

Assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople

Accommodation and needs analysis

- 1.1 The factors influencing the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities are diverse and go considerably further than a standard housing needs assessment. The general methodology for assessing housing need can be used as a basis for estimating the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. However, the distinctive accommodation requirements and context of the different community groups need to be considered.
- 1.2 Our methodology would incorporate government guidance and research practices (e.g. Niner 2003, CLG 2007, 2012). It would involve an analysis of the existing supply of accommodation, an analysis of indicators of need, influencing factors along with a review of qualitative information collected through the stakeholder consultation and survey interviews.
- 1.3 There are a number of factors which are considered in assessing accommodation need:
 - Lack of authorised sites
 - Experience or threat of eviction
 - Overcrowding
 - Special needs households requiring adaptations
 - Caravans / housing in disrepair
 - Levels of harassment
 - Affordability
 - Requirements of concealed households
 - Desire to move from a site to bricks and mortar accommodation, and vice versa.
 - Desire to move from one local authority area to another
- 1.4 In addition to the above, our research will explore in detail factors influencing the accommodation requirements. These include the provision and availability of education, health, and other essential services.

- 1.5 Our approach provides three needs figures based on the same robust data: first, a figure based on the needs of all ethnically recognised Gypsies and Travellers; second, a figure based solely on the August 2015 PPTS definition i.e. it considers the accommodation needs of families who have not permanently ceased to travel; and third, a figure which only considers the accommodation needs of families who travel for work purposes. The report will recommend the PPTS (2015) based figure as the one to be adopted by the local authorities. It will also recommend the sharing of need across authorities as part of duty to cooperate.

Determining Current Accommodation Need (1 April 2020-31 March 2025)

- 1.6 Accommodation need is determined by using a combination of MHCLG guidance and good practice. The calculations depend on base information derived from the secondary sources using data corroborated by the local planning authorities and findings from the survey. The key variables used to inform the calculations include:

- The number of Gypsies and Travellers housed in bricks and mortar accommodation
- The number of existing Gypsy and Traveller pitches
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments requiring accommodation
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments
- The number of vacant pitches
- The number of planned new pitches

- 1.7 The steps involved in the calculations include:

Current residential supply

1. Current occupied permanent / residential site pitches
 2. Number of unused residential pitches available
 3. Number of existing pitches expected to become vacant through mortality 2020-2025
 4. Number of family units on sites expected to leave the area in the next 5 years
 5. Number of family units on sites expected to move into housing in next 5 years
 6. Residential pitches planned to be built or to be brought back into use 2020-2025
 7. Less pitches with temporary planning permission
- = Total Supply**

Current residential need: Pitches

8. Family units (on pitches) seeking residential pitches in the area, 2020-2025, excluding those already counted as moving due to overcrowding in step 11
9. Family units on transit pitches requiring residential pitches in the area
10. Family units on unauthorised encampments requiring residential pitches in the area
11. Family units on unauthorised developments requiring residential pitches in the area
12. Family units currently overcrowded on pitches seeking residential pitches in the area, excluding those containing an emerging family unit
13. New family units expected to arrive from elsewhere
14. New family formations expected to arise from within existing family units on sites
15. Family units in housing but with a psychological aversion to housed accommodation

= Total Need

Total Net Need = Need (steps 8-15) less supply (steps 1-7)

Determining Future Accommodation Need (1 April 2025 - 31 March 2040)

- 1.8 We will determine future need for the period 2025 up to 2040 using a range of factors based on the survey results and secondary data such as the number of current households, number of current children, mortality rate, projected number of children, and marriage rates. The pitch and plot targets will be presented in 5-year tranches to 2040 and include a breakdown of permanent and transit provision. Our methodology can be used to determine need for any plan period on an annual basis.
- 1.9 In relation to calculating future growth, rather than use a generic annual growth rate e.g. 3%, we use a range of factors determined by the Gypsy and Traveller household surveys including:
 - Number of families with children (no.)
 - Number of children (no.)
 - Average number of children per family (no.)
 - Marriage rate (%)
 - Estimated number of children in 20 years (no.)
 - Current population + future population (no.)
 - Population increase per year (no.)
 - Population increase (%)
- 1.10 Using such factors based on local evidence means that the future population figure is robust and reliable and will withstand scrutiny. Importantly, we will critically examine and test any assumptions used to project future accommodation needs including

demonstrating the sensitivity of projection assumptions by means of forecast based on a range of varied assumptions. This will include assessing any potential for double counting in the base data and the effect of different percentage population growth rates to be applied to the base line population.

- 1.11 Importantly, only the most recent, relevant and robust demographic projections will be used. Rather than using generic data sources such as ONS household or population projections, our demographic projections will be based on evidence regarding the local Gypsy and Traveller population gathered through the GTAA surveys. This will ensure that the demographic projections are based on sound, local based evidence. Also, although we use the MHCLG Traveller caravan count to help determine trends in the population of Gypsies and Travellers, we do not use it to determine accommodation needs. These are based on a combination of primary and secondary data gathered as part of the research process.