

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	23 JANUARY 2020	CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KAREN BEAVIN, 01283 595749 karen.beavin@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS 03

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee endorses the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment methodology attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To present the methodology for assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies, travellers, and travelling showpeople that will be used to produce a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The present GTAA, published in 2014, sets out detailed traveller pitch requirements to 31 March 2019 for Derby, Derbyshire and East Staffordshire by local authority area. Following the publication of this 2014 GTAA, the definition of 'travellers' for the purposes of planning was revised, and the national planning policy document, [Planning for Traveller Sites](#) (DCLG, August 2015) was updated with the new definition included at Annex 1. As such, notwithstanding that the 2014 GTAA looks to 2034, elements of the GTAA are no longer up to date, no longer reflecting current circumstances. Most of the authorities included in the GTAA consider the time is right to revise it and to that end, the Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group, coordinated by the County Council, has commissioned a new GTAA of which this Council is invited to be a part. The GTAA does not, in and of itself, deliver a five-year supply of traveller sites, rather it provides the evidence to determine the allocations that would be required to provide a five-year supply.
- 3.2 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites states that: *"The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional*

and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.” To help achieve this, Government policy requires local planning authorities (LPAs) to undertake an assessment of need for travellers’ sites for the purposes of planning. With regard to local plan production, Government policy states that “LPAs should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers as defined in Annex 1 and plot targets for travelling showpeople as defined in Annex 1 which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.”

- 3.3 The appointed consultants are RRR Consultancy Ltd., authors of the 2014 GTAA. The proposed methodology, attached at Appendix 1, incorporates previous government guidance and research practices. A GTAA involves an analysis of the existing supply of accommodation, an analysis of indicators of need and influencing factors, along with a review of qualitative information collected through the stakeholder consultation and survey interviews.
- 3.4 The survey interviews with travellers are undertaken during the winter months, during which most travellers typically temporarily cease to travel, thereby maximising the survey response rate. The site surveys are based on a routinely used set of questions, however, new for this GTAA will include the question “*If [you would like to move to] a site, where would you move to and why (name the area and local authority).*” This is to ensure that any need arising in South Derbyshire is not based on the assumption that the existing traveller population wish to remain based within the District. The survey questionnaires are appended to this report.
- 3.5 An up to date GTAA forms an essential part of the evidence base for local plan review, or for a separate Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document. The draft GTAA report is expected in May for consideration by the GTAA partner authorities.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council additional to those already budgeted for directly arising from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 5.1 Work to produce the GTAA will be carried out within the limitations of existing staff resources.

Legal Implications

- 5.2 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.3 The GTAA assists in meeting the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, particularly with regard to supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable.

Risk Impact

- 5.4 Without an up to date GTAA the Council cannot demonstrate the need for traveller sites as required by Government policy, nor establish a five-year supply of traveller sites through a local plan document, without which the Council lacks control over traveller site provision.

6.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 6.1 None.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 6.2 Supports Government policy of ensuring fair and equal treatment for travellers.

Social Value Impact

- 6.3 Facilitates traveller site provision through the local plan process.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.4 Planned provision of traveller sites will contribute toward the achievement of social and environmental objectives.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The GTAA is a necessary piece of evidence required by planning policy. The current GTAA is over five years old and the planning definition of travellers has been revised since its publication, necessitating the need for an update to the GTAA.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Methodology - Assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople
Appendix 2 – Gypsy and Traveller Site Survey
Appendix 3 – GTAA Unauthorised sites survey
Appendix 4 – Boat dwellers survey
Appendix 5 – Bricks and Mortar survey