision which is needed in the study area currently and to 2042. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also secondary data sources. Whilst the difficulty in making accurate assessments beyond 5 years has been highlighted in previous studies, the approach taken in this study to estimate new household formation has been accepted by Planning Inspectors as the most appropriate methodology to use.
- 7.2 We would note that this section is based upon a combination of the desk-based research, planning records and stakeholder interviews given that no sites or yards were identified.
- 7.3 This section concentrates not only upon the total provision, which is required in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.

Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers in Bricks and Mortar

- 7.4 Following all of the efforts that were made it was not possible to identify and interview any households living in bricks and mortar.

Migration/Roadside

- 7.5 The study also sought to identify any need from households seeking to move to Southend-on-Sea – in-migration, or from any households living on the roadside with a need for a permanent pitch in the area.
- 7.6 Evidence drawn from stakeholder interviews has been considered alongside assessments of need that have been completed in other nearby local authorities. This identified no households living on the roadside predominantly in Southend-on-Sea with a need to move to a permanent pitch.
- 7.7 ORS have found no firm evidence from other local studies that have been completed recently of any households wishing to move to Southend-on-Sea. Therefore, net migration to the sum of zero has been assumed for the GTAA – which means that net pitch requirements are driven by locally identifiable need rather than speculative modelling assumptions.
- 7.8 It is important to note that any applications for new sites or additional pitches as a result of in-migration should be seen as windfall need and should be dealt with by Criteria-Based Local Plan Policies.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

7.9 There were no Gypsy or Traveller households identified living on sites in Southend-on-Sea so there is no current or future need for pitches.

Figure 7 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Southend-on-Sea

Gypsies & Travellers	Pitches
Supply of Pitches	
Available supply from vacant public and private pitches	0
Available supply from pitches on new sites	0
Pitches vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Pitches vacated by households moving away from the study area	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-Up/Over-Crowding	0
5 year need from teenage children	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
In-Migration/Roadside	0
Households on waiting lists for public sites	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Households on pitches with temporary planning permission	0
New household formation	0
<i>(No Gypsies and Travellers identified)</i>	
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 8 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Southend-on-Sea by year periods

Year Period	Dates	Need
0 – 5	2023 – 27	0
6 – 10	2028 – 32	0
11 – 15	2033 – 37	0
16 – 20	2038 – 42	0
0 – 20	2023 – 42	0

Plot Needs – Travelling Showpeople

7.10 There were no Travelling Showpeople identified living on yards in Southend-on-Sea so there is no current or future need for plots.

Figure 9 – Need for Travelling Showpeople households in Southend-on-Sea

Travelling Showpeople	Plots
Supply of Plots	
Available supply from vacant public and private plots	0
Available supply from plots on new yards	0
Plots vacated by households moving to bricks and mortar	0
Plots vacated by households moving away from the study area	0
Total Supply	0
Current Need	
Households on unauthorised developments	0
Households on unauthorised encampments	0
Concealed households/Doubling-Up/Over-Crowding	0
5 year need from teenage children	0
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
In-Migration/Roadside	0
Total Current Need	0
Future Need	
Households on plots with temporary planning permission	0
New household formation	0
<i>(No Travelling Showpeople identified)</i>	
Total Future Need	0
Net Plot Need = (Current and Future Need – Total Supply)	0

Figure 10 – Need for Travelling Showpeople households in Southend-on-Sea by year periods

Year Period	Dates	Need
0 – 5	2023 – 27	0
6 – 10	2028 – 32	0
11 – 15	2033 – 37	0
16 – 20	2038 – 42	0
0 – 20	2023 – 42	0

Transit Requirements

^{7.11} Local Authorities in Essex have commissioned ORS to complete a detailed Greater Essex Transit Study to seek to determine the need for any transit provision across Essex. This study is currently ongoing and the outcomes are due to be reported in 2025.

^{7.12} The overall objectives for the Greater Essex Transit Study are:

- » To complete a review of historic primary and secondary data on encampments and transit movements across Greater Essex.
- » To complete interviews with key stakeholders who are involved in managing encampments.
- » To seek to gain a greater understanding of the nature of encampments, including a potential need for permanent pitches.
- » To complete a review of options to address transit needs across Greater Essex.
- » To provide recommendations on how to meet any identified transit need across Greater Essex including recommendations on broad locations for new transit sites.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 This study provides a robust evidence base to enable the Council to assess the housing needs of the Travelling Community as well as complying with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 1985, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2023, the Housing and Planning Act 2016, the National Planning Policy Framework 2023, and Planning Practice Guidance 2021. It also provides the evidence base which can be used to support Local Plan Policies.

Gypsies and Travellers

8.2 In summary, in Southend-on-Sea, for the GTAA period 2023 – 2042, there is a need for:

- » No pitches for Gypsy and Traveller households that met the 2023 PPTS planning definition.
- » No pitches for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households that may meet the planning definition.
- » No pitches for Gypsy and Traveller households who did not meet the planning definition.

8.3 However, the Council will need to carefully consider how to address any needs from households seeking to move to Southend-on-Sea (in-migration), or from households currently living in bricks and mortar who may wish to move to a site. In terms of the Local Plan Policies, the Council should continue to use adopted Local Plan Policies (when in place) which are a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) for any undetermined households, as well as to deal with any windfall applications, need from in-migration, and need from bricks and mortar.

8.4 Whilst the findings in this report are aggregated totals for the whole of Southend-on-Sea due to data protection issues, the Council have more detailed data to enable an accurate review of Local Plan allocations to be made.

Travelling Showpeople

8.5 In summary, in Southend-on-Sea, for the GTAA period 2023 – 2042, there is a need for:

- » No plots for Travelling Showpeople households that met the 2023 PPTS planning definition
- » No plots for undetermined Travelling Showpeople households that may meet the planning definition.
- » No plots for Travelling Showpeople households who did not meet the planning definition.

8.6 However, the Council will need to carefully consider how to address any needs from households seeking to move to Southend-on-Sea (in-migration), or from households currently living in bricks and mortar who may wish to move to a yard. In terms of the Local Plan Policies, the Council should continue to use adopted Local Plan Policies (when in place) which are a criteria-based policy (as

suggested in PPTS) for any undetermined households, as well as to deal with any windfall applications, need from in-migration, and need from bricks and mortar.

- ^{8.7} Whilst the findings in this report are aggregated totals for the whole of Southend-on-Sea due to data protection issues, the Council have more detailed data to enable an accurate review of Local Plan allocations to be made.

Transit Provision

- ^{8.8} Local Authorities in Essex have commissioned ORS to complete a detailed Greater Essex Transit Study to seek to determine the need for any transit provision across Essex. This study is currently ongoing and the outcomes are due to be reported in 2025.

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Appendix B: Glossary of Terms / Acronyms Used

Glossary

Amenity block meaning a building where basic plumbing amenities are provided. This could include a bath, a shower, a WC and a sink.

Bricks and mortar is used to describe mainstream housing.

Caravan is used to describe mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.

Concealed household is used to describe households living within other households, who are unable to set up separate family units.

Doubling-Up refers to there being more than the permitted number of caravans on a pitch or plot.

Emergency Stopping Place is a temporary site with limited facilities to be occupied by Gypsies and Travellers while they travel.

Green Belt refers to a land use designation used to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas; prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another; assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; and to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.

Household Formation is the process in which individuals form separate households. This is normally though adult children setting up their own household.

In-migration refers to movement of households into a region or community.

Local Plans are Local Authority spatial planning documents that can include specific policies and/or site allocations for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Out-migration refers to the Movement from one region or community in order to settle in another.

Pitch/plot is an area of land on a site or development generally home to one household. Can be varying sizes and have varying caravan numbers. Pitches refer to Gypsy and Traveller sites and Plots to Travelling Showpeople yards.

Private site is an authorised site owned privately. This can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied and rented pitches.

Site refers to an area of land on which Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are accommodated in caravans, chalets, or vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches or plots.

Social/Public/Council Site is an authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Housing Provider.

Temporary planning permission refers to a private site with planning permission for a fixed period of time.

Tolerated site/yard refers to long-term tolerated sites or yards where enforcement action is not expedient, and a certificate of lawful use would be granted if sought.

Transit provision refers to a site intended for short stays and containing a range of facilities. There is normally a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Unauthorised Development refers to caravans on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers and without planning permission.

Unauthorised Encampment refers to caravans on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers and without planning permission.

Waiting list is a record held by the local authority or site managers of applications to live on a site.

Yard is a name often used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site.

Acronyms and Initials

GTAA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ORS	Opinion Research Services
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPTS	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites



Technical Note

Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates

June 2020

Opinion Research Services



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

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

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Household Growth Rates

Abstract and Conclusions

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

Introduction

4. Compared with the general population, the relative youthfulness of many Gypsy and Traveller populations means that their birth rates are likely to generate higher-than-average population growth, and proportionately higher *gross* household formation rates. However, while their *gross* rate of household growth might be high, Gypsy and Traveller communities' future accommodation needs are, in practice, affected by any reduction in the number of households due to dissolution and/or by movements in/out of the area and/or by transfers into other forms of housing. Therefore, the *net* rate of household growth is the *gross* rate of formation *minus* any reductions in households due to such factors.

Modelling Population and Household Growth Rates

5. The basic equation for calculating the rate of Gypsy and Traveller population growth seems simple: start with the base population and then calculate the average increase/decrease by allowing for births, deaths, in-/out-migration and household dissolution. Nevertheless, deriving satisfactory estimates is difficult because the evidence is often tenuous – so, in this context in 2013, ORS modelled the growth of the national Gypsy and Traveller population based on the most likely birth and death rates, and by using PopGroup (the leading software for population and household forecasting). To do so, we supplemented the available national statistical sources with data derived from our own surveys.

Migration Effects

6. Population growth is affected by national net migration and local migration (as Gypsies and Travellers move from one area to another). In terms of national migration, the population of Gypsies and Travellers is relatively fixed, with little international migration. It is in principle possible for Irish Travellers (based in Ireland) to move to the UK, but there is no evidence of this happening to a significant extent and the vast majority of Irish Travellers were born in the UK or are long-term residents.

Population Profile

7. The main source for the rate of Gypsy and Traveller population growth is the UK 2011 Census. The ethnicity question in the 2011 Census included for the first time 'Gypsy and Irish Traveller' as a specific category. While non-response bias probably means that the size of the population was underestimated, the age profile the Census provides is not necessarily distorted and matches the profile derived from ORS's extensive household surveys.

Table 1 - Age Profile for the Gypsy and Traveller Community in England (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

Age Group	Number of People	Cumulative Percentage
Age 0 to 4	5,725	10.4
Age 5 to 7	3,219	16.3
Age 8 to 9	2,006	19.9
Age 10 to 14	5,431	29.8
Age 15	1,089	31.8
Age 16 to 17	2,145	35.7
Age 18 to 19	1,750	38.9
Age 20 to 24	4,464	47.1
Age 25 to 29	4,189	54.7
Age 30 to 34	3,833	61.7
Age 35 to 39	3,779	68.5
Age 40 to 44	3,828	75.5
Age 45 to 49	3,547	82.0
Age 50 to 54	2,811	87.1
Age 55 to 59	2,074	90.9
Age 60 to 64	1,758	94.1
Age 65 to 69	1,215	96.3
Age 70 to 74	905	97.9
Age 75 to 79	594	99.0
Age 80 to 84	303	99.6
Age 85 and over	230	100.0

Birth and Fertility Rates

8. The table above provides a way of understanding the rate of population growth through births. The table shows that surviving children aged 0-4 years comprise 10.4% of the Gypsy and Traveller population – which means that, on average, 2.1% of the total population was born each year (over the last 5 years). The same estimate is confirmed if we consider that those aged 0-14 comprise 29.8% of the Gypsy and Traveller population – which also means that almost exactly 2% of the population was born each year.
9. The total fertility rate (TFR) for the whole UK population is just below 2 – which means that on average each woman can be expected to have just less than two children who reach adulthood. We know of only one estimate of fertility rates of the UK Gypsy and Traveller community, in *'Ethnic identity and inequalities in*

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

10. ORS used our own multiple survey data to investigate the fertility rates of Gypsy and Traveller women. The ORS data shows that on average Gypsy and Traveller women aged 32 years have 2.5 children (but, because the children of mothers above this age point tend to leave home progressively, full TFRs were not completed). On this basis it is reasonable to infer an average of 3 children per woman during her lifetime, which is broadly consistent with the estimate of 2.75 children per woman derived from the 2011 Census.

Death Rates

11. Although the above data imply an annual growth rate through births of about 2%, the death rate has also to be taken into account. Whereas the average life expectancy across the whole population of the UK is currently just over 80 years, a Sheffield University study found that Gypsy and Traveller life expectancy is about 10-12 years less than average (Parry et al (2004) *'The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers: Report of Department of Health Inequalities in Health Research Initiative'*, University of Sheffield).
12. Therefore, in our population growth modelling we used a conservative estimate of average life expectancy as 72 years – which is entirely consistent with the lower-than-average number of Gypsies and Travellers aged over 70 years in the 2011 Census (and also in ORS's own survey data).

Modelling Outputs

13. If we assume a TFR of 3 and an average life expectancy of 72 years for Gypsies and Travellers, then the modelling, undertaken in PopGroup, projects the population to increase by 66% over the next 40 years – implying a population compound growth rate of 1.25% per annum. If we assume that Gypsy and Traveller life expectancy increases to 77 years by 2050, then the projected population growth rate rises to nearly 1.50% per annum. To generate an 'upper range' rate of population growth, we assumed an implausible TFR of 4 and an average life expectancy rising to 77 over the next 40 years – which then yields an 'upper range' growth rate of 1.90% per annum.

Household Growth

14. In addition to population growth influencing the number of households, the size of households also affects the number. Hence, population and household growth rates do not necessarily match directly, mainly due to the current tendency for people to live in smaller childless or single person households.
15. Because the Gypsy and Traveller population is relatively young and has many single parent households, a 1.25%-1.50% annual population growth could yield higher-than-average household growth rates, particularly if average household sizes fall or if younger-than-average households form. However, while there is evidence that Gypsy and Traveller households already form at an earlier age than in the general population, the scope for a more rapid rate of growth, through even earlier household formation, is limited.
16. Based on the 2011 Census, the table below compares the age of household representatives in English households with those in Gypsy and Traveller households – showing that the latter has many more household representatives aged under-25 years. In the general English population 3.60% of household representatives are aged 16-24, compared with 8.70% in the Gypsy and Traveller population. ORS's survey data shows that about 10% of Gypsy and Traveller households have household representatives aged under-25 years.

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

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

17. The following table shows that the proportion of single person Gypsy and Traveller households is not dissimilar to the wider population of England; but there are more lone parents, fewer couples without children, and fewer households with non-dependent children amongst Gypsies and Travellers

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

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

18. The key point, though, is that since 20% of Gypsy and Traveller households are lone parents with dependent children, and up to 30% are single persons, there is limited potential for further reductions in average household size to increase current household formation rates significantly – and there is no reason to think that earlier household formations or increasing divorce rates will in the medium term affect household formation rates. While there are differences with the general population, a 1.25%-1.50% per annum Gypsy and Traveller population growth rate is likely to lead to a household growth rate of 1.25%-1.50% per annum

Summary Conclusions

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

provide a 'margin' if their populations are relatively youthful; but in areas where on-site surveys indicate that there are fewer children in the Gypsy and Traveller population, lower estimates should be used.

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