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Wrexham County Borough Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

Final Report

Updated March

2024

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1. Executive Summary

Introduction and Methodology

1.1 The primary objective of the (2022) Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy and Traveller[1] accommodation in Wrexham.

1.2 The GTAA provides a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showmen's plots, and potential transit provision, for the Wrexham new Local Development Plan (LDP) period to 2028. The outcomes of this GTAA will replace the outcomes of the previous GTAA that was published in 2015.

1.3 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Wrexham through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder engagement and engagement with members of the Travelling Community. In addition, a range of local stakeholders were invited to sit on a Project Steering Group.

1.4 Following the preliminary engagement and publicity that was put in place[2], a total of 23 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living on sites, yards, and bricks and mortar accommodation in Wrexham. This represents a response rate of 92% of identified households. In addition, engagement was completed with neighbouring local authorities and other stakeholders to discuss potential need for transit provision.

1.5 The baseline date for the study was May 2022 but the GTAA has been updated in March 2024 in regard to the yard baseline.

Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

1.6 The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the GTAA period (2022-2027), and for the full new LDP period to 2028.

1.7 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Wrexham for the first 5 years of the GTAA Study period to 2027 is for **20 pitches** and need for the remainder of the Development Plan periods is for a further **2 pitches.** This gives a total need to the end of the new LDP period to 2028 for **22 pitches**. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area. These figures are made up from a combination of unauthorised pitches; over-crowding; movement from bricks and mortar; in-migration; and new household formation.

1.8 A detailed breakdown which sets out the components that make up this identified need, together with any other issues that have been taken into consideration can be found in **Chapter 6** of this report.

Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

1.9 The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the GTAA period (2022-2027), and for the full new LDP period to 2028.

[1] See Chapter 2 for the planning definition of a Traveller in Wales.
[2] See Chapter 4 and Appendix F for further details.

1.10 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Travelling Showpeople in Wrexham for the first 5 years of the GTAA Study period to 2027 is for **no plots** and need for the remainder of the new LDP period is for **no further plots.** This gives a total need to the end of the new LDP period to 2028 for **no plots**. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area. All of the plots are a result of new household formation.

1.11 A detailed breakdown which sets out the components that make up this identified need, together with any other issues that have been taken into consideration can be found in **Chapter 6** of this report.

Transit Recommendations

1.12 Discussions with local stakeholders, neighbouring local authorities, and analysis of records of unauthorised encampments, confirmed that there are limited instances of unauthorised encampments in Wrexham.

1.13 There have been other localised instances of Travellers temporarily visiting Wrexham to attend weddings or other events, but no further evidence of any long-term or permanent accommodation needs were identified.

1.14 The outcomes from the household interviews and discussions with stakeholders did not identify that there was a need for permanent transit provision locally, although there were discussions about a need for more transit provision across Wales.

1.15 As such it is recommended that **there is not a need at this time for the Council to provide a transit site** in Wrexham due to the low numbers of unauthorised encampments, and the short-term transient nature of these encampments.

1.16 It is also recommended that the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and consider the use of short-term toleration (including negotiated stopping arrangements) to deal with short-term transient stops. This management-based approach should also include consideration about whether to provide toilets, water, and refuse facilities. There are a number of examples across Wales and England where management-based approaches to dealing with unauthorised encampments have been successful. A good example can be found at www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk. There are also many examples where local authorities are taking a more strategic and regional approach towards addressing transit issues including in Essex, Leicestershire, the former Northamptonshire, and Hampshire.

2. Background and Policy Context

The Study

2.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) were appointed by Wrexham County Borough Council (the Council) as independent consultants in October 2021 to complete a robust and up-to-date assessment of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers residing and resorting in Wrexham for the new Local Development Plan (LDP) period to 2028.

2.2 The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies and Travellers under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and to support the Wrexham Replacement Local Development Plan (2013-2028). The Act requires Local Authorities to undertake a GTAA at least every 5 years, although Local Authorities have flexibility to undertake GTAAs more frequently if a material change in the level of need in the area has been identified. The Council published a GTAA in 2015 (covering the period up to 2020). Welsh Government wrote to all Local Planning Authorities in September 2019 to confirm those undertaking an LDP Review must ensure the GTAA establishes an evidence base for Gypsy and Traveller needs across the entire plan period. Welsh Government also confirmed that this may necessitate undertaking of a new GTAA (and providing appropriate site allocations, where relevant) prior to the statutory Deposit consultation to ensure plans can be found through the examination process and are able to be adopted.

2.3 This GTAA provides an assessment of need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Wrexham to fulfil these requirements, updating the previous GTAA published in 2015. It is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches and plots, and also to support the new Wrexham LDP (2013-2028).

2.4 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a GTAA.

2.5 The baseline date for the study was **May 2022** but the GTAA has been updated in March 2024 in regard to the yard baseline.

Legislation and Guidance

Welsh Government Circular 005/2018

2.6 Welsh Government Circular 005/2018 provides updated guidance on the planning aspects of identifying sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It also outlines how planning authorities and Gypsies and Travellers can work together to achieve this aim. It supersedes advice contained in Circular 30/2007 "Planning for gypsy and traveller caravan sites", Circular 78/91 "Travelling Showpeople" and Circular 76/94 "Gypsy Sites Policy and Unauthorised Camping".

2.7 The Circular include guidance on a range of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers including:

- Definition of Travellers
- Gypsies and Travellers – A Context
- Duty to Provide Sites

- Providing the Evidence Base
- Regional Working
- Development Plans
- Major Development Projects
- Designated Areas
- Planning Applications
- Enforcement
- Appeals
- Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity
- Monitoring Planning Applications

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

2.8 In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, Welsh Government Circular 005/2018 sets out that:

> *7. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets a framework for local authorities across Wales to ensure the 'sustainable development principle' (meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) is met. Section 4 of the Act puts in place a number of well-being goals which authorities are to seek to achieve in order to meet this principle. These goals include achieving 'a Wales of cohesive communities', containing attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities, and 'a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language', containing a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language.*
>
> *8. Housing is a fundamental issue that affects the lives of people across Wales, including our Gypsy and Traveller communities. The Welsh Government seeks to ensure a wide choice of accommodation is available to meet the needs of all members of the community. It is reflective of the Government's commitment to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community and in this instance, Gypsies and Travellers should have equal access to culturally appropriate accommodation as all other members of the community.*

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

2.9 Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) sets out that a *local housing authority must, in each review period, carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to its area*.

2.10 Section 102 of the Act requires that local authorities must prepare a report which they must submit to Welsh Ministers for approval that:

- details how the assessment was carried out.
- contains a summary of:
  - the consultation it carried out in connection with the assessment, and
  - the responses (if any) it received to that consultation.
- details the accommodation needs identified by the assessment.

2.11 Once approved the local housing authority must publish the assessment.

2.12 If need is identified in the GTAA report, Section 103 of the Act requires that a local authority must exercise its powers in Section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 so far as may be necessary to meet those needs.

2.13 Section 106 of the Act sets out that local authorities should have regard to any guidance given by Welsh Ministers. Guidance on Undertaking GTAAs was published by Welsh Government in May 2015 and this Guidance still remains in place in 2020.

2.14 The GTAA Guidance covers the following issues:

- Why a specific GTAA is required?
- What should be produced?
- Who needs to be consulted?
- What data sources need to be reviewed?
- Understanding the culture of Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- How to identify and communicate with Gypsies and Travellers?
- How to design, manage and undertake a GTAA?
- Support with partnership working and working regionally.
- Exploring specialist surveys, techniques, and questions to be used.
- How accommodation need is assessed?
- Submitting reports to Welsh Ministers.
- How to make provision for identified need?

2.15 Section 108 of the Act sets out that:

- **Accommodation needs** - includes, but is not limited to, needs with respect to the provision of sites on which mobile homes may be stationed.
- **Gypsies and Travellers** – means persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such), and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.
- **Mobile home** - has the meaning given by section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

2.16 The GTAA Guidance sets out the requirement that local authorities have to meet a legal duty to exercise their functions to provide mobile home pitches to meet any identified needs. These are set out in Section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

2.17 In this Act "*mobile home" means:*

- *Any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor*

vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle designed or adapted for human habitation but does not include any railway rolling stock which is for the time being on rails forming part of a railway system, or any tent.

» *A structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is composed of not more than 2 sections separately constructed and designed to be assembled on a site by means of bolts, clamps, or other devices, and is, when assembled, physically capable of being moved by road from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer).*

Welsh Government Designing and Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Guidance

2.18 As well as publishing guidance on undertaking GTAAs in May 2015 the Welsh Government also published additional guidance on designing and managing Gypsy and Traveller sites in order to assist local authorities in meeting need for Gypsies and Travellers. These two documents are intended as a guide to assist Local Authorities in providing appropriate services at reasonable cost to the public purse for Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in Wales. They contain practical guidance to assist local authorities to ensure sites are fit-for-purpose, and how best to manage public Traveller sites. The guidance is not statutory. However, it is anticipated by Welsh Government that the guidance will help local authorities and others in the development, improvement and management of Gypsy and Traveller sites, and will form part of the consideration of the Welsh Government in assessing applications for Sites Capital Grant funding in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (1996-2011), Adopted 2005

2.19 The Wrexham Local Development Plan (2006-2021) was adopted by Wrexham County Borough Council in February 2005 and became operative immediately.

2.20 The new LDP for Wrexham (2013 – 2028) was postponed and, when it is brought forward, it will supersede and replace the earlier Wrexham Unitary Development Plan

2.21 The UDP has Policy H9 (Gypsy Caravan Sites) and identifies the site at Ruthin Road.

Policy H9 – Gypsy Caravan Sites

In exceptional circumstances, where sites for caravans for individual gypsy families cannot be accommodated within settlement limits, consideration will be given to other proposals, subject to compliance with Policy GDP 1.

Para 6.19:

The County Borough has developed a strategy for gypsies which involves the provision of additional pitches at Ruthin Road, Wrexham; the closure of the Croesnewydd Site, Wrexham; the provision of housing for gypsies in existing accommodation; and the development by the gypsies themselves of appropriate sites for individual families. It is not intended to develop any additional large sites during the Plan period, and it is likely that any new proposals by gypsies to develop caravan sites will be for small sites of no more than three caravans, for individual families. The policy recognises that it will not always be possible to find a suitable site within settlement limits. Proposals will not be supported where the new caravan site conflicts with other general environmental and locational policies and the general development principles outlined in Policy GDP1. Particular attention will be paid to proposals' visual impact on the surrounding landscape character.

Policy GDP1 - Development Objectives

All new development should:

a) Ensure that built development in its scale, design and layout, and in its use of materials and landscaping, accords with the character of the site and makes a positive contribution to the appearance of the nearby locality.

b) Take account of personal and community safety and security in the design and layout of development and public / private spaces.

c) Make the best use of design techniques, siting and orientation in order to conserve energy and water resources.

d) Ensure safe and convenient pedestrian and vehicular access to and from development sites, both on site and in the nearby locality.

e) Ensure that built development is located where it has convenient access to public transport facilities and is well related to pedestrian and cycle routes wherever possible.

f) Ensure the safety and amenity of the public and safeguard the environment from the adverse effects of pollution of water, land or air, hazards from industry and quarrying, and associated noise, odour or vibration arising from development.

g) Secure public services (e.g. gas, water, electricity) to development at minimum public cost.

h) Safeguard sites and areas of nature conservation and wildlife interest, and to provide new habitats where there is an unavoidable loss of existing habitats and areas of wildlife interest.

i) Ensure that development does not result in, or is subject to, flooding, soil erosion, landslides or contamination, either on or off the site.

j) Have regard to the need to safeguard those areas that possess a strong Welsh cultural and/or linguistic identity from development that could harm this identity.

k) Secure the development of sustainable communities, through the promotion of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

Definition of Key Terms

2.22 The 2015 GTAA Guidance contains common definitions that have been used in the Guidance and that will also be used in the GTAA Report. These can be found in **Appendix A**.

3. Analysis of Existing Data

3.1 The purpose of this section of the GTAA is to set out current information relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population in Wrexham including previous assessments of need, socio-demographic data, caravan count data and the current provision of accommodation.

Current and Previous GTAAs

Wrexham GTAA 2015-2020

3.2 The most recent GTAA for Wrexham was published in 2015[3]. Based upon the evidence presented in the study the estimated pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Wrexham for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period was for 15 pitches, and for the remainder of the GTAA plan period a need for a further 12 pitches was identified. This gave a total need for the whole GTAA plan period of 27 pitches.

3.3 The previous GTAA is unclear on the level of need that was required for Travelling Showpeople.

Population Data – 2011 Census

3.4 Analysis of 2011 Census data relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population identified a total of 30 households and 104 individuals who identified as Gypsies or Irish Travellers living in Wrexham – representing less than 0.07% of the population as a whole. It is likely that this could be an under-estimate given the accepted lower than average levels of response to the Census from the members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. The 2021 Census may provide a better understanding of the Gypsy and Traveller population through the inclusion of Roma in the question about ethnicity.

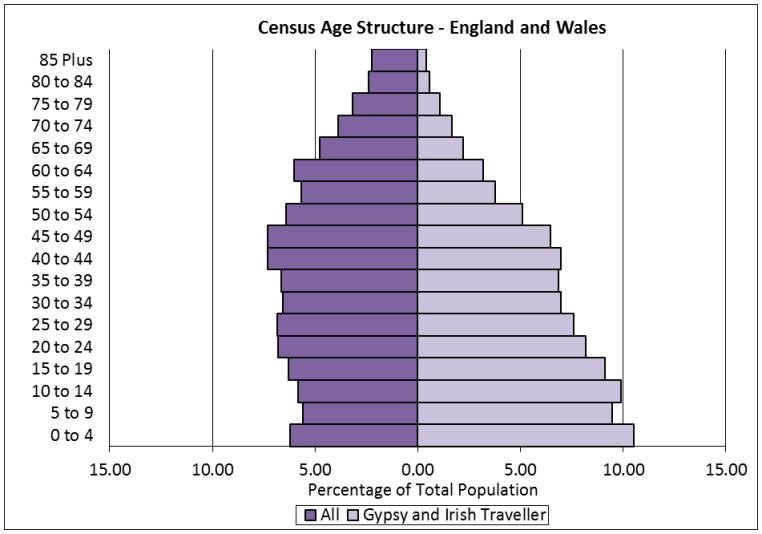
3.5 Despite the likely under-estimate of the population of Gypsies and Irish Travellers, data from the 2011 Census does identify some significant demographic differences when compared to the population as a whole. These are important in terms of explaining the higher rate of new household formation for Gypsy and Traveller households compared with the settled population. In summary the Census shows that nationally for England and Wales:

- Just under half of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households had dependent children (45%), compared to 29% for England and Wales as a whole.
- The median age of Gypsies or Irish Travellers was 26 years compared to the national median of 39 years.
- Just 6% of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population were aged 65 years and over compared to a national figure of 16%.
- Gypsies or Irish Travellers below 20 years of age accounted for 39% of the population compared to a national figure of 24%.
- Gypsies or Irish Travellers below 10 years of age accounted for 20% of the population compared to a national figure of 12%.
- Gypsies or Irish Travellers had the lowest proportion of people rating their health as good or very good at 70% compared to a national figure of 81%.

[3] http://old.wrexham.gov.uk/assets/pdfs/housing/documents/wrexham_gypsy_traveller_accommodation_needs_assessment.pdf

3.6 The chart below shows the age structure for the whole population (All) and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in England and Wales. This shows that there is a higher proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller children and younger adults, and significantly lower proportions of those aged 50 and over. This is due to higher birth rates and lower life expectancy for the Gypsy and Traveller population. Unfortunately due to the low numbers of Gypsies and Irish Travellers identified in the Census living in Wrexham it is not possible to make any meaningful comparisons at a local level.

Figure 1 - Comparison of Census Age Structure (2011 Census)



Caravan Count Data

3.7 Another source of published information on the Gypsy and Traveller population is the Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count which uses data provided by Local Authorities and is published twice a year.

3.8 This is a physical count of the number of *caravans* on both authorised and unauthorised sites across Wales. As this count is of caravans *and not* households, it makes it very difficult to interpret and use for a study such as this because it does not count pitches, resident households, or household demographics. Historically in Wales the count was merely a 'snapshot in time' conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and therefore any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates were not recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. The count also does not seek to determine the ethnic status of the occupiers of caravans.

3.9 More recently in Wales a live system has been put in place which allows local authorities to upload details of encampments when they occur throughout the year.

3.10 However, the data captured in the Caravan Count does give an indication of the number of sites, and authorised and unauthorised caravans in each local authority, and can be useful in supporting the determination of any transit needs and identifying year on year trends to support an assessment of need.

3.11 The latest Gypsy and Traveller Caravan County data for Wales is from July 2021 and was published in October 2021.

3.12 Analysis of the Caravan Count Data for Wrexham between January 2010 and July 2021 shows that there have been 2 unauthorised sites recorded in recent years, with 2 tolerated caravans on the sites.

3.13 In addition, details of recorded encampments were provided by the Council and were analysed to help to determine whether there was any need for transit provision. See Chapter 6 for further details.

Current Accommodation Provision

3.14 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 and Travellers in Wrexham. In general, a pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. 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.

3.15 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 a publicly-provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Housing Association. Pitches on public sites can usually 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).

3.16 The alternatives to public residential sites are private residential sites and yards for Gypsies and Travellers. 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 some private sites that are run on a commercial basis. 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.

3.17 The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a restricted period of residence which can vary from a period of weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is an emergency 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. Another alternative is a Negotiated Stopping Agreement that allows Gypsy and Traveller families to set up short-term camps as long as they agree to certain conditions. These are designed to accommodate, for a temporary period, Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel. A number of authorities also operate an accepted encampments policy where short-term stopovers are tolerated without enforcement action.

3.18 Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers or with the approval of the landowner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers – for example laybys or car parks.

Sites and Yards in Wrexham

3.19 In Wrexham, at the baseline date for the GTAA, there was 1 public site (15 pitches); 6 private sites with permanent planning permission (15 pitches); 1 site which is tolerated for planning purposes (1 pitch); and 1 unauthorised site (2 pitches). There was also 1 Travelling Showpeople yard (3 households on 1 large plot) in Wrexham. There was no transit provision.

3.20 Further details can be found in Chapter 5 and **Appendix B**.

Figure 2 - Total amount of provision in Wrexham (updated March 2024)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	6	15
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public sites	1	15
Public transit provision	0	0
Private transit provision	0	0
Tolerated sites	1	1
Unauthorised sites	1	2
Travelling Showpeople yards	1	1
TOTAL	**10**	**34**

Figure 3 - Sites and Yards in Wrexham (updated March 2024)

Site Name	Pitches/Plots	Status
Ruthin Road, Wrexham	15	Public
Bowers Road, Acrefair (The Clans)	2	Private – Authorised
Fennant Road, Ponciau	2	Private – Authorised
Brymbo Road, Bwlchgwyn	4	Private – Authorised
Homestead Lane, Wrexham (Berryland)	1	Private – Authorised
Southsea Road, Southsea	5	Private – Authorised
Mountain View, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	Private – Authorised
The Retreat, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	Tolerated
The Bungalow, Halton Roundabout, Chirk	2	Unauthorised
Old Mold Road, Stansty	1	TSP - Authorised
Total	**34**	

4. Methodology

4.1 This section sets out the methodology that has been followed to deliver the outputs for this study. The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance issued under Section 106 of the Housing (Wales) Act sets out the requirements for the GTAA and the methodology and calculation of need that has been followed has sought to address these and allow for a full and robust GTAA to be completed.

4.2 The study has been undertaken by Opinion Research Services, in conjunction with Wrexham County Borough Council and the approach taken covers the following core areas of work:

- GTAA Project Steering Group.
- Identifying and analyse existing data sources.
- Publicising the accommodation assessment.
- Conducting the accommodation assessment surveys.
- Calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

4.3 The stages below provide a summary of the methodology that was used to complete this study.

GTAA Project Steering Group

4.4 The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance requires that a Project Steering Group be established to ensure that the study is informed by all available local knowledge and expertise. The Council set up and managed a Steering Group for Wrexham. The individuals who attended the meetings of the GTAA Steering Group were:

Figure 4 – GTAA Project Steering Group Membership

Name	Organisation	Job Title
Andrew Harradine	WCBC	Regeneration and Business Investment Lead
Emily Reddy	WCBC	Regional Community Cohesion Officer
Glyn Chaplin	WCBC	Project Officer
Gwyn Jones	WCBC	Project Officer
Mark Owens	WCBC	Gypsy Traveller Support Officer
Matthew Phillips	WCBC	Planning Policy Lead
Michelle Berry	WCBC	Project Officer
Rhian Parry	WCBC	Traveller Education Service Manager
Sarah Evans	WCBC	Housing Tenancies Lead
Jim Breese	Travelling Ahead	North Wales Engagement Officer
Trudy Aspinall	Travelling Ahead	Team Manager
Michael Bayliss	ORS	Researcher
Steve Jarman	ORS	Head of Traveller Assessments

4.5 As set out in the GTAA Guidance the key responsibilities of the Steering Group were to agree on the aims and objectives of the study; promote the benefits of the study to members of the Travelling Community; help identify households living in bricks and mortar and on unauthorised sites and encampments; provide expert stakeholder input into the identification of local need; provide feedback on the emerging outputs from the study; and to share and promote the final outcomes to members of the Travelling Community. The first Steering Group meeting was held on 4th October 2021; the second Steering Group meeting was held on 14th

January 2022; the 3rd Steering Group meeting was held on May 4th 2022; and a final Steering Group meeting will be arranged once the GTAA Report has been signed-off. All meetings have been held online due to COVID-19 and it has not been possible to identify any members of the travelling community to join the Steering Group.

4.6 The first Steering Group meeting discussed the background to the GTAA and clarified the purpose and the role of the Group. Means of communicating the GTAA were also discussed, together with opportunities to engage with households living in bricks and mortar. The second Steering Group meeting provided an opportunity for an update on the emerging outcomes of the fieldwork and the assessment of need to be discussed. The third Steering Group provided an opportunity to review the outcomes and provide feedback towards any outstanding issues. The final Steering Group meeting is due to discuss sharing the GTAA Report, discussing how the study outcomes could be communicated to members of the Travelling Community and how to address the identified need in LDP Policies.

Stakeholder Engagement

4.7 In addition to the Steering Group contact was made with a number of stakeholders listed in Annex 1 in the GTAA Guidance to identify whether they had any particular issues they would like to raise in relation to Gypsies and Travellers in Wrexham. The organisations that were contacted were:

- Gypsies & Travellers Wales
- Travelling Ahead
- The Unity Project
- The Bridges Project
- The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain - South Wales
- The Traveller Movement
- Friends, Families and Travellers
- The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- The Gypsy Council
- Roma Support Group

4.8 Contact was made with the above organisations towards the start of t5he research period so there was a period of several months to provide a response. In addition reminder emails were also sent to those organisations who had not responded. At the time of preparing this report the only response that was received was from Travelling Ahead and a summary of the interview that was completed can be found in **Appendix E**.

Identify and Analyse Existing Data

4.9 A desk-based review was undertaken to collate and analyse a range of secondary data and other local intelligence that has been used to identify and support the assessment of current and future accommodation need including:

- Planning records.
- Census data.
- Site records and waiting lists.
- Caravan Counts data.

- Records of unauthorised sites/encampments.
- Information on planning applications/appeals.
- Information on enforcement actions.
- Existing GTAA's and other relevant local studies.
- Existing national and local policy, guidance, and best practice.

Publicise the Accommodation Assessment

4.10 In order to get buy-in from members of the Travelling Community to ensure that they were able and willing to participate in the site and household interviews and provide accurate information, it was important that effective publicity and pre-notification was put in place. This was also very important in terms of identifying households living in bricks and mortar accommodation to interview as part of the study.

4.11 The approach to publicity was discussed with members of the Steering Group prior to the fieldwork commencing. This publicity that was put in place included the actions below and examples can be found in **Appendix F**:

- Posters and flyers in a range of community venues and libraries.
- Promotion through front-line services (Officers from Education e-mailed the flyer to schools that had identified Gypsy Traveller/Showmen children and it has been distributed to the families of those living in bricks and mortar).
- Information circulation by Gypsy and Traveller advocacy organisations.
- Publicity information and materials were shared with the Showman's Guild for distribution across the Guild's platforms.
- Word-of-mouth information sharing by Gypsy Liaison officers and Council Officers involved in planning and providing services for Gypsies and Travellers.
- Contact with organisations set out in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

Conducting the Accommodation Assessment Surveys

Household Interviews

4.12 Through the desk-based research and information from the Steering Group, ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites, yards, and encampments in Wrexham, and sought to undertake a full demographic study of the residents on all pitches and plots – as required by the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

4.13 Residents on sites were contacted by Researchers from ORS to complete an interview in line with the ORS COVID-19 Risk Assessment Process. One household who requested to complete their interview over the telephone. All other interviews were completed face-to-face, while maintaining COVID-19 Risk Assessment procedures. Interviews were completed with all households using the Welsh Government GTAA Household Interview questions.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

4.14 ORS worked closely with the Council to identify and encourage households living in bricks and mortar to

participate in the GTAA. Contacts were sought through members of the Steering Group, speaking with people on existing sites and adverts on social media, and through posters displayed on community noticeboards and within local communities.

4.15 Residents living in bricks and mortar were contacted by telephone by Researchers from ORS to request an appointment to complete an interview in line with the ORS COVID-19 Risk Assessment Process. The 1 household who were interviewed requested to complete their interviews over the telephone. The Interview was completed using the Welsh Government GTAA Household Interview questions. Following further guidance from Welsh Government that set out that face-to-face interviews should be completed wherever possible, households were recontacted to see if they would like to complete a further face-to-face interview, however, the household stated that they would prefer to complete interviews over the telephone.

Calculate the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

4.16 The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance sets out a detailed methodology to assess current and future pitch needs. This approach has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA. As with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation is comprised of a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future population need. This information has been obtained from a combination of the desk-based research and the outcomes of the site and household interviews, together with additional information from members of the Steering Group and other local stakeholders. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below.

Current Residential Supply

- Occupied local authority pitches.
- Occupied authorised private pitches.
- Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

Current Residential Demand

4.17 Total current residential demand is made up of the following components. It was important to make full use of the desk-based research and intelligence from members of the Steering Group to address issues of double counting (for example bricks and mortar households who are also on the waiting list for pitches):

- Households on unauthorised encampments.
- Households on unauthorised developments.
- Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households[4].
- Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar[5].
- New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

[4] Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 195-201 of the GTAA Guidance.
[5] Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 172-183 of the GTAA Guidance.

Future Demand

4.18 Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the study period. ORS has undertaken extensive research into the population and household growth of the Gypsy and Traveller community in England and Wales (**Appendix G**). This was used to inform this element of the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance (see Paragraphs 203-209). Paragraph 203 sets out that the research completed by ORS suggests that an acceptable growth rate is usually within the range of 1.50% – 3.00% per annum and Paragraph 204 sets out that Local Authorities should analyse the demographic data provided by community members to consider their own local anticipated future household growth.

4.19 Information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study.

4.20 The estimate of new household formation for remaining years of the study has been completed based on demographic evidence from the site interviews that were completed. Further evidence to support the approach taken to calculate new household formation is set out in Chapter 6.

Final Outcomes

4.21 All of the components of supply and demand are presented in an easy-to-understand table as set out in the GTAA Guidance in Table 3. A separate table has been prepared for the current and future needs of Gypsies, Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople as their needs should be considered independently as their circumstances are different from that of the wider travelling community.

Transit Provision

4.22 The GTAA also includes an assessment of the need for any transit sites or temporary stopping places to meet the needs of members of the Travelling Community who either travel permanently or for part of the year. In order to investigate the potential need for transit provision when undertaking the GTAA, ORS have undertaken analysis of records of unauthorised sites and encampments that were identified during the desk-based research. Data from the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count has also been considered as supporting evidence.

Compliance with Engagement Checklist

4.23 The table below shows that this GTAA has been compliant with all of points set out in the Engagement Checklist in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

Figure 5 – Engagement Checklist

	Task	Completed
1	Visit every Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.	✓
2	Publish details of the GTAA process, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the local authority website, Travellers Times website and the World's Fair publication. In addition adverts were placed by Welsh Government.	✓

	Extensive publicity was undertaken to promote the GTAA and details can be found in Appendix F. However, Worlds Fair ceased being published as a weekly newspaper in 2019 (although there were plans to relaunch it in 2021) and Travellers Times no longer publish details of GTAAs on their Facebook pages.	
3	Consult relevant community support organisations, such as those in Annex 1. *Engagement was sought with all organisations listed in Annex 1 of the GTAA Guidance. The only organisation that responded was Travelling Ahead and a telephone interview was completed with their Team Manager. A summary of the outcomes of the interview can be found in Appendix E.*	✓
4	There are Local Authority waiting lists for Ruthin Road public site.	✓
5	Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA Project Steering Group. *Due to the small numbers of the Gypsy and Traveller community residing in Wrexham and meetings held via Teams as a result of Covid 19, it was not possible to encourage a member of the community to sit on the Steering Group.*	✓
6	Ensure contact details provided to the local authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed. *All contacts provided by the local authority were followed up and interviews were completed.*	✓
7	Consider holding on-site (or nearby) GTAA information events to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the local authority. *Due to the very small number of Travellers in Wrexham, and ongoing concerns due to COVID-19 it was not possible to hold any on-site information events.*	✓

5. Survey Findings

Background

5.1 The desk-based research, and additional information from members of the Steering Group, identified a total of 1 public (Local Authority) site (15 pitches); 6 private sites with permanent planning permission (15 pitches); 1 site that is tolerated for planning purposes (1 pitch); and 1 unauthorised site (2 pitches). There was also 1 Travelling Showpeople yard (1 plot). One household living in bricks and mortar was identified to interview.

Figure 6 – Sites and yards in Wrexham (updated March 2024)

Site Name	Pitches/Plots	Status
Ruthin Road, Wrexham	15	Public
Bowers Road, Acrefair	2	Private – Authorised
Fennant Road, Ponciau	2	Private – Authorised
Brymbo Road, Bwlchgwyn	4	Private – Authorised
Homestead Lane, Wrexham (Berryland)	1	Private – Authorised
Southsea Road, Southsea	5	Private – Authorised
Mountain View, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	Private – Authorised
The Retreat, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	Tolerated
The Bungalow, Halton Roundabout, Chirk	2	Unauthorised
Old Mold Road, Stansty	1	TSP - Authorised
n/a	n/a	Bricks and Mortar
Total	**34**	

5.2 Interviews were attempted on the sites and yards in January and February 2022 and a total of 22 successful interviews were completed across all the 10 sites and yards. In addition, 1 interview was completed with a household that was identified living in bricks and mortar. This represented an overall response rate of 92% of occupied pitches and households.(When calculating the response rate, the baseline has been altered to include 8 pitches on the public site; undeveloped and vacant pitches have been removed from the adjusted baseline; and the Travelling Showpeople yard has been adjusted from 8 plots to 1 large plot. This gives 23 interviews and 2 no contact making 92%).

Figure 7 – Interviews completed in Wrexham (May 2022)

Site/Yard Name	Pitches/Plots	Interviews	Refusals
Ruthin Road, Wrexham	8	8	0[6]
Bowers Road, Acrefair	2	2	0
Fennant Road, Ponciau	2	0	2[7]
Brymbo Road, Bwlchgwyn	4	0	4[8]
Homestead Lane, Wrexham (Berryland)	1	1	0
Southsea Road, Southsea	5	5	0

[6] Ruthin Road site has permission for 15 pitches. However, through the interviews conducted at the location it was

found that a number of the single pitches have been converted into larger double pitches. All residents were interviewed, and all households recorded.

[7] Site visited on numerous occasions, but no contact could be made with residents. See Appendix C for further details.

[8] Site unoccupied. Owner/occupants spoken with during bricks and mortar interview.

Mountain View, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	0	1[9]
The Retreat, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	0	1[10]
The Bungalow, Halton Roundabout, Chirk	2	2	0
Old Mold Road, Stansty	1	3	5[11]
Bricks and Mortar 1	n/a	1	0
TOTAL	**27**	**23**	**0**

Interview Log

5.3 A copy of the Interview Log can be found in **Appendix C**.

Overview and Demographics of Residents

5.4 Information collected on the type of accommodation lived in by those who were interviewed shows that the Gypsies and Travellers who were interviewed in Wrexham live on public sites, private sites, unauthorised sites, Travelling Showmen's yards, or in bricks and mortar.

5.5 In total the site interviews covered 105 residents living on the sites, yards and in bricks and mortar. This was made up of 67 adults and 38 children aged under 18 and is a total of 29 households. This equates to 63.8% adults and 36.2% children and teenagers. Although not a direct comparison, data from the Census for Wrexham as a whole (the settled community and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community) and for Gypsies or Irish Travellers has been compared to the site population. This shows a higher proportion of those aged under 18 in the Gypsy and Traveller population when compared to that of the Wrexham population as a whole. This is important when considering the new household growth rate that could be applied to the population when longer-term need is determined.

Figure 8 – Age and Gender of Household Members as % of Total Residents Interviewed (May 2022)

Age and Gender - Sites	Number	%
Male	53	50.5
Female	52	49.5
Unknown	9	7.9
Under 18	38	36.2
18 and over	67	63.8

Interview Summary

5.6 Summaries of the interviews that were completed with Gypsies and Travellers living on sites and yards, and living in bricks and mortar can be found in **Appendix D**.

[9] Mountain View appeared to be occupied but no contact could be made with the residents. It is suspected that the site is sub-let to non-travellers.
[10] The Retreat site is currently vacant.
[11] Only 3 families currently occupy the location.

6. Assessing Accommodation Needs

6.1 This section focuses on the pitch provision which is needed by Wrexham County Borough Council for a short-term period of 5 years and the full Local Development Plan period to 2028. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also from secondary data sources.

6.2 This section is based upon a combination of information from the household interviews, planning records, Steering Group members, and from other stakeholders. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead is used to validate information from planning records or other sources.

6.3 This section concentrates not only upon the total provision which is needed in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.

6.4 Welsh Government Guidance requires an assessment of current and future pitch needs and provides a prescribed framework for undertaking this calculation. This framework has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA.

6.5 As with any assessment of housing need the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply that is available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out in the sections below.

Current Residential Supply

- Occupied local authority pitches.
- Occupied authorised private pitches.
- Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

Current Residential Demand

- Households on unauthorised encampments.
- Households on unauthorised developments.
- Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households[12].
- Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar[13].
- New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

[12] Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 195-201 of the GTAA Guidance
[13] Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 172-183 of the GTAA Guidance

Future Demand

6.6 Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the study period. Information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study (although it is important to *net* this off against supply that has been identified during the first 5 years of the study). New household formation for the remainder of the study period have been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews.

Current Authorised Residential Supply

6.7 To assess the current Gypsy and Traveller provision it is important to understand the total number of existing pitches and their planning status. At the baseline for the GTAA there was 1 Public (Local Authority) site (15 pitches); 6 private sites with planning permission (15 pitches); 1 Tolerated site (1 pitch); and 1 unauthorised site (2 pitches). There was also 1 Travelling Showpeople yard (1 large plot).

Figure 9 – Total number of authorised sites in Wrexham (May 2022)

Category	Sites	Pitches/Plots	Occupied
Private sites with permanent planning permission	6	15	7[14]
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0	0
Public sites (Council and Registered Providers)	1	15	8[15]
Public transit provision	0	0	0
Private transit provision	0	0	0
Tolerated sites	1	0	0
Travelling Showpeople yards	1	1	1
Total	**9**	**31**	**16**

6.8 The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become, available on existing sites in order to determine the supply of available pitches. The main ways of finding this is through:

- **Current vacant pitches** – There are 16 unoccupied pitches.
- **Pitches expected to become vacant** – No pitches expected to become vacant.
- **Pitches currently with planning permission** – There are no pitches on sites that have planning permission that have not been implemented.

6.9 This gives a figure for **overall supply of 0 pitches**.

Figure 10 - Summary of Pitch Supply in Wrexham - May 2022

Category	Pitches
Current vacant pitches	16
Pitches expected to become vacant	0

[14] Brymbo Road = 4 pitches unoccupied; Mountain View = 1 pitch unoccupied; Unknown status at Fennant Road = 2 pitches possibly unoccupied.
[15] A number of pitches have been converted into double pitches. Site visit indicated that there are 8 occupied pitches at Ruthin Road.

Movement to bricks and mortar	0
Out-migration	0
Unimplemented pitches with planning consent	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	**0**

Current Residential Demand

6.10 The next stage of the process is to assess current need and determine how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area.

Current Unauthorised Sites

6.11 The study has identified 1 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller site.

Figure 11 - Summary of Unauthorised and Tolerated Pitches/Plots in Wrexham (May 2022)

Site	Pitches
The Bungalow, Chirk	2
TOTAL	**2**

Concealed Households and Over-Crowded Pitches/Plots

6.12 The site interviews sought to identify concealed or doubled-up households on authorised sites that require a pitch immediately. Welsh Government Guidance defines concealed households as those which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses, pitches, or plots) assigned to another household. This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch. The site interviews identified 19 concealed or doubled-up households – 5 doubled-up households on the authorised public site; 7 doubled-up households on the authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites, and 1 living in Bricks and Mortar.

Conventional Housing

6.13 Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with GTAAs. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a total of 19 Gypsy or Irish Traveller households in Wrexham living in bricks and mortar.

6.14 As noted earlier, ORS went to all possible lengths to identify Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar and worked with stakeholders, Council officers, and households that were interviewed to identify households to interview. This process resulted in 1 household that were interviewed. Within the household there were 2 families who had a need to move to a site in Wrexham. Both families own land Wrexham that does not currently have planning permission for pitches.

Figure 12 - Summary of Bricks and Mortar Need in Wrexham - May 2022

Site	Pitches
Existing households	2
TOTAL	**2**

New Households to Arrive

6.15 At the time of the GTAA there were 5 households or individuals on the waiting list for a pitch on the public site in Wrexham. Discussions with the Council have determined that 4 households/individuals are currently living in Wrexham, and 1 households/individuals are currently living in other local authorities in Wales. As such, none are included as formal components of need in this GTAA.

6.16 Assessments also need to consider in-migration (households requiring accommodation who intend to move into the study area from outside) and out-migration (households intending to move away from the study area). Site surveys typically identify only small numbers of in-migrant and out-migrant households and the data is not normally robust enough to extrapolate long-term trends. At the national level, there is zero net migration of Gypsies and Travellers across the UK, but this assessment has taken into account local migration effects on the basis of the best local evidence available.

6.17 Evidence drawn from household interviews in Wrexham has been carefully considered **and has identified need from in-migration from 1 household** in need of a pitch in Wrexham.

Additional Pitch Provision: Future Need

6.18 The next stage of the process is to assess future need and determine how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future during the first 5 years of the assessment, and for the longer Local Development Plan period to 2028.

Population and Household Growth

6.19 Nationally, a household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local GTAAs, even though there is no statistical evidence of households growing so quickly. The result has been to inflate both national and local requirements for additional pitches unrealistically. In this context, ORS has prepared a *Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates* that was updated in June 2020. The main conclusions are set out here and the full Technical Note can be found in **Appendix G**.

6.20 Those seeking to provide evidence of high annual net household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers have sometimes sought to rely on increases in the number of caravans, as reflected in the Caravan Counts. However, Caravan Count data is unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through detailed demographic analysis.

6.21 The research undertaken by ORS has identified that in fact, the growth in the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.50% per annum – much less than the 3.00% per annum often assumed, but still greater than in the settled community. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2.00% per annum nationally.

6.22 The often assumed 3.00% per annum net household growth rate is unrealistic and would require clear statistical evidence before being used for planning purposes. In practice, the best available evidence supports a national net household growth rate of 1.50% per annum for Gypsies and Travellers.

6.23 There are 2 measures of household growth that are used for the assessment of need in this study. Evidence of *gross* household formation (family growth) from Section D of the Household Survey, *netted off* against

evidence of 1 year pitch turnover and pitches expected to become vacant, has been used for the first 5-year period. New household formation for the remaining years of the GTAA has been based on demographic evidence from the household interviews.

6.24 The site and bricks and mortar interviews identified **8 new households** as a result of family growth from teenage children over the first 5 years of the assessment, and a no annual pitch turnover as all residents on the public site are settled.

6.25 Overall, the household growth rate used for the assessment of future needs has been informed by local evidence. This demographic evidence has been used to adjust the ORS national growth rate of 1.50% up or down based on the proportion of those aged under 18 (by planning status). For households that were interviewed 36.2% of residents were aged under 18 and this is the same as the ORS national proportion. Therefore the ORS national rate of 1.50% has been used and that this results in a need for 2 pitches over the remainder of the Local Plan period to 2028.

Overall Need for Gypsies and Travellers in Wrexham

6.26 The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the study period, and for the full Local Development Plan period.

6.27 Following this approach, the overall estimated provision that is needed in Wrexham for the first 5 years is for **20 pitches**.

6.28 The overall estimated provision that is needed up to 2028 is for **22 pitches.**

Figure 13 – Pitches Needed in Wrexham from 2022-2028

Current Residential Supply	Number of Pitches	Notes
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	8	8 pitches at Ruthin Road
B. Occupied authorised private pitches/tolerated pitches	12	2 pitches at Bowers Road; 2 pitches at Fennant Road; 1 pitch at Homestead Lane; 5 pitches at Southsea; 1 at Mountain View; 1 at The Retreat
Total	**20**	
Planned Residential Supply	**Number of Pitches**	
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant pitches	0	None
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	0	No pitches expected to become vacant
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	11	4 at Brymbo Road; 7 at The Bungalow
Total	**11**	
Current Residential Demand	**Pitch Demand**	
F. Unauthorised encampments	0	No long-term unauthorised encampments
G. Unauthorised developments	2	2 at The Bungalow
H. Overcrowded pitches/Unsuitable accommodation	12	5 at Ruthin Road; 1 at Bowers Road; 4 at Homestead Lane; 2 at Southsea
I. Conventional housing	4	3 at Bricks and Mortar 1; 1 at Ruthin Road
J. New households to arrive	4	4 for Ruthin Road
Total	**22**	

Current Households	Future Households (2022-27)	Future Households (2027-28)
K. 42	**51**	**53**
L. Additional household pitch need	**9**	**2**
Unmet Need	**Need Arising**	**Need Accommodated**
M. Current residential demand	**22**	
N. Future residential demand (to 2027)	**9**	
O. Future residential demand (to 2028)	**2**	
P. Planned residential supply		**11**
Q. Unmet need (to 2027)	**20**	
R. Unmet need (to 2028)	**22**	

Mitigation of Need from Potential Supply

6.29 It should be noted that, if resolutions over currently disputed planning status on certain are made, a portion of the overall need identified in the GTAA could be met on these existing sites.

6.30 For example, much of the need arising from *conventional housing* can be met if planning conditions are met at Brymbo Road, Bwlchgwyn. The site has permission for 4 pitches if planning conditions are met. Therefore, the need from conventional housing would reduce from a need for 4 pitches to a need for 1 pitch. Additionally, the entire need from *unauthorised developments* can be met should planning conditions be met at The Bungalow, and planning permission is granted for the site.

6.31 Furthermore, whilst the current planning status is not in dispute for the Bowers Road, Homestead Lane, and Southsea sites, all the households interviewed indicated that they would like to expand their current sites to accommodate all current and future need that has been identified[16]. Therefore, if site expansion were to be permitted, any current and future need arising from these sites could be met without the Council having to provide any additional pitches.

6.32 If all the aforementioned mitigations were to transpire, then all need in the area requiring Council intervention would arise from the public site at Ruthin Road.

[16] Interview summaries can be found in **Appendix D.**

Need for Travelling Showpeople in Wrexham

6.33 The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the study period, and for the full new LDP period to 2028.

6.34 Following this approach, the overall estimated provision that is needed in Wrexham for the first 5 years is for **no plots** and the overall estimated provision that is needed up to 2028 is for **no plots.**

Figure 14 – Plots Needed in Wrexham from 2022-2028

Current Residential Supply	**Number of Plots**	**Notes**
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	0	No Local Authority/public yards
B. Occupied authorised private plots/tolerated plots	3	3 households on 1 large plot at Old Mold Road
Total	**3**	
Planned Residential Supply	**Number of Plots**	
C. Vacant Local Authority plots and available vacant plots	0	No Local Authority/public yards
D. Plots expected to become vacant in near future	0	No Local Authority/public yards
E. New Local Authority and private plots with planning permission	0	None
Total	**0**	
Current Residential Demand	**Plot Demand**	
F. Unauthorised encampments	0	None
G. Unauthorised developments	0	None
H. Overcrowded plots/Unsuitable accommodation	0[17]	None
I. Conventional housing	0	None
J. New households to arrive	0	None
Total	**0**	

Current Households	**Future Households (2022-27)**	**Future Households (2027-28)**
K. 3	**3**	**3**
L. Additional household plot need	**0**	**0**
Unmet Need	**Need Arising**	**Need Accommodated**
M. Current residential demand	**0**	
N. Future residential demand (to 2027)	**0**	
O. Future residential demand (to 2028)	**0**	
P. Planned residential supply		**0**
Q. Unmet need (to 2027)	**0**	
R. Unmet need (to 2028)	**0**	

[17] While there is some potential overcrowding at the Old Mold Road yard, the residents have invested in an alternative yard outside of Wrexham and intend to move there.

Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

6.35 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. A transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity, and amenity blocks. An alternative to a transit site is a temporary stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time a Traveller can stay on it but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.

6.36 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62A of the Act allows the Police to direct trespassers to remove themselves, their vehicles, and their property from any land where a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same Local Authority area. A suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is one which is situated in the same Local Authority area as the land on which the trespass has occurred, and which is managed by a Local Authority, a Registered Provider or other person or body as specified by order by the Secretary of State. Case law has confirmed that a suitable pitch must be somewhere where the household can occupy their caravan. Bricks and mortar housing is not a suitable alternative to a pitch[18]. Therefore, a transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for greater enforcement action against inappropriate unauthorised encampments.

6.37 In order to identify whether there is a need for the Council to provide transit accommodation analysis has been undertaken of the Caravan Count data, recorded encampment data provided by the Council, and the outcomes from the household interviews.

6.38 Discussions with local stakeholders, and analysis of records of unauthorised encampments, confirmed that there are instances of unauthorised encampments in Wrexham.

6.39 Records of unauthorised encampments in Wrexham from 23 May 2018 to 16 September 2021 were provided by the Council from the Welsh Government Live Caravan Count Portal. These identify 59 recorded encampments since May 2018. In 2018 - 21; 17 in 2019; 9 in 2020 and 12 in 2021.

6.40 The outcomes from the household interviews and discussions with stakeholders did not identify that there was a need for permanent transit provision locally, although there were discussions about a need for more transit provision across Wales.

Transit Recommendations

6.41 Discussions with local stakeholders, neighbouring local authorities, and analysis of records of unauthorised encampments, confirmed that there are low instances of unauthorised encampments in Wrexham.

6.42 There have been other localised instances of Travellers temporarily visiting Wrexham to attend weddings or other events, but no further evidence of any long-term or permanent accommodation needs were identified.

[18] https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/features/lawyers-opinion-police-powers-and-unauthorised-camps-travellers-motor-vehicles-and

6.43 The outcomes from the household interviews and discussions with stakeholders did not identify that there was a need for permanent transit provision locally, although there were discussions about a need for more transit provision across Wales.

6.44 As such it is recommended that **there is not a need at this time for the Council to provide a transit site** in Wrexham due to the low numbers of unauthorised encampments, and the short-term transient nature of these encampments.

6.45 It is also recommended that the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and consider the use of short-term toleration (including negotiated stopping arrangements) to deal with short-term transient stops. This management-based approach should also include consideration about whether to provide toilets, water and refuse facilities. There are a number of examples across Wales and England where management-based approaches to dealing with unauthorised encampments have been successful. A good example can be found at www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk. There are also many examples where local authorities are taking a more strategic and regional approach towards addressing transit issues including in Essex, Leicestershire, the former Northamptonshire, and Hampshire.

7. Conclusions

Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need

7.1 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Wrexham for the first 5 years of the study period (2022-27) is for **20 pitches** and need by 2028, the end of the Wrexham replacement LDP period, is for a further **2 pitches**. This gives a total need for the whole period and across Wrexham for **22 pitches**.

Travelling Showpeople Plot Need

7.2 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Travelling Showpeople in Wrexham for the first 5 years of the study period (2022-27) is for **no plots** and need by 2028, the end of the Wrexham replacement LDP period, is for a further **no plots**. This gives a total need for the whole period and across Wrexham for **no plots**.

Transit Sites

7.3 It is recommended that **there is not a need at this time for the Council to provide a transit site** in Wrexham due to the low numbers of unauthorised encampments, and the short-term transient nature of these encampments.

Addressing Identified Need

7.4 In general terms need identified in a GTAA should be seen as need for pitches. Welsh Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites (2015) recommends that as a minimum a pitch should be capable of accommodating an amenity block, a mobile home, a touring caravan, and parking for two vehicles. However, this guidance relates only to public sites provided by Local Authorities. There is currently 1 public site in Wrexham.

7.5 It is recognised that the Council are in the process of reviewing their adopted Local Development Plan that sets out how overall housing need will be addressed. The replacement Wrexham LDP covers the period 2022-2028. 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.

7.6 It has also been demonstrated that need identified on private and unauthorised sites could be met on these sites, and that any residual need arises from the public site at Ruthin Road.

Appendix A: Definition of Key Terms

Gypsies and Travellers	(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including: (1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and (2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and (b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home. Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014
Residential site	A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.
Temporary residential site	These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).
Transit site	Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way

	of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time. Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members
Temporary Stopping Place	Also known as a 'stopping place', 'Atchin Tan', or 'green lane', amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed. Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.
Residential pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.
Transit pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months. Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites; however, this is not recommended.
Unauthorised encampment	Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.
Unauthorised development	Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.

Current residential supply	The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.
Current residential demand	Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including: An inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments. An inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development. Households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch. Households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion. New households expected to arrive from elsewhere.
Future residential demand	The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5-year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.
Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall residential need will capture the needs across the 5-year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.
Planned residential pitch supply	The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due to open or private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.

Household	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
Concealed or 'doubled-up' household	This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household. This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.
Household growth	In this guidance household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.

Appendix B: Sites and Yards in Wrexham (Updated March 2024)

Site/Yard	Operational Pitches/Plots	Unauthorised Pitches/Plots
Public Sites		
Ruthin Road, Wrexham	8[19]	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
Bowers Road, Acrefair	2	-
Fennant Road, Ponciau	2	-
Brymbo Road, Bwlchgwyn	4	-
Homestead Lane, Wrexham (Berryland)	1	-
Mountain View, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	
The Retreat, Long Lane, Pentre Broughton	1	
Land East of Junction of Tanyfrod Road and Southsea Road, Southsea	5	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
None	-	-
Tolerated Sites		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Sites		
The Bungalow, Halton Roundabout, Chirk	-	2
TOTAL PITCHES	**24**	**2**
Public Transit Sites		
None	-	-
Private Transit Sites		
None	-	-
Private Travelling Showpeople Yards		
Travelling Showmen Site, Old Mold Road, Stansty	1	-
Tolerated Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
TOTAL PLOTS	**1**	**0**

[19] Has permission for 15 pitches but only 8 are occupied/operational as a result of pitches being combined into larger size single pitches.

Appendix C: Interview Log

Appendix C is excluded from publication by virtue of Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972

The information will made available to Welsh Government upon submission and redacted upon publication where required.

Appendix D: Household Interview Summary

Appendix C is excluded from publication by virtue of Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972

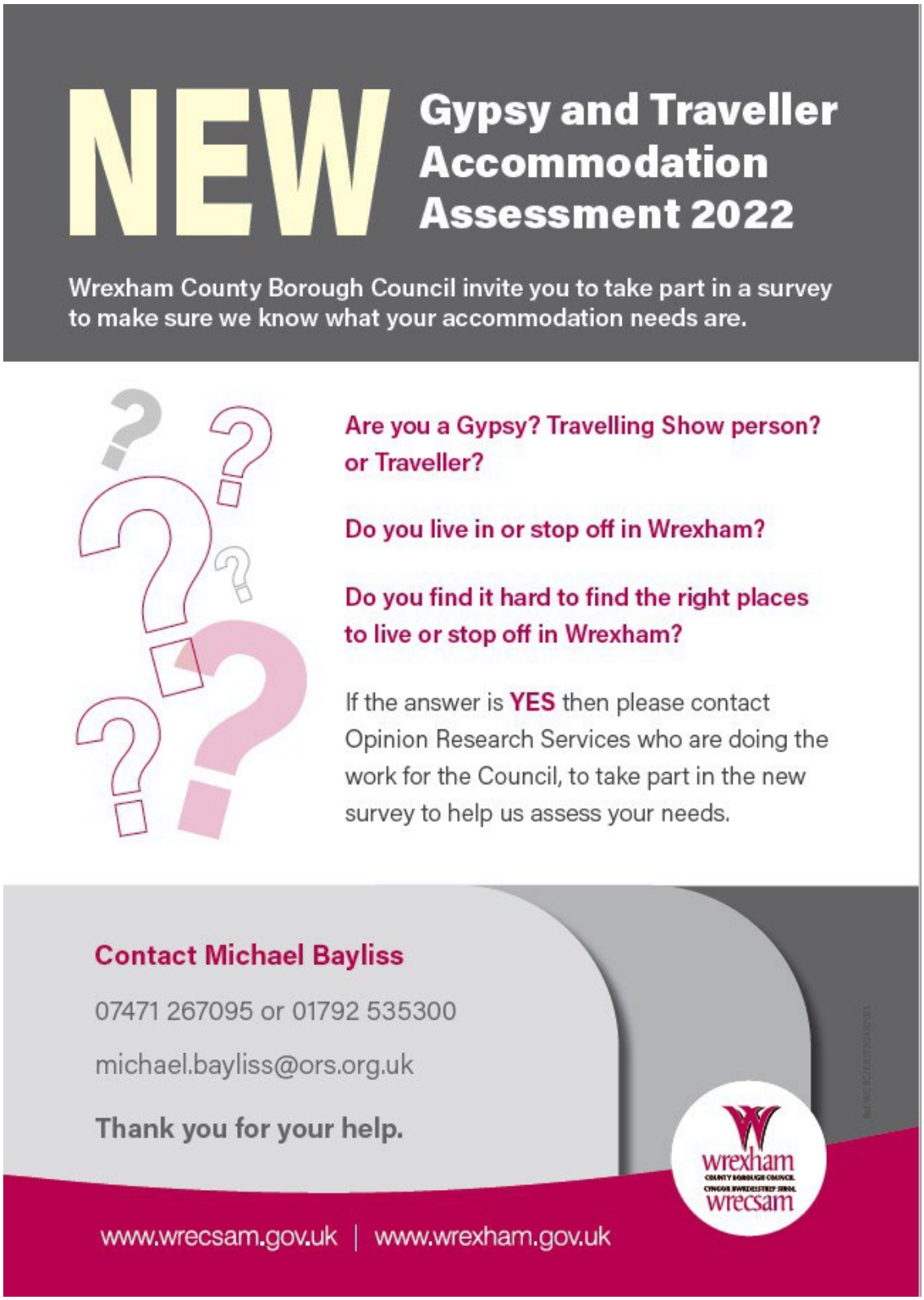
The information will made available to Welsh Government upon submission and redacted upon publication where required.

Appendix E: Interview Summary – Travelling Ahead

Appendix C is excluded from publication by virtue of Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972

The information will made available to Welsh Government upon submission and redacted upon publication where required.

Appendix F: Publicity Examples



NEWYDD Asesiad lety Sipsiwn a Theithwyr 2022

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn eich gwahodd i gymryd rhan mewn arolwg i sicrhau ein bod ni'n gwybod beth yw eich anghenion lety.



Ydych chi Sipsiwn, Sioe Deirthio neu'n Deithiwr?

Ydych chi'n byw yn Wrecsam, neu aros yn Wrecsam?

Ydych chi'n ei chael hi'n anodd dod o hyd i'r lleoedd iawn i fyw neu aros yn Wrecsam?

Os **OES** yw'r ateb, felly cysylltwch a'r Gwasanaethau Ymchwil Bam sy'n gwneud y gwaith ar gyfer y Cyngor, i gymryd rhan yn yr amlwg newydd i'n helpu ni i asesu'ch anghenion.

Cysylltwch â Michael Bayliss

07471 267095 or 01792 535300

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Diolch am eich cydweithrediad chi.

wrexham COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL wrecsam

www.wrecsam.gov.uk | www.wrexham.gov.uk

Appendix G: Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates

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 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 GTAAs that ORS have completed across England and Wales involving over 4,300 household interviews.