

**Gypsy and Traveller
and
Travelling Showperson
Accommodation Need Assessment
2017**

Introduction

This Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) has been produced by North Lincolnshire Council to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across North Lincolnshire.

The GTAA will replace the 2012 - 2017 GTAA. Secondary data and comprehensive analysis of local existing data sources have been undertaken to fully update the assessment of accommodation needs, taking into account policy changes that have taken place.

This study adopts the definition of a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson as set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) August 2015. This includes a change to the definition of Travellers for planning purposes. The key change that was made was the removal of the term *persons...who have ceased to travel permanently*, meaning that those who have ceased to travel permanently will not now fall under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing accommodation need in a GTAA.

The PPTS definition states:

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

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

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

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

The definition of ‘Travelling Showpeople’ also taken from PPTS 2015 reads as follows:

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

The overall purpose of the GTAA is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation. Its aim to provide an evidence base to assist the Council in the preparation of the Local Plan and inform planning decisions relating to Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Legislative and Policy Context

Decision-making for policy concerning Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework. This section gives an understanding of how the national legislative and policy context has affected Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities to date.

Legislative background

Since 1960, three Acts of Parliament have had a major impact on Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:

- Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;
- Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II); and the
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

The 1960 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act enabled councils to ban the siting of caravans for human occupation on common land, and led to the closure of many sites used by Gypsies and Travellers.

The Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II) required local authorities '*so far as may be necessary to provide adequate accommodation for Gypsies residing in or resorting to their area*'. It empowered the Secretary of State to make designation orders for areas where he was satisfied that there was adequate accommodation, or on grounds of expediency.

The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act abolished all statutory obligations to provide accommodation, discontinued Government grants for sites and made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.

Since the 1994 Act, the only places where Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:

- Council and Registered [Social Housing] Providers' Gypsy caravan sites;
- Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission; and
- Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence along with land required for seasonal farm workers.

The 1994 Act resulted in increased pressure on available sites. Following further reviews on law and policy, the Housing Act 2004 was passed, which included placing a requirement (section 225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs within their area.

The Housing and Planning Act 2016 (section 124) has since abolished the duty on local housing authorities to carry out a specific assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers (and also Travelling Showpeople) residing or resorting to their area, and revoked the guidance on how such assessments should be undertaken.

Households that Do Not Meet the Planning Definition

Whilst households who do not travel fall outside the planning definition of a Traveller, Romany Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers may be able to demonstrate a right to culturally appropriate accommodation under the Equality Act (2010). In addition, provisions set out in the Housing and Planning Act (2016) now include a duty (under Section 8 of the 1985 Housing Act that covers the requirement for a periodical review of housing needs) for local authorities to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to their district with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed, or places on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored. Draft Guidance related to this section of the Act has been published setting out how the government would want local housing authorities to undertake this assessment and it is the same as the GTAA assessment process. The implication is therefore that the housing needs of any Gypsy and Traveller households who do not meet the planning definition of a Traveller will need to be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of the area, for example through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment or Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment process, and will form a subset of the wider need arising from households residing in caravans.

Planning Policy

In March 2012 the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its accompanying National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) covering a range of topics, including Planning policy for traveller sites (PPTS 2012). These documents replaced all previous national planning policy in respect of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

In August 2015 government updated the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and whilst the general premise remained the same, its aim sought to strengthen the protection of the Green belt. The updated PPTS has set out that subject to *the best interests of the child, personal circumstances and unmet need are unlikely to outweigh harm to the Green Belt any other harm so as to establish very special circumstances.*

In addition, the August 2015 PPTS reads 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's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development

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

In practice, the document states that (PPTS Paragraph 9):

'Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople, which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area,

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

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

Local Authorities now have a duty to ensure a 5-year land supply to meet the identified needs for Traveller sites. However, 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' also notes in Paragraph 11 that:

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

Methodology

To identify need, PPTS (2015) requires an assessment for current and future pitch requirements, but does not provide a methodology. PPTS (2015) contains a number of requirements which must be addressed in any methodology. This includes the need to identify permanent and transit site accommodation needs separately and establishing whether households fall within the planning definition for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

There is an option available to the Council to undertake an extremely expensive process to try and identify need. However, the National Planning Policy Framework requires councils to use a proportionate evidence base and the National Planning Guidance, section 3, para 1 recommends: *Plan makers should avoid expending significant resources on primary research (information that is collected through surveys, focus groups or interviews etc. and analysed to produce a new set of findings) as this will in many cases be a disproportionate way of establishing an evidence base.*

Therefore, the approach used to carry out this assessment was a desk-based review using a range of secondary data to support the study. This included:

- Census data
- Site records
- Caravan counts
- Records of unauthorised sites and encampments
- Information on planning applications
- Information on enforcement cases
- Existing Needs Assessments and other relevant local studies
- Existing national and local policy

The calculation to assess the future need can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the population.

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

Stage 1: Literature/desktop review

This stage comprised a review of available literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and analysis of available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers.

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

- National policy and legislative context

- Current policies towards Gypsies and Travellers in the County (drawn from Local Authority policy documents, planning documents)
- Analysis of existing data sources

This information has helped to shape the development of this report, and in particular the legislative and policy context.

Stage 2: Assessment of Needs

The second stage of the assessment was to calculate current and future pitch requirement.

Identifying the components of current and future need and undertaking detailed analysis of these components, information including:

- Current pitches
- Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected
- New household formation
- Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites
- Households in need on waiting lists
- In-migration

All of these components of supply and need are presented in an easy to understand table which identifies the overall net need for current and future accommodation for both Gypsies and Travellers, and for Travelling showpeople.

The residential and transit pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers are identified separately and the needs are identified for 2018 – 2023.

Gypsies and Travellers in North Lincolnshire: The Current Picture

One of the main considerations of this study is to provide evidence to support the provision of pitches and plots to meet the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. A pitch is an area normally occupied by one household, which typically contains enough space for one or two caravans, but can vary in 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. Throughout this study the main focus is upon how many extra pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople are required in the study area.

Caravan Count

One source of information available is the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count in order to present what is known about Gypsies and Travellers within North Lincolnshire.

The Caravan Count presents official statistics on the count of traveller caravans in England. The count is carried out to provide local data on the number and the seasonal movement of caravans.

Local authorities carry out the count of caravans on traveller sites twice a year, in January and July, providing a snapshot of the number of caravans on the day of the count. Information is collected about caravans on authorised socially rented sites, authorised privately funded sites, unauthorised developments (sites on land owned by travellers for which planning permission had not been granted) and unauthorised encampments (sites on land not owned by travellers and which do not have planning permission). It does not cover the number of occupants residing in these caravans or caravan sites.

According to the most recent Caravan Count (July 2017), there were a reported total of 96 caravans across North Lincolnshire.

The table below summarises caravan numbers by type of site for January and July in 2017.

Summary of caravan numbers 2017

Type of site	January	July
Authorised sites (with planning permission)		
Socially rented caravans	0	0
Private caravans	63	72
Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)		
No. of Caravans on Sites on Travellers' own land <i>"Tolerated"</i>	0	0

	<i>"Not tolerated"</i>	0	0
No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Travellers	<i>"Tolerated"</i>	0	18
	<i>"Not tolerated"</i>	0	6
Total		63	96

Source: GOV UK - Count of Traveller Caravans July 2017: Last Six Counts

As this count is of caravans and not households, it makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. The count is merely a 'snapshot in time' on a specific day, and any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise, any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. As such it is not considered appropriate to use the outcomes from the Traveller Caravan Count in the calculation of current and future need.

Households

The main source for the number of Gypsy and Traveller population is the Census 2011. In North Lincolnshire 90 people identified themselves as White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller in the census equating to 0.1% of the total population.

People identifying as Gypsy or Irish Traveller had a higher proportion of young children aged 7 and below (22%) and a higher proportion of residents aged 30-39 (19%) when compared to England at 16% and 14% respectively.

The Census 2011 also identifies Gypsy and Travellers living in bricks and mortar. House or bungalow was the most common type of accommodation at 76% followed by caravan or other mobile or temporary structure at 20%. The table below shows the full breakdown.

Number of all usual residents White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller living in households

	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
North Lincolnshire	90	68	4	18

Source: ONS Census 2011 - Table CT0127 Accommodation type

The breakdown of the number of households occupied by the usual residents, where a household is defined by shared use of facilities at an address, is shown in the table below. This shows 68% of households live in a house or bungalow followed by caravan or other mobile or temporary structure at 23%.

Number of all households White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller

	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
North Lincolnshire	31	21	3	7

Source: ONS Census 2011 - Table CT0128 Accommodation type

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

In North Lincolnshire there are 4 private sites with permanent planning permission providing a total of 36 permanent pitches and 20 transit pitches. There are no public sites in North Lincolnshire.

Private residential sites and yards for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites.

Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except these types of site are designed to accommodate, for a temporary period, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople whilst they travel.

Current authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers provision in North Lincolnshire

Location	Pitches	
	permanent	transit
Mill View, Brigg	20	10 (7 for Gypsy and Travellers and 3 for non Gypsies and Travellers)
Paddock, Brigg	1	
River View, Mill Lane, Brigg	12	
Hill Mill View, Kirton-in-Lindsey	3	10
Total	36	17

Source: North Lincolnshire Council 2017

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 land owner, 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.

Unauthorised Encampments

North Lincolnshire Council recorded a total of 60 single or multiple households on unauthorised encampments in 2017. It was clear from reviewing the data that 48 encampments were not separate groups, rather a number of the encampments involved the same family/household/individual. The table below shows this in relation

to the family/individual, how many sites and the broad location of sites. This shows that 10 families/individuals accounted for 80% of encampments across North Lincolnshire.

Repeat encampments by number of sites and general area

Family	No. of sites incurred	General area
Family 1	3	Barton area
Family 2	5	Brigg and Scunthorpe area
Family 3	9	Brigg and Scunthorpe area
Family 4	2	Scunthorpe area
Family 5	5	Scunthorpe area
Family 6	12	Scunthorpe area
Family 7	4	Scunthorpe area
Family 8	3	Scunthorpe area
Family 9	3	Scunthorpe area
Family 10	2	Isle of Axholme

Source: North Lincolnshire Council 2017 - (G & T Family Encampments)

It is clear from the information collected by the Council on unauthorised encampments during 2017, the average length of stay was 25 days (range 1 day to 437 days). It is recognised that this is skewed by 2 long lasting encampments. As 92% (44) encampments lasted four weeks or less and 60% (29) lasted less than a week.

In terms of encampment size the average was 7 caravans with the range between 1 and 46. Again it is recognised this is skewed due to Brigg Horse Fair when there is a rise in the number of caravans over the period of the Fair (early August).

It is recognised the vast majority of these unauthorised encampments were those travelling through or visiting family in the area.

Further analysis of the Encampment data also shows there are two additional unauthorised encampments which have been in place for some period of time. One has been in place since November 2014 and one since March 2015. These encampments consist of 8 and 6 caravans irrespectively.

Current and Future Pitch Provision

This section focuses on the additional pitch provision which is needed by the local authority in the study area currently and to 2023. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also secondary data sources.

This section concentrates not only on total additional provision, but also whether there is a need for any transit provision.

Planning Definition

As well as assessing housing need, PPTS (2015) requires a GTAA to determine whether households living on sites, yards, encampments and in bricks and mortar fall within the planning definition of a Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showperson. Only households that fall within the planning definition, and those who *may* meet the definition, will have their housing needs assessed separately from the wider population in the GTAA. The planning definition now excludes those who have ceased to travel permanently.

New Household Formation Rates

Previously, a national household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local Gypsy and Traveller assessments, 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.

A study on Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates by Opinions Research Services (ORS) published in March 2015 gives a detailed assessment of Gypsy and Traveller household growth to provide an alternative to the 'fall-back option' of 3%. Often used in the absence of anything else.

The study concludes that in fact, the growth in the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.25% 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.

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.

The ORS study has recently been accepted as a robust academic evidence base and has been published by the Social Research Association in its journal Social Research

Practice. The overall purpose of the journal is to encourage and promote high standards of social research for public benefit. It aims to encourage methodological development by giving practitioners the space and the incentive to share their knowledge – see link <http://the-sra.org.uk/journal-social-research-practice/>

Applying the Planning Definition

No households were interviewed in North Lincolnshire to determine the travelling status of each household against the planning definition in PPTS (2015). However, the needs of these households still need to be recognised by the GTAA as they are believed to be ethnic Gypsies and Travellers and may meet the new definition as defined in PPTS. It would not be appropriate when producing a robust assessment of need to make any firm assumptions about whether or not households meet the new definition.

However, data that has been collected from over 1,500 household interviews that have been completed by ORS since the changes to PPTS in 2015, suggests that nationally approximately 10% of households that have been interviewed meet the new definition – and in some local authorities, particularly London Boroughs, 100% of households do not meet the new definition.

This would suggest that it is likely that only a small proportion of the potential need identified from these households will need new Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and that the needs of the majority will need to be addressed through other means.

Given the presence of unauthorised encampments and future household formation the current supply of appropriate accommodation appears to be less than the ‘need’ identified. The following sections look in depth at this issue considering residential and transit pitch need for Gypsies and Travellers.

Assessment of need for Residential Pitches

To identify need, PPTS (2015) requires an assessment for current and future pitch requirements, but does not provide a methodology. The Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (CLG 2007) contains an illustration of how need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation might best be calculated. It is from combining these guides with reference to the University of Salford GTAA March 2008 and North Lincolnshire’s GTAA 2012 - 2017 the estimation of supply and need is drawn.

In particular, residential accommodation need is considered by carefully exploring the following factors:

Current residential supply

- Socially rented pitches
- Private authorised pitches

Residential need 2018 – 2023

- Temporary planning permissions, which will end over the assessment period
- Allowance for family growth over the assessment period
- Need for authorised pitches from families on unauthorised developments
- Allowance for net movement over the assessment period between sites and housing
- Allowance for potential closure of existing sites
- Potential need for residential pitches in the area from families on unauthorised encampments

Pitch supply 2018 – 2023

- Vacant pitches over the assessment period
- Unused pitches, which are brought back into use over the assessment period
- Known planned site developments

Within the guidance for producing GTAAs there is also the consideration of 'new households likely to arrive from elsewhere'. As this accommodation assessment (in line with other accommodation assessments) only includes Gypsies and Travellers within North Lincolnshire, it is impossible to present a reliable estimation on the need for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers currently living elsewhere. It is felt that those Gypsies and Travellers who arrive from elsewhere will probably be balanced by those who move on from the area and leave vacancies. For simplicity both elements are omitted.

Additional residential pitch requirements

Summary of estimated need for residential pitches in North Lincolnshire 2018 – 2023

Element of Supply and need		Number
	Current residential supply	
1	Socially rented pitches	0
2	Private authorised pitches	36
3	Total authorised pitches	36
	Residential need 2018 – 2023	
4	End of temporary planning permissions	0
5	New household formation	2
6	Unauthorised developments	0
7	Movement between sites and housing	-1
8	Closure of sites	0
9	Unauthorised encampments (long-term)	16
10	Additional residential need	17
	Additional supply 2018 - 2023	
11	Pitches currently closed but re-entering use	0
12	Pitches with permission but not developed	0
13	New sites planned	0
14	Vacancies on authorised sites	18
15	Supply 2018 – 2023	18

16	Requirement for extra residential pitches 2018 - 2023	-1
----	--	----

Element of supply and need 1 – 16

1. The number of pitches on socially rented sites local authority data.
2. The number of pitches on private authorised sites local authority data.
3. Sum of 1 + 2
4. There are no temporary planning permissions of sites due to end during the assessment period.
5. By totalling the number of households on authorised pitches with the total demand figure from unauthorised sites, waiting list and planning applications gives the total Gypsy and Traveller households currently living on or wanting to live on a pitch in North Lincolnshire.

Without knowing the precise household composition of the families occupying private sites (which will change through time) we have assumed at least one household occupies one pitch for the calculation.

Taking the assumed annual growth rate of 1.5% each year gives a household growth figure of 2 over 5 years.

6. There are no families on unauthorised developments.
7. There is currently one family who are registered on the Home Choice Lincs waiting list for housing.
8. There are no plans to close any existing sites within the study area.
9. This factor takes into account households involved in unauthorised encampments that require a residential pitch. The calculation of need for residential accommodation requires estimates of the number of households involved in authorised encampments and of how many of these need a residential pitch.

Findings:

From an analysis of the data on unauthorised encampments this indicates that in 2017 there were 60 separate encampments with 4 encampments classed as long-term.

In terms of encampment size the average was 4 caravans with an average of 4 families on each encampment.

Calculation:

Number of separate encampments multiplied by number of households on each encampment = 4 times 4 = 16 households

10. Sum of elements 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

11. There are no pitches which are currently closed due to re-enter use.

12. There are no pitches for which planning permissions have been granted but which are not yet developed.

13. There are no plans reported to develop new socially rented sites.

14. There are 18 pitch vacancies on private sites. 3 on River View, Mill Lane, Brigg and 15 on Mill View Brigg.

15. Sum of elements 11, 12, 13 and 14.

16. Row 15 minus Row 10 = total residential pitches required for North Lincolnshire.

Requirement for extra residential pitches 2018 – 2023 = -1

Assessment of Need for Transit Pitches

PPTS (2015) also requires an assessment of the need for any transit sites or stopping places. While the majority of Gypsies and Travellers have permanent bases either on Gypsy and Traveller sites or in bricks and mortar and no longer travel, other members of the community either travel permanently or for part of the year. Due to the mobile nature of the population, a range of sites or management approaches can be developed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers as they move through different areas.

- Transit sites
- Temporary/Emergency stopping places
- Temporary (seasonal) sites
- Negotiated Stopping Agreements

When determining the potential need for transit provision in North Lincolnshire the assessment has looked at data from the DCLG Caravan Count, records on numbers of unauthorised encampments, and the potential wider issues related to PPTS (2015).

This assessment shows there is no clear evidence as to the need for provision to be made for Gypsies and Travellers in transit.

Assessing the need for transit pitches

The assessment of need for transit provision uses the need as evidenced by unauthorised encampments. As a result, the methodology for calculating the need for transit provision is similar to that for calculating the need for residential provision from unauthorised encampments.

Findings:

From an analysis of the data on unauthorised encampments this indicates that in 2017 there were 56 short-term separate encampments. Although it is noted that not all encampments were created by separate families each time.

- We therefore assume there to be 22 separate encampments
- The average encampment size was around 7 caravans although it is noted this is skewed due to Brigg Horse Fair
- There was an average of 2.4 families on each encampment

Calculation:

Number of separate encampments during 2017 multiplied by number of households on each encampment = 22 times 2.4 = 52.8 households

By taking into account that the main travelling months are generally speaking between April and October it seems reasonable to assume that the vast majority of this travelling will be done within this 6-month period. If a transit pitch has an upper time limit of stay of 4 weeks this means that 9 pitches would during the summer have the capacity to cater for around 54 households.

Transit pitch requirement

As noted earlier in the report, in total, there are 17 Transit Pitches on authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers in North Lincolnshire.

Data recorded twice a year, in January and July, by the council's Operation Services' assets and estate management unit shows the majority of the Transit Pitches on the sites.

In summary, analysis of the evidence shows transit pitches were available for those in need of a transit pitch in 2017. Therefore the assumption is no further pitches will be needed for 2018-2023.

Total additional need for transit pitches = 0 pitches.

Recommendations

These figures do need to be treated with some caution: households need to be able to demonstrate that they travel for work purposes to meet the planning definition, and stay away from their usual place of residence when doing so, or have ceased to travel for work purposes temporarily due to education, ill health or old age.

However, these figures do give a sense of the size of the population. Importantly, they provide an indication of the number of households whose accommodation needs are currently *unmet* - a fact which can be assumed from their unauthorised status.

Should further information become available to the Council that will allow for the new definition to be applied to 'unknown' households, the overall level of need could change.

The situation relating to levels of unauthorised encampments should continue to be monitored whilst any potential changes associated with PPTS (2015) develop. As well as information on the size and duration of the encampments, this monitoring should also seek to gather information from residents on the reasons for their stay; whether they have a permanent base or where they have travelled from; and whether they have any need or preference to settle permanently in the area; and whether their travelling is a result of changes to PPTS (2015).

A review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments, including the monitoring referred to above, should be undertaken once there is a new 3-year evidence base following the changes to PPTS in 2015. This will establish whether there is a need for investment in any formal transit sites or emergency stopping places, or whether a managed approach is preferable.

In the short-term the Council should consider the use of management arrangements for dealing with unauthorised encampments and could also consider the use of Negotiated Stopping Agreements, as opposed to taking forward an infrastructure-based approach.

The term 'negotiated stopping' is used to describe agreed short term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not describe permanent 'built' transit sites but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the authority and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides.

Temporary stopping places can be made available at times of increased demand due to fairs or cultural celebrations that are attended by Gypsies and Travellers. A charge may be levied as determined by the local authority although they only need to provide basic facilities including: a cold water supply; portaloos; sewerage disposal point and refuse disposal facilities.

Travelling Showpeople Needs

There were no Travelling Showpeople identified in North Lincolnshire that meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson, so there is no current or future need for additional plots.

