

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Needs Assessment 2022

Northumberland County Council

Final Report
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Main Contact: Dr Michael Bullock
Email: michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk
Telephone: 0800 612 9133
Website: www.arc4.co.uk



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Registered Address: arc4, 41 Clarendon Road, Sale Manchester M33 2DY

Email: contact@arc4.co.uk www.arc4.co.uk

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Directors - Helen Brzozowski – Michael Bullock

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Northumberland Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Needs Assessment 2022 (GTTSANA) provides the latest available evidence to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the county.

The GTTSANA has included:

- A review of existing (secondary) data;
- Stakeholder consultation (8 responses received); and
- A household survey and site/yard observation. A total of 32 Gypsy and Traveller households were interviewed in 2021 out of a total of 38 households residing on sites, a 84.2% response rate. Data on all households living on the Travelling Showperson's yard were also obtained through interview and yard observation.

This data has been analysed to provide a picture of current provision and activity across the county and an assessment of future need. The findings of the study provide an up-to-date, robust and defensible evidence base for policy development which reflects the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy for Traveller Site (PPTS)

Population and current accommodation provision

The 2011 Census identified a total of 52 households in Northumberland where the Household Reference Person had a 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' ethnicity. Of these 27 lived in a caravan and 25 in bricks and mortar housing.

Culturally appropriate Gypsy and Traveller provision includes:

- Hartford Bridge, Bedlington (Council site with 28 pitches);
- Lyneburn Cottages, Lyneburn (Council site with 11 pitches)
- Drummonds Yard, Berwick upon Tweed (Private site with 2 pitches)

There is one Travelling Showperson's yard with 30 plots at Bomarsund, Stakeford.

The bi-annual MHCLG Traveller caravan count (Jan 2016 to Jan 2020) reported an average of 105 caravans across all sites. Note that one caravan does not necessarily mean one household and an extended family could live in 2 to 3 caravans but still be described as a single household. The annual Travelling Showperson caravan count (undertaken each January) has averaged 25 caravans.

'Cultural' and 'PPTS need'

Government policy encourages authorities to meet the needs of all Gypsies and Travellers. The PPTS is used to plan for the accommodation needs of those Gypsies and Travellers who continue to lead a nomadic habit of life, even if they are temporarily not travelling. The NPPF is used to plan for the accommodation needs of

those Gypsies and Travellers that no longer lead a nomadic habit of life. In both respects policy requires need to be assessed and then a five year supply of sites to meet that need to be identified as part of the Local Plan.

The GTTSANA establishes an overall ‘cultural’ need for pitches which accords with the overall need for Gypsy and Traveller culturally appropriate accommodation and takes into account the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equalities Act 2010 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016 section 124. Within this overall need, the specific need from households who meet the nomadic habit of life definitions set out in PPTS Annex 1 is identified. Analysis of the travelling behaviour of households or emerging households planning to move residential location indicates that 94.4% meet the nomadic habit of life/travelling behaviour criteria set out in the PPTS.

Plan periods

Need has been assessed over a short-term 2021/22 to 2025/26 and longer-term 2026/27 to 2038/39. The analysis also provides an indication of need to 2040/41.

Bricks and mortar households

A total of 5 bricks and mortar households across Northumberland were successfully contacted. The feedback was that households did not want to be interviewed but information obtained suggested there may be some emerging need from bricks and mortar households over the plan period. This is considered in the modelling of residential pitch need.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements

Overall need 2021/22 to 2038/39

There is an overall gross need for 30 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across the county over the period 2021/22 to 2038/39. Of these, 29 are for households who meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition and 1 who do not meet the definition. This takes into account the needs arising from existing, newly forming and in-migrant households. Over the period 2021/22 to 2038/39, it is expected that 51 council pitches will become available through turnover. Once this is considered, there is no need for additional pitches as future pitch need is likely to be met through turnover.

The short term need for 4 pitches (3 PPTS and 1 non-PPTS) over the period 2021/22 to 2025/26 is mainly driven by net-in migration and arguably this can only take place when pitches become available for occupancy. The evidence does not suggest there is a pent up shortfall of pitches from the existing population and therefore it is not recommended that the council meet the short-term shortfall through the development of new sites.

The pitch shortfall over the first five-year and full plan period are set out in detail in Table ES1.

Table ES1 Addressing Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Northumberland 2021/22 to 2038/39			
	Northumberland	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
A	5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2025/26)	21	20
B	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	17	17
C=A-B	Residual need 2021/22 to 2025/26 after turnover	4	3
D	Longer-term need 2026/27 to 2038/39	9	9
E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	44	44
F=D-E	Residual need 2025/26 to 2039/40 after turnover	-35	-35
	Summary	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
G=A+D	Plan period Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2038/39)	30	29
H=B+E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	61	61
I=G-H	Residual need 2021/22 to 2038/39 after turnover considered	-31	-32

Overall need 2021/22 to 2040/41

Need over the period to 2040/41 has been calculated based on the long-term need observed over the period 2026/27 to 2039/89 which is for 0.69 pitches each year. For the period 2039/40 to 2040/41, if this scale of need continues, there would be a need for 1.4 pitches (1 rounded). Therefore, over the period 2021/22 to 2040/41, there is a need for 31 pitches. Of these, 30 are for households who meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition and 1 who do not meet the definition. The impact of this additional need, plus further turnover on council sites, is summarised in Table ES2

Table ES2 Addressing Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Northumberland 2021/22 to 2040/41			
	Summary	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
G=A+D	Plan period Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2040/31)	31	30
H=B+E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	68	68
I=G-H	Residual need 2021/22 to 2040/41 after turnover considered	-37	-38

Travelling Showperson plot requirements

There are a total of 30 Travelling Showpersons plots located on a Showman's Guild yard and private yards at Bomarsund. These plots accommodate 24 households. There is a gross need for 9 plots over the plan period (and also over the period to 2040/41) but a supply of 11 plots through the use of vacant plots and intensification of existing yards.

There is therefore no strategic need for additional Travelling Showperson plots over the periods 2021/22 to 2038/29 or 2021/22 to 2040/41 but the draft Local Plan includes a criteria-based policy for new yards should any residential need arise during the plan period. The council should engage with owners on private yards to support changes of use to intensify existing yards to meet the identified plot needs.

Temporary stopping places and transit provision

It is recommended that the council develop a network of provision across the county to reflect the level of unauthorised encampment activity. On the basis that the average encampment has 3.7 caravans, areas of land for up to 5 caravans should be identified. Council stakeholders had a preference for the development of transit sites and on the basis of detailed local knowledge it is recommended that the council delivers the following provision:

North Northumberland (Berwick area)	4-6 pitches
South West Northumberland (Hexham area)	4-6 pitches
South East Northumberland	6-8 pitches

The total number of transit pitch need across Northumberland is therefore a minimum of 14 pitches.

At present, there is transit provision available at Drummond's Yard in Berwick upon Tweed which can continue to provide for transit need in North Northumberland until any potential changes of use for the site come forward

The council should also consider Negotiated Stopping arrangements to accommodate larger encampments passing through the county.

Policy recommendations

Government policy encourages authorities to meet the needs of all Gypsies and Travellers through the NPPF for those who no longer travel and the PPTS for those who have a nomadic habit of life. The needs analysis indicates that the need for residential pitches is likely to be met through turnover on council sites.

The draft Local Plan sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for small private Gypsy and Traveller sites and Showperson's yards should they arise over the plan period.

Table ES3 summarises the needs identified and appropriate responses to meet those needs.

Table ES3 Summary of needs and recommendations		
Type:	Need:	Arc4 Recommendation:
Gypsy and Traveller Residential need 2021/22 to 2038/39	Gross need of 30 of which 29 if for PPTS need and 1 from non-PPTS need.	Over the plan period sufficient pitches are expected to come forward through turnover on council sites. The draft Local Plan includes a criteria-based policy for site development should residential need emerge over the plan period which cannot be addressed through turnover on the council sites
Gypsy and Traveller Residential need 2021/22 to 2040/41	Gross need of 31 of which 30 if for PPTS need and 1 from non-PPTS need.	Over the plan period sufficient pitches are expected to come forward through turnover on council sites. The draft Local Plan includes a criteria-based policy for site development should residential need emerge over the plan period which cannot be addressed through turnover on the council sites
Transit / Stop Over	Minimum need for 14 pitches	A network of provision across the county is recommended. Areas of land for up to 5 caravans should be identified, with the following specific needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Northumberland (Berwick area) 4-6 pitches • South West Northumberland (Hexham area) 4-6 pitches • South East Northumberland 6-8 pitches <p>The council should also consider Negotiated Stopping arrangements to accommodate larger encampments passing through the county</p>
Travelling Showpeople	Gross need for 9 plots but expected to be met through intensification of existing plots and use of vacant plots. No strategic need for additional plots	Draft Local Plan includes a criteria-based policy for new yards should any residential need arise during the plan period. The council should engage with owners on private yards to support changes of use to intensify existing yards to meet the identified plot needs.

1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 In April 2021, arc⁴ was commissioned by Northumberland County Council to prepare the 2021 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTTSANA).
- 1.2 The overall scope of the study is to ensure that the council has a robust evidence base to determine an appropriate level of residential pitch and transit provision over the period to 2038/39 and to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers to meet both the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS)-defined need and the council's obligations under section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The analysis also provides an indication of need to 2040/41. The study also considers any matters arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Who the study covers

- 1.3 The GTTSANA 2021 adopts the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' set out within PPTS, which was published by the government in August 2015. This sets out the following definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers':

*'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.'*¹

- 1.4 In addition, PPTS 2015 provides the following 'clarification' for determining whether someone is a Gypsy or Traveller:

'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.'*²

- 1.5 The following definition of 'Travelling Showpeople' is set out in PPTS 2015:

'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

¹ DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* August 2015 Annex 1, para 1

² DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* August 2015 Annex 1, para 2

pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.’ (MHCLG Planning policy for traveller sites August 2015 Annex 1, para 3).

1.6 In addition:

‘For the purposes of this planning policy, “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often called a “yard”). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use pitches for “travelling showpeople”, which may/will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.’ (MHCLG Planning policy for traveller sites August 2015 Annex 1, para 5).

1.7 For the purposes of this study, therefore, Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches on sites, whilst Travelling Showpeople live on plots on yards.

Report structure

1.8 The GTTSANA 2021 report structure is as follows:

- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** provides an overview of the study.
- **Chapter 2 Policy and local context:** presents a review of the national policy context which guides the study
- **Chapter 3 Methodology:** provides details of the study’s research methodology.
- **Chapter 4 Review of current Gypsy and Traveller population and provision of pitches/plots:** reviews estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across the county and existing site/yard provision.
- **Chapter 5 Household survey:** presents relevant data obtained from the household survey research.
- **Chapter 6 Pitch/plot/transit requirements:** focuses on current and future pitch/plot requirements. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, supply and current shortfalls across the county.
- **Chapter 7 Conclusion and strategic response:** concludes the report, providing brief summary of key findings and recommendations.

1.9 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:

- **Appendix A** Household questionnaires.
- **Appendix B** Glossary of terms.

2. Policy and local context

- 2.1 This study is grounded in an understanding of the national legislative and planning policy context that underpins the assessment and provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 2.2 This chapter sets out the policy context within which this GTTSANA has been prepared.

Government policy and guidance

- 2.3 The 2021 National Planning Policy Framework states in Paragraph 62 *‘the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies’*. It then lists a number of groups including Travellers. A footnote to the paragraph states *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document’*.
- 2.4 The 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Site (PPTS) document states that *‘local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning’* and *‘ensure that their Local Plan includes a 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’*.
- 2.5 Policy A of the 2015 PPTS relates to evidence needed to plan positively and manage development. This states *‘in assembling the evidence base necessary to support their planning approach, local planning authorities should:*
- pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers’ accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups);
 - co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups; other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; and
 - use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions.
- 2.6 In the absence of further guidance on preparing GTTSANAs, the methods adopted by arc⁴ reflect Policy A of the PPTS; build upon those methods established through previous guidance; our practical experience and findings from planning inquiries and appeals.
- 2.7 The calculation of pitch/plot requirements is based on established DCLG modelling methodology, as advocated in *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Guidance* (DCLG, 2007). Although this guidance was formally withdrawn in December 2016, in the absence of any updated guidance

on the subject, it continues to provide a good practice approach for needs modelling.

- 2.8 Policy B of the 2015 PPTS relates to planning for traveller sites and requires Local Plans:
- to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and consistent with the policies of the NPPF; and
 - to set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers 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.
- 2.9 Policy B (paragraph 10) sets out that local authorities should, in producing their Local Plan:
- a. identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;
 - b. identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;
 - c. 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 (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);
 - d. 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; and
 - e. protect local amenity and environment.
- 2.10 Policy B (paragraph 13) sets out that local authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally and therefore ensure that their policies:
- a. promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;
 - b. promote, in collaboration with commissioners of health services, access to appropriate health services;
 - c. ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis;
 - d. provide a settled base that reduces both the need for long-distance travelling and possible environmental damage caused by unauthorised encampment;
 - e. provide for proper consideration of the effect of local environmental quality (such as noise and air quality) on the health and well-being of any travellers who may locate there or on others as a result of new development;

- f. avoid placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services;
- g. do not locate sites in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains, given the particular vulnerability of caravans; and
- h. reflect the extent to which traditional lifestyles (whereby some travellers live and work from the same location thereby omitting many travel to work journeys) can contribute to sustainability.

Intentional unauthorised development

- 2.11 The planning policy statement issued with PPTS 2015³ (and confirmed by Ministerial Statement⁴) makes clear that if a site is intentionally occupied without planning permission this would be a material consideration in any retrospective planning application for that site. Whilst this does not mean that retrospective applications will be automatically refused, it does mean that failure to seek permission in advance of occupation will count against the application.
- 2.12 In addition, PPTS 2015 (Paragraph 12) makes clear that in exceptional cases where a local authority is burdened by a large-scale unauthorised site that has significantly increased their need, and their area is subject to strict and special planning constraints, then there is no assumption that the local authority will be required to meet their Gypsy and Traveller site needs in full. This is intended to protect local planning authorities with significant land constraints from being required to provide for additional needs arising directly from large sites such as Dale Farm (a large unauthorised site in Essex).

Considering ‘Cultural’ and ‘PPTS’ need

- 2.13 Paragraph 62 of the 2021 NPPF recognises the need to assess a range of community needs including those of Travellers. Government policy encourages authorities to meet the needs of all Gypsies and Travellers. The PPTS is used to plan for the accommodation needs of those Gypsies and Travellers who continue to lead a nomadic habit of life, even if they are temporarily not travelling. The NPPF is used to plan for the accommodation needs of those Gypsies and Travellers that no longer lead a nomadic habit of life. In both respects policy requires need to be assessed and then a five year supply of sites to meet that need to be identified as part of the Local Plan. This approach also reflects the council’s obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equalities Act 2010 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016 section 124.
- 2.14 Our assessment methodology is set out in Chapter 3 and the outworking of this approach for Northumberland is set out in Chapter 7.

³https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457632/Final_Chief_Planning_Officer_letter_and_written_statement.pdf

⁴<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-12-17/HCWS423/>

Responding to challenges

- 2.15 Accommodation assessments are subject to intense scrutiny, particularly at planning inquiries and hearings. The methodological approaches taken by arc⁴ aim to maximise the robustness of evidence and measures include:
- An up-to-date assessment of the number of pitches on sites and the number of households living on pitches and any vacancies.
 - Maximising response rates from households.
 - Carefully considering the relationship between households and the pitches they occupy.
 - Sensitive analysis of the flows of existing households from and to local authority areas.
 - Consideration of overcrowding and concealed households.
 - Careful consideration of turnover on council/housing association pitches, with clear assumptions over future potential capacity from households moving away from pitches.
 - Longer-term modelling of need using detailed demographic information contained from household survey work.
 - Reasonable assumptions around the number of households in bricks and mortar accommodation who may want to move to a pitch.

3. Methodology

Introduction

- 3.1 The GTTSANA research method is grounded in an understanding of the requirement of the NPPF and based on an established methodology which regularly withstands scrutiny at planning inquiries and hearings.
- 3.2 The methodology has comprised:
- a desktop analysis of existing documents, including data on pitches/sites, plots/yards and unauthorised encampments;
 - the collection of primary data, including household interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople;
 - stakeholder consultation; and
 - an assessment of accommodation needs taking into account all available data and information.
- 3.3 The information gathering has been carried out in three phases, as outlined below:
- Phase 1: Literature/desktop review.
 - Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the county and stakeholder consultation.
 - Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of the GTTSANA 2021 report.

Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and steering group discussions

- 3.4 We have reviewed relevant literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and analysis of available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the county. The research has been overseen by a steering group comprising local authority officers including the Gypsy and Traveller liaison officer who has a detailed knowledge of sites, yards and communities across the county.

Phase 2a: Fieldwork survey and interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.5 Our aim is to obtain interviews from all households living on sites using a standard questionnaire (Appendix A). This questionnaire has been carefully designed in consultation with councils, feedback from community representatives and planning agents. Site visits took place during May 2021 and households were left with a leaflet explaining the work. Several interviews were conducted with appropriate social distancing taking place.

- 3.6 Regarding the PPTS definition, the questionnaire asks if households have been travelling in the preceding year or within the past five years and/or intend to travel in the next year or in any year in the next five years. Note that households who cannot travel due to age or health limitations are excluded from analysis. If eligible households answer ‘yes’ to either question the household meets the travelling criteria set out in PPTS. By contrast, all households identifying as part of the Gypsy and Traveller or Travelling Showpeople community are contained within a broader ‘cultural’ definition.
- 3.7 Analysis of the travelling behaviour of households or emerging households planning to move residential location indicates that 94.4% meet the nomadic habit of life/travelling behaviour criteria set out in PPTS. These households meet the criteria by either travelling within the past five years and/or intend to travel in the next year or in any year in the next five years. Given the national lockdown restrictions, very few households have been able to travel in the past year and travelling in the past year has not been considered in the assessment of travelling behaviour. This is discussed further in the analysis in Chapter 7.
- 3.8 Households living in bricks and mortar accommodation were also contacted as part of the GTTSANA. This element of work was carried out by a member of the Traveller community who had extensive local knowledge of communities living across Northumberland.

Phase 2b: Stakeholder consultation

- 3.9 The survey of stakeholders was conducted during May and June 2021 using an online questionnaire. Contact information for key stakeholders was provided by council officers. Stakeholders were contacted and asked to participate in the online questionnaire, answering whichever questions they felt were relevant to their knowledge and experience. The stakeholder consultation invited representatives from all of the neighbouring local authorities, who were requested to provide information regarding their local situation and provision, including issues such as unauthorised encampment activity. This approach assists the council in meeting their requirements under the Duty to Cooperate.
- 3.10 A total of eight responses to the stakeholder survey were obtained and the findings are presented within the report.

Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of report

- 3.11 A detailed explanation of the pitch requirements is contained in Chapter 6 but briefly comprises analysis of the following:
- current pitch supply, households living in bricks and mortar accommodation; households planning to move in the next five years, and emerging households to give total need for pitches; and
 - supply based on the number of authorised pitches and turnover on sites on public pitches.
- 3.12 The overall need for pitches is then compared with the overall supply.

Pitches and households

- 3.13 One of the key challenges faced when assessing Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements is the actual nature of pitches and how this relates to the number of households they can support.
- 3.14 PPTS 2015 refers to the need for local planning authorities to *'identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets'* and *'relate the number of pitches/plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density'* (PPTS 2015, paragraph 10).
- 3.15 Planning decision notices usually refer to the number of pitches on a site or the specifics of what can be on a pitch e.g. statics, tourers; or specific individuals and/or households.
- 3.16 As part of the GTTSANA, it is essential that the characteristics of sites, the number of pitches and how many households these can support is carefully considered. There are a range of issues which need to be considered when reviewing site and pitch characteristics and their potential implications for future pitch and site requirements which are now summarised.

Site and pitch size

- 3.17 There are no definitive parameters for site or pitch sizes. Previous Design Guidance (DCLG, 2008) states in paragraph 4.4 that *'Gypsy and Traveller sites are designed to provide land per household which is suitable for a mobile home, touring caravan and a utility building, together with space for parking. Sites of various sizes, layouts and pitch numbers operate successfully today and work best when they take into account the size of the site and the needs and demographics of the families resident on them'*.
- 3.18 Paragraph 4.47 states that *'to ensure fire safety it is essential that every trailer, caravan or park home must be not less than 6 metres from any other trailer, caravan or park home that is occupied separately'*.
- 3.19 Paragraph 7.12 states that *'as a general guide, it is possible to specify that an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a large trailer and touring caravan (or two trailers, drying space for clothes, a lockable shed (for bicycles, wheelchair storage etc.), parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area'*.
- 3.20 Paragraph 4.13 states that *'smaller pitches must be able to accommodate at least an amenity building, a large trailer, drying space for clothes and parking for at least one vehicle'*.
- 3.21 As a general guide, it is suggested by arc⁴ that the minimum pitch size is 25m by 25m (625 square meters or 0.0625 hectares). This would support a twin-unit chalet/mobile home (15m x 6.5m), a tourer, an amenity shed/building (5m x 4m), two vehicle spaces (minimum 2.4m x 4.8m for each space) and turning circle for vehicles, amenity space and a small garden area/play space. Residential units need to be 3m from the pitch boundary and at least 6m apart. A slightly larger pitch of 25m by 30m (750 square meters or 0.075 hectares)

would be appropriate for larger household units requiring several residential units.

- 3.22 It is generally accepted amongst the Travelling community that private sites of up to 6-10 pitches are appropriate. Public sites tend to be larger and have policies and procedures in place to ensure the effective management of sites.

Occupancy

- 3.23 A pitch may accommodate more than one family unit, for instance it could include a family, older children who have formed their own household and other family members. This could lead to potential overcrowding and this is considered as part of the GTTSANA household survey.
- 3.24 Private sites may restrict occupancy to close family/friends. This limits opportunity for others to move onto the site but this restrictive occupancy may provide for emerging needs within a household, for example as grown-up children (previously living within a parent(s) or grandparent(s) home) form independent households of their own.
- 3.25 Quality, size of pitch and proximity of caravans on pitches vary dramatically.

Response

- 3.26 For each site, a pragmatic and reasonable judgement should be made as part of the GTTSANA regarding the number of pitches or sub-divisions on sites. This may relate to the number of families living on sites and could include a consideration of the potential intensification of sites (for instance through further sub-division, extension or use of vacant areas within the site). Capacity and layout of sites should be identified through direct site observation, planning history and local knowledge of planning, enforcement and liaison officers.
- 3.27 Pitches can become intensified or sub-divided once planning applications have been approved. These sub-divisions tend to be tolerated by councils. Often pitches become subdivided to provide space for newly-forming households, particularly from family members. The potential for pitch intensification/sub-division was considered on site visits and respondents were asked whether intensification/sub-division was possible on the site they lived on.

4. Review of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population and existing provision of pitches and plots

4.1 This chapter looks at the current picture in terms of the current population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers across Northumberland before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the county.

2011 Census population and household estimates

4.2 The 2011 Census (Tables 4.1 and 4.2) identified a total of 151 people and 52 households in Northumberland with a Household Reference Person who identified as having a White Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnicity. 48% of households who identified as Gypsy/Traveller lived in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Table 4.1 People from households identifying as White Gypsy or Irish Traveller by accommodation type

Local Authority	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Northumberland	151	63	10	78

Source: 2011 Census CT127

Table 4.2 Households identifying as Gypsy Traveller by accommodation type

Local Authority	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Northumberland	52	22	3	27

Source: 2011 Census CT0128

Caravan Count information

- 4.3 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the government in 1979 and have since been undertaken every January and July by local authorities. An annual count of Travelling Showperson caravans takes place every January. The counts provide a source of information on the number of caravans located on authorised and unauthorised sites but do not record the actual number of pitches on sites/yards.
- 4.4 The figures for the last nine Traveller caravan counts for Northumberland are set out in Table 4.3. Data shows an average of 105 caravans across the county during the period Jan 2016 to Jan 2020. Of these, 68% were on council sites, 30% on private sites and 2% on unauthorised sites. The considerable variation in private site counts can be attributed to the site at Berwick which provides transit capacity. Note that one caravan does not necessarily mean one household and an extended family could live in 2 to 3 caravans but still be described as a single household.

Table 4.3 Bi-annual Traveller caravan count figures January 2016 to January 2020 Northumberland

Date	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised sites without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private	Total Unauthorised	
Jan 2016	54	5	0	59
Jul 2016	60	34	0	94
Jan 2017	62	111	0	173
Jul 2017	78	60	0	138
Jan 2018	90	2	5	97
Jul 2018	78	40	10	128
Jan 2019	78	6	0	84
July 2019	74	17	0	91
Jan 2020	74	9	0	83
Nine-Count Average* (Jan 2016- Jan 2020)	72	32	2	105
Nine-Count % Average* (Jan 2016- Jan 2020)	68.4%	30.0%	1.6%	100.0%

Source: MHCLG Traveller Caravan Count, Live Table 1 (January 2020)

- 4.5 Over the period 2015 to 2020 there were an average of 25 Travelling Showperson caravans across Northumberland in the MHCLG caravan count statistics (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4 Annual Travelling Showpeople caravan count figures January 2015 to January 2020

Count	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised sites without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private	Total Unauthorised	
2015	0	22	0	22
2016	0	22	0	22
2017	0	30	0	30
2018	0	1	0	1
2019	0	20	0	20
2020	0	30	0	30
Five-Count Average*	0	25	0	25
Five-Count % Average*	0	100.0%	0	100.0%

Source: MHCLG Travelling Showpeople Caravan Count, Live Table 3 (January 2020)

*Excludes 2018 data which is not consistent with data from other years and does not reflect the situation on the yards.

Local sites and yards

- 4.6 Broadly speaking, authorised sites are those with planning permission and can be on either public or privately-owned land. Unauthorised sites are made up of either longer term⁵ unauthorised encampments⁶ that have been in existence for some considerable time and so can be considered to be indicative of a permanent need for accommodation (in some instances local authorities class these as tolerated sites and do not take enforcement action to remove them); and unauthorised developments, where Travellers are residing upon land that they own and that does not have planning permission (see Appendix B for more detailed definitions).
- 4.7 Table 4.5 sets out the range of sites and Travelling Showperson's yards across Northumberland which are also shown in Map 4.1. The table also shows the number of household survey responses and reasons for non-response.
- 4.8 Culturally appropriate provision includes two council sites (with 39 pitches) and, one private site (with 2 pitches) at Drummond's Yard in Berwick upon Tweed. There is currently transit provision for 25 caravans at Drummond's Yard.

⁵ Approximately three months or longer

⁶ Please note that unauthorised encampments also encompass short-term illegal encampments, which are more indicative of transit need, see para 7.10 for more information on these encampments.

Table 4.5 List of Gypsy & Traveller sites (as at June 2021)										
Site Code	Site/Yard Name and Address	Postcode	Type of Site	Ownership	Total Pitches	Vacant pitches	Households	Total response	Reasons for non-response	
									refusal	Non response after 4 visits
LA1	Hartford Bridge Caravan Site, Hartford Bridge, Bedlington, Northumberland	NE22 6AD	Permanent Authorised	Local Authority	28	3	25	21	1	3
LA2	Lyneburn Cottages, Lynemouth, Northumberland	NE61 5UJ	Permanent Authorised	Local Authority	11	0	11	9	1	1
Priv1	Drummond's Yard, Berwick upon Tweed	TD15 2DS	Permanent Authorised	Private	2	0	2	2	0	0
Total Gypsy and Traveller Pitches					41	3	38	32	2	4
TSP1	Bomarsund, Fair Avenue, Stakeford	NE22 7BR	Permanent Authorised	Private	30	0	30	30	0	0
Total Travelling Showperson Plots					30	0	30	30	0	0

Source: Council data 2021, site survey and fieldwork 2021 GTTSANA

NOTE: An interview was successfully completed for a family on roadside encampment as Brassington Lane, Cramlington, NE22 8AD

Map 4.1 Location of sites and yards in Northumberland



Bricks and mortar interviews

- 4.9 Stakeholders commented that within Northumberland there are well-established and settled Gypsy and Traveller communities. However, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller households, particularly those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, cannot be confirmed. This is a common issue faced by researchers, as for instance. some community members do not want to publicly identify as being Gypsy or Traveller for fear of prejudice.
- 4.10 The 2011 census reported 73 people living in 25 bricks and mortar households. Although the council believes this to be an underestimate, there is no alternative data available to establish a baseline bricks and mortar population
- 4.11 A total of 5 bricks and mortar households across Northumberland were successfully contacted (Table 4.6). This was achieved by a member of the Gypsy and Traveller Community engaging with known community members living in Northumberland. The feedback was that households did not want to be interviewed but information obtained suggested there may be some emerging need from bricks and mortar households over the plan period. This is considered in the needs modelling presented in Chapter 6.

Table 4.6 Bricks and mortar households contacted

1) 6 individuals 2 adults 4 dependants age range 9-15 years private housed in Alnwick. Didn't want to raise the profile of their GT status. When married, children are likely to need a pitch ideally private.
2) 3 individuals in Lynemouth area - 2 adults one child, rented house. Applied to be on local site and have been refused to be included on the waiting list.
3) 2 elderly adults Berwick on Tweed, private small holding. No desire to be sited.
4) 5 individuals in Elsdon, 1 adult 4 dependants age range 8-17 Private Housed. Refused to be interviewed
5) 3 individuals in Corbridge, 3 adults a couple and their child. Private housed. Child would need a pitch once married but no plans at present. "It's easy to keep your head down and not get noticed for being a Traveller. They don't really like us around these parts"

5. Household survey findings

- 5.1 This chapter presents the findings of the household survey, which was carried out to provide primary data to inform this GTTSANA. The survey aimed to reach as many Gypsy and Traveller households living in the study area as possible. It was conducted using the questionnaire presented in Appendix A. Information from the site management data is included in the analysis where appropriate.
- 5.2 Data from the Travelling Showperson community comprised 6 household interviews on private sites plus detailed information on plot occupancy on the Showman's Guild site obtained from a representative of the community.
- 5.3 This chapter also reports some feedback from stakeholders.

Gypsy and Traveller households living in Northumberland

- 5.4 A review of the characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller households living in Northumberland has been based on data from a total of 33 households:
- 32 household interviews on sites achieved in the 2021 household survey; and
 - 1 interview from a household on a roadside encampment.
- 5.5 The number of responses achieved to particular questions is summarised for each question. It would not be appropriate to provide a detailed analysis of the survey information, for instance by type or location of site, as this has the potential to identify individual responses. Broad summaries of the household data are presented in a manner which maintains respondent confidentiality. Where analysis refers to 'small numbers' this means 4 or fewer households responding.
- 5.6 Ethnicity (base=33): Of household representatives interviewed 78.8% described themselves as Gypsy (including Romany, Romany Gypsy and English Gypsy), 3% English Traveller and 18.2% as Irish Traveller.
- 5.7 Data from the household survey provided an insight into household size, type and the age of residents living on pitches.
- 5.8 **Household size** (base=33): 30.3% of households were single person; 24.3% two person; 24.3% three person; 12.1% four person, 3% five person and 6% six or more person households.
- 5.9 **Household type** (base=33): 27.3% were single people, 27.3% couples with children, 6.1% couples with adult child(ren), 12.1% couples, 12.1% lone parent families, 6.1% lone parents with adult child(ren), 6% older (65+) person households and 3% were extended families (for instance couples and children with parents).
- 5.10 **Age profile:** The total number of people in households interviewed was 84. Household survey data reports the following age profile (base=84) of the Travelling population living on pitches: 22.6% were aged 13 or under, 8.3% aged 14-17, 23.8% aged 18-34, 22.6% aged 35-49, 14.3% aged 50-64 and 8.3% aged 65 and over.

- 5.11 **Length of residence** (base=30): 40% had lived at their current place of residence for less than 5 years, 10% between 5 and less than 10 years, 23.3% between 10 and less than 20 years and 26.7% for 20 years or more.
- 5.12 **Overcrowding:** When asked if their home was overcrowded (base=32), 94% said no it was not overcrowded and 6% said it was overcrowded. When asked whether their pitch was overcrowded (base=32), 97% said no and 3% said yes. Sometimes, overcrowding is due to the number of children in a household and modelling in Chapter 6 takes into account any need arising which, if addressed through new pitches, would help reduce the level of overcrowding, because young people are moving out and forming their own household.
- 5.13 **Regarding the need for more residential pitches** (base=28), respondents were asked if they felt there was a need for more pitches. This was to gauge local views on need. 64% said there was a need for more residential pitches and 36% said no more were needed. Of those stating a number (base=6), 5 said fewer than 5 pitches and 1 said 6 pitches.

Health and support needs

- 5.14 The household survey asked if the respondent or members of their family had particular health issues. Most frequently mentioned were asthma, arthritis, depression/anxiety, heart disease and some had experienced Long Covid.
- 5.15 Table 5.1 sets out the range of improvements and adaptations households said they needed in their caravans and sheds/amenity blocks which usually included kitchen and bathroom facilities. Better insulation and heating were most frequently mentioned.
- 5.16 Regarding support needs, the survey identified that 21.2% need support from doctors, 12.1% from hospitals, 3% from Occupational Health and around 3% either pregnancy or post-natal support.

Table 5.1 Improvements and adaptations needed		
Type of improvement/adaptation	% stating improvement/adaptation needed	
	Caravan	Shed/Amenity Block
Better heating	33.3	33.3
More insulation	33.3	33.3
Adaptations to kitchen (e.g. accessible/drop-down units)	12.1	9.1
Adaptations to bathroom (e.g. level-access shower/wetroom)	9.1	9.1
Adaptations relating to sensory needs (e.g. to radiators, floors, sockets)	0.0	3.0
Internal hand/grab rails	6.1	6.1
External hand/grab rails	0.0	3.0
Lever door handles	3.0	0.0
Wheelchair adaptations (including door widening and ramps)	0.0	0.0
Other adaptations (please say what is needed)	0.0	0.0
Base (respondents)	33	33

NOTE: Table shows the % stating a particular improvement/adaptation so the columns do not sum to 100%

Travelling patterns

- 5.17 Survey respondents were asked to comment on their travelling patterns. Responses tended to be 'all over,' although there were references to travelling to Wales, Scotland, Darlington and County Durham and generally travelling to where fairs took place. Additionally, stakeholders were asked whether they were aware of any regular movements of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from Northumberland to other neighbouring local authority areas. The comments received are detailed below:
- East to west for Appleby Horse Fair in Eden District.
 - North to south from Scotland.
 - Cross-border travel between Northumberland and Newcastle local authority areas is not regular but does happen from time to time.
 - In respect of County Durham most movements (mainly seasonal) into and out of Northumberland via County Durham would be on a north south axis predominantly through central County Durham and onto Gateshead/Newcastle and then onto Northumberland. The centres of population en-route provide private sites such as the one next to Drum Lane (Birtley) that historically have been used as a stopping off

point prior to crossing north into Scotland and vice versa and have been used historically by the same families year on year.

- It is expected that movements between County Durham and Northumberland may increase around the Appleby Fair. The main routes used to travel to and from Appleby are - A695 (Newcastle / Ryton / Hexham) and A686 – (Haydon Bridge to Penrith via Alston)
- County Durham has ten Temporary Stop Over Areas that are used to support the migration of Gypsies and Travellers who resort to County Durham.

Travelling Showpeople

5.18 There are Showperson's yards at Fair Avenue, Bomarsund, Stakeford which comprises a series of 5 private yards (which include 7 separate addresses for council tax purposes) numbered 24 to 28 Fair Avenue and 22 plots on a Showman's Guild yard. There is also one plot (23 Fair Avenue) which is used for storage. The yards were visited as part of the GTTSANA. Interviews were carried out with households on private yards and demographic information was obtained for households living on the Showman's Guild yard.

5.19 In summary:

- On the Showman's Guild yard, there are 19 occupied plots and 3 vacant plots.
- On the private yards, all are occupied (numbers 24 to 28) and there is a storage area which is also used for short term storage and accommodation for Showpeople travelling through the area.
- There are a total of 47 people in 24 households living across the Showman's Guild and private yards.
- **Household size** (base=24): 37.5% of households were single person; 45.8% two person; 4.2% three person; 8.3% four person, 4.2% five person households.
- **Household type** (base=24): 20.8% were single people (under 60), 16.7% were singles with others (such as grandchildren) 12.5% couples with children, 4.2% couples with adult child(ren), 12.5% couples, 16.7% were older couples (60+), 12.5% were older singles and 4.2% were extended families (for instance couples and children with parents).

5.20 Figure 5.1 provides an overview of the Showpersons yards and shows the private plots, Showman's Guild plots and the storage area which is also used by Showpeople travelling through the area.

Figure 5.1 Layout of Showpersons' yards at Bomarsund, Stakeford

Challenges facing the communities

5.21 Stakeholders were asked whether they were aware of any challenges faced by the Gypsy and Traveller households who live in Northumberland. The comments received are below:

- Potential closure of Berwick site.
- Discrimination.
- Eviction from unauthorised encampments.
- Those who have ceased travelling and no longer fall within the PPTS.
- There is an issue relating for the need for fixed transit accommodation, manifested through unauthorised encampments.
- There is bridge access to the Lyneburn council-owned permanent Traveller site from Lynemouth is in need of replacement and weight restrictions have been imposed. There is also a more circuitous a northern access route to the site via Cresswell.
- Vehicular access to that site is therefore a challenge due to the bridge.
- Prejudice exists from elements of the settled community, with the picture complicated by the different needs from groups within Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.

6. Gypsy and Traveller pitch, Travelling Showperson plot and transit site requirements

Introduction

- 6.1 This section reviews the overall pitch and plot requirements of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across Northumberland. It takes into account current supply and need, as well as future need, based on modelling of data. This chapter also considers transit pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers. The needs of Travelling Showpeople are explored. Finally, the chapter presents planning policy recommendations.
- 6.2 The calculation of pitch requirements is based on modelling as advocated in *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance* (DCLG, 2007). Although now formally withdrawn, the former DCLG Guidance still provides the best-practice approach towards the assessment of pitch and plot needs (see Chapter 2 for further discussion).
- 6.3 This approach requires an assessment of the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers and a projection of future needs. It advocates the use of a survey to supplement secondary source information and derive key supply and demand information.
- 6.4 The GTTSANA has modelled current and future need and current and future supply separately for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. For both groups, the modelling shows an overall 'cultural' need and within this the PPTS need which refers to those households who met the PPTS planning definition.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirement model overview

- 6.5 Pitch need is assessed for two time periods. A short-term 5-year model looks at need over the next five years (2021/22 to 2025/26). A longer-term model looks at need over the remainder of the plan period (to 2038/29) and to 2040/41 arising from children likely to need a pitch.
- 6.6 In terms of **cultural need**, the 5-year model considers:
- the baseline number of households on all types of site (authorised, unauthorised and temporary authorised sites) as at May 2021;
 - existing households planning to move in the next five years (currently on sites and also from bricks and mortar) and where they are planning to move to; and
 - emerging households currently on sites and planning to emerge in the next five years and stay within the study area on a pitch; to derive a figure for
 - total pitch need.
- 6.7 In terms of **supply**, the model considers:
- total supply of current pitches on authorised sites; and

- vacant pitches on authorised sites.
- 6.8 The model then reconciles total need and existing authorised supply over the next five years by summarising:
- total need for pitches; and
 - total supply of authorised pitches.
- 6.9 The longer-term model then considers the cultural need over the period to 2038/39 and also to 2040/41. This is based on the age profile of children under 13 living in Gypsy and Traveller households on pitches (the longer-term model).
- 6.10 For each model, the likely pitch need from households meeting the PPTS definition is also calculated.

Northumberland Gypsy and Traveller pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model

- 6.11 Table 6.1 provides a summary of the 5-year pitch need calculation. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on pitches (1a to 1d)

- 6.12 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are 38 households living on 38 authorised pitches.
- 6.13 No households were identified as being concealed/doubled-up on pitches, whereby two or more family units are occupying the same pitch and require individual pitches. Hence there is no need to include need from concealed/doubled up households in the needs analysis.

Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (2)

- 6.14 The 2011 Census suggested there were 25 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Please see paragraphs 4.9 to 4.11 for further discussion on bricks and mortar households. A total of 5 bricks and mortar households were identified by a Gypsy and Traveller community representative who has close links with families in Northumberland.

Weighting of data

- 6.15 A total of 32 interviews were successfully achieved from a total of 38 households. Data have been weighted by a factor of 1.1875 (38/32) to account for non-response households

5 year needs modelling

- 6.16 This weighting is based on the number of responses compared with the total number of households on the two council sites and private sites (Table 6.1).

Housing waiting list

- 6.17 The council does have the option for households to go on a waiting list for pitches. This includes the name and address of the applicant along with the priority they have been awarded. The council rarely has applicants for a pitch. When a vacancy occurs, the council usually gets an application for the pitch by a family member or through word of mouth and the vacancy is filled straight away. There is therefore no current backlog of need from households on the waiting list.

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (3)

- 6.18 This was derived from information from the 2021 household survey for respondents currently on pitches.
- 6.19 Of existing households currently on sites (rows 3a to 3e), the household survey indicates that 8.3 (weighted) plan to move and in the next 5 years but the overall net impact of these moves is a 1.2 pitch need. This includes a specific and potential move if there is a change of use of the two residential pitches on the Drummond's Yard in Berwick upon Tweed (row 3b1).
- 6.20 For households currently in bricks and mortar, based on national arc⁴ studies it is estimated that 5.3% of households living in bricks and mortar would prefer to live on a site which would equate to 1.3 (weighted) households (row 3f and 3g). The 5.3% figure is based on national interviews carried out by arc⁴ with 329 Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation. It is anticipated there will be some need from households living in bricks and mortar based on the contact made with households – but evidence would suggest that most bricks and mortar households have no intention of moving onto a pitch. However, the model does take into account some need from bricks and mortar households in line with identified national trends and supported by local evidence.
- 6.21 Regarding in-migration, analysis of household survey data indicates that 13.1 households (weighted) have moved into the county and onto a pitch in the past 5 years and shown at row 3h.
- 6.22 The factors presented in section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of +15.6 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years which includes an allowance for in-migration (row 3i).

Emerging households (4)

- 6.23 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2021 household survey information. The total number is +8.3 (weighted). If young people old enough to form their own household were living with family and have stated that they do not want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to

form a new household. This can happen when, for instance, a teenager or young adult has support needs which are provided by the household.

Total need for pitches (5)

- 6.24 This is a total of current households on authorised pitches, households on pitches planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on pitches. This indicates a total need for 60.6 pitches (38 existing households on pitches plus a net need for 14.3 (weighted) pitches from existing households planning to move including in-migration and a need for 8.3 (weighted) pitches from emerging households). This total need is rounded up to 61 pitches.

Supply

Current supply of authorised pitches (6)

- 6.25 This is a summary of the total number of occupied authorised pitches and the number of vacant authorised pitches. This shows a total supply of 38 occupied authorised pitches plus 3 vacant pitches resulting in a total supply of 41 authorised pitches. The vacant pitches are on the Hartford Bridge council site and were not occupied at the time of the household survey and stakeholder observation. However, they are all available for occupancy and therefore can be included as part of pitch supply.

Reconciling supply and demand

- 6.26 There is a total need over the next five years (2021/22 to 2025/26) for 62 pitches in Northumberland (Table 6.4) compared with a supply of 41 authorised pitches (including 3 vacant pitches). The result is an overall cultural need shortfall of 21 pitches.

Table 6.1 Summary of demand and supply factors: Gypsies and Travellers – 2021/22 to 2025/26			
CULTURAL NEED		Northumberland	
1	Households living on pitches	1a. On council sites	36
		1b. On private site - Authorised	2
		1c. Unauthorised	0
		1d. Total (1a to 1c)	38
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2011 Census	25
		Weighting for non-response	1.1875
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years	Currently on sites	
		3a. To another pitch/same site (no net impact)	0.0
		3b. To another site in county (no net impact)	4.8
		3b1. To another site in county (net impact)	2.4
		3c. From site to Bricks and Mortar (-)	0.0
		3d. To a site/bricks and mortar outside county (-)	1.2
		3e. From roadside to bricks and mortar (no net impact)	1.2
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a site in LA (+)	1.3
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0.0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	13.1
		3i. TOTAL Net impact (3b1-3c-3d+3f+3g+3h)	15.6
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	5.9
		4b. Currently on site and planning to live on another site in the county	2.4
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the county	0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	8.3
		5	Total Need
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised pitches	6a Current supply of occupied authorised pitches	38
		6b. Current authorised pitches which are not occupied and available	3
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	41
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	62
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	41
5 YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH SHORTFALL 2021/22 TO 2025/26			21

Longer-term pitch requirement modelling

- 6.27 Longer-term pitch need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on pitches. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 6.28 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2026/27 to 2038/39. A reasonable assumption is that half of these children will form new households, bearing in mind culturally women tend to move away on marriage and men tend to stay in close proximity to their families on marriage. The model therefore assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Northumberland. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the assumption has been corroborated by several Travelling interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total cultural need for 9 additional pitches over the period 2026/27-2038/39 (Table 6.2).

Table 6.2 Future pitch requirements in Northumberland based on the assumption that 50% of children form households on reaching 18

Time period	No. children	Expected household formation
2026/27 to 2030/31	4	2
2031/32 to 2035/36	10	5
2036/37 to 2038/39	4	2
Total (2026/27 to 2038/39)	18	9

Planning Policy for Traveller Site definition

- 6.29 Analysis of household survey data has been carried out to assess the extent to which households meet the nomadic habit of life test of the PPTS. Analysis establishes that:
- For all households (base=33), 9 are exempt from the PPTS nomadic habit of life test because they are unable to travel for either health reasons or because children are in education. A further 5 do not travel and 19 travel. Excluding exemptions, 79.2% of households meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition.
 - A total of 12 existing households (unweighted) are planning to move. 1 is exempt because they are unable to travel. Excluding exemptions, 100% of households meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition.
 - A total of 7 new households (unweighted) are expected to form in the next 5 years. Of these, 6 meet the PPTS definition or 87.5%.

- 6.30 Therefore 17 out of 18 respondents (unweighted) who are planning to move (either as an existing or emerging household) meet the PPTS travelling definition or 94.4%.

Overall plan period pitch need

- 6.31 Table 6.3 summarises the overall need for pitches across Northumberland over the plan period 2021/22 to 2038/39. It presents the overall cultural need based on households identifying as Gypsy and Traveller and a PPTS need which is a subset of the cultural need and represents households who meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition. Need has been assessed over a short-term 2021/22 to 2025/26 and longer-term 2026/27 to 2038/39 period. The overall need is 30 pitches of which 29 is PPTS need. The main driver of need in the first five years is net in-migration and emerging households.

Table 6.3 Plan period Gypsy and Traveller pitch need 2021/22 to 2038/39		
	Cultural need	Of which: PPTS need
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2025/26) (A)	21	20
Longer-term need		
<i>Over period 2026/7 to 2030/31 (B)</i>	2	2
<i>Over period 2031/32 to 2035/36(C)</i>	5	5
<i>Over period 2036/37 to 2038/39(D)</i>	2	2
<i>Longer-term need TOTAL to 2038/39 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)</i>	9	9
NET SHORTFALL 2021/22 to 2038/39 (A+E) (18 years)	30	29
Annual net shortfall	1.6	1.5

- 6.32 Table 6.4 summaries the overall need to 2040/41. This is calculated by working out the annual need over the period 2026/27 to 2039/39 and assumes this level of need continues over the period 2039/40 and 2040/41.

Table 6.4 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need 2021/22 to 2040/41		
	Cultural need	Of which: PPTS need
5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2025/26) (A)	21	20
Longer-term need		
<i>Over period 2026/7 to 2030/31 (B)</i>	2	2
<i>Over period 2031/32 to 2035/36(C)</i>	5	5
<i>Over period 2036/37 to 2038/39(D)</i>	2	2
<i>Over period 2039/40 to 2040/41 (E)</i>	1	1
<i>Longer-term need TOTAL 2026/7 to 2040/41 (15 years) F=(B+C+D+E)</i>	10	10
NET SHORTFALL 2021/22 to 2040/41 (A+F) (20 years)	31	30
Annual net shortfall	1.54	1.48

Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites

Turnover on sites

- 6.33 Turnover relates to the number of pitches that are expected to become available for occupancy. Analysis only includes expected turnover on public sites as this is referenced in (former) CLG guidance and more accurate data on changes in pitch occupancy is likely to be available. Although there is likely to be turnover on private sites, the ability of households to move onto private sites may be more restrictive (for instance the site may be restricted to a particular family) and less likely to be recorded. 13 out of 30 households interviewed on council sites had moved onto their pitch in the past 5 years, representing a 5 year turnover rate of 43.3%. Applied to all pitches (39) would give a turnover of 16.9 pitches over 5 years or 3.4 each year. Site management data from the Council reports 12 pitches coming available over the period November 2019 to November 2021 or 6 each year. This is almost double the rate assumed based on household survey data. This level of turnover would increase the level of turnover to 30 over a five year period and result in no residual need.

Potential for additional pitches on existing sites

- 6.34 Some respondents suggested a limited number of additional pitches could be provided on each local authority site. However, further discussion with the council confirms this is not practical and therefore no potential additional pitches on existing sites are assumed in the model.

Impact of turnover and new pitch provision on pitch need

- 6.35 As shown in Table 6.5, anticipated turnover addresses the overall cultural and PPTS need.

Table 6.5 Addressing Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Northumberland 2021/22 to 2038/39			
	Northumberland	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
A	5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2025/26)	21	20
B	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	17	17
C=A-B	Residual need 2020/21 to 2025/26 after turnover	4	3
D	Longer-term need 2026/27 to 2038/39	9	9
E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	44	44
F=D-E	Residual need 2025/26 to 2038/39 after turnover	-35	-35
	Summary	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
G=A+D	Plan period Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2038/39)	30	29
H=B+E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	61	61
I=G-H	Residual need 2021/22 to 2038/39 after turnover considered	-31	-32

- 6.36 Government policy encourages authorities to meet the needs of all Gypsies and Travellers through the NPPF for those who no longer travel and the PPTS for those who have a nomadic habit of life. The overall gross need that the council needs to recognise is 30 pitches over the period 2021/22 to 2038/39. However, anticipated turnover on council sites is expected to address this need in full over the plan period and it not necessary to develop new residential sites in Northumberland. The short term need is mainly driven by net in-migration and arguably this can only take place when pitches become available for occupancy. The evidence does not indicate there is a pent up shortfall of pitches from the existing population and therefore it is not recommended that the council meet the short-term shortfall through the development of new sites. .
- 6.37 Table 6.6 considers overall need for the period 2021/22 to 2040/41 and the residual need after turnover is considered.

Table 6.6 Addressing Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Northumberland 2021/22 to 2040/41			
	Northumberland	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
A	5yr Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2025/26)	21	20
B	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	17	17
C=A-B	Residual need 2020/21 to 2025/26 after turnover	4	3
D	Longer-term need 2026/27 to 2040/41	10	10
E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	51	51
F=D-E	Residual need 2025/26 to 2040/41 after turnover	-41	-41
	Summary	Cultural need	Of which PPTS NEED
G=A+D	Plan period Authorised Pitch Shortfall (2021/22 to 2040/41)	31	30
H=B+E	Anticipated minimum turnover on council sites	68	68
I=G-H	Residual need 2021/22 to 2040/41 after turnover considered	-37	-38

Tenure preferences

- 6.38 Respondents planning to move and form new households were asked to consider their preferred tenure of pitches (social rented or private). Most (91%) stated a preference for council pitches, with 9% stating a private pitch preference.

Stakeholder views on Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch need

- 6.39 Stakeholders were asked what the need for permanent residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers in Northumberland was. Stakeholders gave a range of views which are detailed below:
- There isn't a current waiting list for pitches and there are no unauthorised encampments where families are awaiting a permanent pitch.
 - The previous GTTSANA found the current level of provision to be approximately correct, reflecting a fairly stable community living on the pitches provided, as opposed to living in bricks and mortar dwellings or, at the other end of the scale, passing through.

6.40 Stakeholders were asked where they thought the permanent sites needed to be located and why. The responses received are below:

- Locations of sites should be sustainable and as close as possible and reasonable to local amenities and community facilities to minimise travel, and ensure the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities can access essential services, including education, health, and other support.
- There is a notable north-south movement and a seasonal east-west movement, any demand is likely to be concentrated in SE Northumberland, reflecting current patterns of more permanent residence, sites, bricks and mortar living, unauthorised stopping, work opportunities etc.
- The likely area of search for any identified need would approximate to the Local Plan's South-East Delivery Area, minus those parts of the area that are green belt.
- Stakeholders were asked whether there were any barriers to the provision of new permanent sites. The comments received are detailed below:
 - The main barrier to the provision of permanent sites is determining a suitable location that protects the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities from the responses generated by 'NIMBY'ism.
 - In the National Park and rural areas, the sites need to have reasonable access to local services and facilities. Many of the named settlements in the National Park have very limited services and are accessed along remote/narrow roads.
 - While SE Northumberland is quite a tight-knit area with very few locations that are away from settled communities, recent work has established that there are many possible sites, (possibly put forward as SHLAA sites) that, with suitable treatment, could be considered. However, the willingness of landowners to see this use on their land would need to be overcome.

Transit requirements

6.41 There are a number of ways to deliver temporary places where Travellers can stop whilst passing through a local authority area. These include transit sites, stop over areas and Negotiated Stopping. An indication of the need for transit provision can be evidenced through unauthorised encampment activity. Table 6.7 shows there were 82 unauthorised encampments registered in 2020/21 and 18 to the end of May 2021.

6.42 The average number of caravans on each encampment was 3.7 and, during 2021/22, there were 12 unauthorised encampments caused by homelessness due to Covid-19 issues (for instance people unable to return to their sites as they were in lockdown due to Covid-19 outbreaks). Unauthorised encampment activity takes place throughout the county.

Table 6.7 Unauthorised encampment activity					
Year	Number of encampments by location				Notes
	South East Northumberland	South West Northumberland	North Northumberland	Total	
2020/21	33	26	23	82	NCC land 50, Private 32 Homeless due to Covid 19 issues = 12 Tourist = 16 Average length of stay = 4-5 days Total number of caravans = 307 or 3.7 per encampment
2021/22	8	4	6	18	NCC land 11, Private 7 Homeless due to Covid 19 issues = 1 Tourist = 12 Average length of stay = 3-5 days Total number of caravans = 66 or 3.7 per encampment

Source: Northumberland County Council

- 6.43 Drummonds Yard in Berwick-upon-Tweed currently provides transit provision but having spoken to the site owner and Gypsy and Traveller Liaison officer, it is confirmed that the households using the site for transit purposes are not requiring permanent residential pitches in Northumberland

Transit site provision

- 6.44 In terms of transit pitches, 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide' (CLG, 2008) states:
- Size of pitch – sufficient to accommodate two touring caravans, two parking spaces and private amenities;
 - Amenities should include electricity supply, toilet, wash basin and shower with hot and cold water supply for each pitch;
 - Depending on the level of use, portable facilities may be more appropriate, particularly if the sites are empty for lengthy periods of time and therefore at risk of vandalism.

Temporary stop over provision

- 6.45 A temporary stop over area is land which can be used on a temporary basis if unauthorised encampments occur or likely to occur. They can be fields, areas of hardstanding or a mixture of both. Temporary facilities can be provided when the temporary stop over is in use, for instance portable toilets and rubbish collection.

Negotiated Stopping

- 6.46 Negotiated Stopping involves councils making an agreement with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments. The terms of the agreement can vary but usually include the provision of portaloos, waste disposal, water; the length of the agreement can vary but tends to be around 28 days; and users agree to comply with rules for behaviour and use of the site.

Stakeholder views on transit need

- 6.47 Stakeholders were asked about their knowledge of unauthorised encampments including the level of activity, challenges and policies for dealing with encampments. Stakeholders were presented with several potential options for households travelling through Northumberland . The comments received are detailed below:

Option 1 Transit sites

- Two transit sites of four pitches each within the Blyth – Ashington – North Cramlington – Bedlington – Newbiggin area as per the previous GTAA.

- There is a need for authorised transit sites. The council has used Negotiated Stopping places, however an improved offer would be an authorised transit site with hard-standing and improved refuse collection options. Provision of water butts and toilet facilities could also be considered. Transit pitches would be required in the north of the county (Berwick area) 4-6 pitches if the current 25 transit caravan spaces at Drummonds Yard is lost to possible alternative use of the site; west of the county (Hexham area) 4-6 pitches to provide for the seasonal travelling associated with the Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria; and the south east of the county, 6-8 pitches
- Unlawful encampments that were present in Newcastle in 2019 had spent some time at an authorised encampment in Northumberland. The instances of encampments are said to be low in neighbouring Newcastle upon Tyne. Travelling Showpeople stay on Newcastle's Town Moor by agreement with Newcastle City Council and there are specific services provided to them for the time they are there, e.g. an on-site school when the Hoppings Fair occurs annually each June.
- Housing colleagues consider there to be a need for possibly two small fixed transit sites in the south east Northumberland area. They have assessed whether informal stopping arrangements could tackle the unauthorised encampment issue but have concluded that fixed transit sites need to be part of the solution. With the possible closure of the privately owned Berwick site, we would be keen to know how this may affect the need for transit sites.

6.48 Stakeholders were asked whether there were any barriers to transit provision, the comments received are below:

- Finding a suitable site.
- Discrimination.
- Less financial return than say housing so less attractive to landowners.
- PPTS states sites are inappropriate within the green belt with no exceptions. Registration to use sites.
- Identifying the right size of land in the right location; securing funding to develop provision; securing funding to allow effective management of sites.

Option 2: Temporary stop over places:

- North Northumberland Coast
- Negotiated Stopping places which would be similar to temporary stop-over places.

Policy response on transit need

6.49 It is recommended that the council develop a network of provision across the county to reflect the level of unauthorised encampment activity. On the basis that the average encampment has 3.7 caravans, areas of land for up to 5 caravans should be identified. Stakeholders had a preference for the

development of transit sites and on the basis of detailed local knowledge it is recommended that the council delivers the following provision:

North Northumberland (Berwick area)	4-6 pitches
South West Northumberland (Hexham area)	4-6 pitches
South East Northumberland	6-8 pitches

- 6.50 The total number of transit pitch need across Northumberland is therefore a minimum of 14 pitches. At present, there is transit provision for 25 caravans available at Drummond's Yard in Berwick upon Tweed which can continue to provide for transit need in North Northumberland until any potential changes of use for the site come forward.
- 6.51 Need in South West Northumberland is largely to cater for east-west seasonal movements relating to the Appleby Horse Fair.
- 6.52 The council should also consider Negotiated Stopping arrangements to accommodate larger encampments passing through the county.

Showperson plot requirements

- 6.53 A detailed analysis of the households living on the Travelling Showpersons yards revealed the following:
- There is no need from existing households wanting to move elsewhere.
 - There is a potential need from 5 emerging households living on the Showman's Guild site over the plan period (2 in the period 2021/22 to 2025/26) and 3 over the period 2026/27 to 2038/39. The need for 3 remains unchanged over the period 2026/27 to 2040/41.
 - There is a potential need from 4 emerging households living on the private yards over the plan period (all 4 in the period 2021/22 to 2025/26).
 - There are currently 3 vacant plots on the Showman's Guild yard and there is potential for intensification of the private yards to accommodate 8 additional plots.
 - Therefore, the gross need is for 9 plots over the period 2021/22 to 2038/39 and the same need for 2021/22 to 2040/41. There is a supply of 11 plots through the use of vacant plots and intensification of existing yards.
- 6.54 There is therefore no strategic need for additional Travelling Showperson plots to 2038/39 or 2040/41, but the draft Local Plan includes a criteria-based policy for new yards should any residential need arise during the plan period. The council should engage with owners on private yards to support changes of use to intensify existing yards to meet the identified plot needs.

Duty to cooperate

- 6.55 Stakeholders were asked whether this questionnaire contributes to the requirement on the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities as set out in Section 3A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by

Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011) and described in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as an integral part of the Local Plan-making process and its assessment at Examination. Stakeholders commented:

- The questionnaire contributes in part towards fulfilling the requirements of the duty to cooperate however the work on the GTTSANA should further identify and inform any strategic cross boundary issues.
- It does contribute to the requirement, however, it should be supplemented by further work with other local authorities in the region/sub-region, to allow intelligence to be shared on existing provision (accommodation and support) and needs, covering matters such as access to GP and other health services; education; debt advice.
- I consider if the results and outcomes of the assessment are shared then this would contribute to the duty to co-operate.
- The issues of cross-boundary movements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople has been, and will continue to be, an important agenda item in Duty to Cooperate meetings with neighbouring authorities.

7. Conclusion and response

- 7.1 This concluding chapter provides a brief summary of key findings and recommendations.

Current accommodation

- 7.2 There are well-established Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson communities living in Northumberland. Culturally appropriate provision includes two council sites (with 39 pitches) and one private site (with 2 pitches). There is one Travelling Showperson's yard with 30 plots.

Future residential need

- 7.3 Government policy encourages authorities to meet the needs of all Gypsies and Travellers through the NPPF for those who no longer travel and the PPTS for those who have a nomadic habit of life. There is an overall gross need for 30 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across the county over the period 2021/22 to 2038/39. Of these, 29 are for households who meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition and 1 who do not meet the definition.
- 7.4 Over the period 2021/22 to 2038/39, it is expected that 61 council pitches will become available through turnover. Once this is considered, there is no need for additional pitches as future pitch need is likely to be met through turnover.
- 7.5 Over the period 2021/22 to 2040/41, there is a need for 31 pitches. Of these, 30 are for households who meet the PPTS nomadic habit of life definition and 1 who do not meet the definition. Over this period, it is expected that 57 council pitches will become available through turnover. Once this is considered, there is no need for additional pitches as future pitch need is likely to be met through turnover.
- 7.6 The short term need for 4 pitches (3 PPTS and 1 non-PPTS) over the period 2021/22 to 2025/26 is mainly driven by net-in migration and arguably this can only take place when pitches become available for occupancy. The evidence does not suggest there is a pent up shortfall of pitches from the existing population and therefore it is not recommended that the council meet the short-term shortfall through the development of new sites. As anticipated turnover on council sites is expected to address this need in full over the plan period and it not necessary to develop new residential sites in Northumberland.
- 7.7 However, the draft Local Plan includes a criteria-based policy for site development should residential need emerge over the plan period which cannot be addressed through pitches coming available on council sites.

Transit site/stop over need

- 7.8 It is recommended that the council develop a network of provision across the county to reflect the level of unauthorised encampment activity. On the basis that the average encampment has 3.7 caravans, areas of land for up to 5

caravans should be identified. Stakeholders had a preference for the development of transit sites and on the basis of detailed local knowledge it is recommended that the council delivers the following provision:

North Northumberland (Berwick area)	4-6 pitches
South West Northumberland (Hexham area)	4-6 pitches
South East Northumberland	6-8 pitches

- 7.9 The total number of transit pitch need across Northumberland is therefore a minimum of 14 pitches. At present, there is transit provision for 25 caravans available at Drummond's Yard in Berwick upon Tweed which can continue to provide for transit need in North Northumberland until any potential changes of use for the site come forward. Hence the current need is for a minimum 10 transit pitches in the south west and south east of the county. The need in South West Northumberland is largely to cater for east-west seasonal movements relating to the Appleby Horse Fair.
- 7.10 The council should also consider Negotiated Stopping arrangements to accommodate larger encampments passing through the county.

Travelling Showperson plot requirements

- 7.11 There are a total of 30 Travelling Showpersons plots located on a Showman's Guild yard and private yards at Bomarsund. These plots accommodated 24 households. There is a gross need for 9 plots over the plan period but a supply of 11 plots through the use of vacant plot and intensification of existing yards.
- 7.12 There is therefore no strategic need for additional Travelling Showperson plots and the draft Local Plan includes criteria-based policy for new yards should any residential need arise during the plan period. The council should engage with owners on private yards to support changes of use to intensify existing yards to meet the identified plot needs.

Stakeholder messages

- 7.13 Stakeholders were asked what the key strategic messages were coming from the GTTSANA. The comments received are detailed below:
- Consideration of the 2010 Equality Act.
 - Need support from council leadership that finding sites are a priority.
 - The demand for different types of provision for the Travelling community is key to developing any strategic priorities.
 - Importance of delivering on identified need.
 - Recognition of a need for a regional perspective.
 - The need to build better understanding and tolerance of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities, amongst professional services and the wider community, and how might this be done.

- Regular monitoring of the number of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople across boundaries is key.
- A clear understanding of the needs and how they could best be met.

Future updating

- 7.14 The GTTSANA should be updated on a 5-yearly basis to ensure that the level of pitch and plot provision remains appropriate for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across Northumberland.

Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Fieldwork Questionnaire

	Date and Time			
	Site Reference			
	Address			
	General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and Data Protection	GDPR came into effect from 25th May 2018. This provides rights of people to control personal data held about them by organisations		
		This study is being done for Northumberland County Council to identify if there is a need for more residential plots and transit provision in the area. A report will be prepared based on the findings of these surveys. The information you provide will not be used for any other purpose.		
		The information you provide will not be used to identify you personally, will be kept strictly confidential		
	Can you please say if you are happy to carry on with the questionnaire on this basis?	Yes	No	
1	plot/Property Type (and tenure if B&M)			
2	No. Statics/mobiles/chalets or bricks and mortar			
3	No. tourers/caravans			
4	Description of plot occupancy			
5	No. households			
6	No. concealed households			
7	No. doubled up households			
8	Anyone else use this plot as their home? If so, who			
9	Household characteristics			
		Gender	Age	Relationship to respondent
	Respondent			
	Person 2			
	Person 3			
	Person 4			
	Person 5			
	Person 6			
	Person 7			
	Person 8			
10	Ethnicity			
11	How many bedspaces are there on your plot?			
12	Overcrowding of home	Y / N		
13	Overcrowding of plot	Y / N		
14	Thinking back to when you were 15, were you living on a site, on the roadside or living in bricks and mortar housing?	S, R, B&M		
15	Where were you living? Record district/settlement name			

	In 2015, the Government changed its definition of Gypsies and Travellers for planning purposes. To be recognised as a Gypsy Traveller you or someone in your household has to travel. I'm now going to ask a few questions about whether you or someone in your household travels				
16	In the last year have you or someone in your household travelled?	Y / N			
17	Previous to the last year, did you or someone in your household travel?	Y / N			
18	Reason(s) for travelling				
19	Please describe when and where do you travel? (if relevant)				
20	Do you or a member of your household plan to travel next year?	Y / N			
21	Do you think you or a member of your household will travel in the next two to five years?	Y / N			
22	What reasons do you or your household have for not travelling now or in the future?				
	Where you plan to live in the future				
23	Are you planning to move to another place to live in the next 5 years?	Y / N			
24	Why are you planning to move ?				
25	Where are you planning to move to? (Same Site, Private Site in District, Council Site in District, Outside District (if so where), Bricks and Mortar housing). Try and get specific location				
26	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet house, flat, bungalow)				
26a	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)				
	If in B&M housing				
27	If you live in bricks and mortar housing, are you happy to live here or would you prefer to live on a pitch?	Happy Here / Prefer plot			
28	If you would prefer to live on a pitch is this because you have a 'cultural aversion' to living in bricks and mortar (this means it affects your mental health and makes you unhappy/depressed)?	Y / N			
	Emerging households				
29	Emerging households: Are there any people in your household who want to move to their own pitch in the next 5 yrs?	Y / N			
		HH1	HH2	HH3	HH4
30	Where are you planning to move to? (Same Site, Private Site in District, Council Site in District, Outside District (if so where), Bricks and Mortar housing). Try and get specific location				
31	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet house, flat, bungalow)				
31a	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)				
32	Have they travelled / plan to travel ?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
33	If living in bricks and mortar do you have a 'cultural aversion' to living in bricks and mortar? (this means it affects your mental health and makes you unhappy/depressed)	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
	Additional residential pitches				
34	Scope to expand site (extend the boundary of the site)	Y / N			
35	No. additional pitches				
36	Scope to intensify pitches (put more pitches on the existing site)	Y / N			
37	No. additional pitches				
38	Are there any vacant pitches on the site which could be used by another family? If so how many pitches				
39	In general, is there a need for more authorised pitches (for people to live on all the time?) in this district?	Y / N			
40	If so, now many are needed?				
41	Who should own them (Council, people from the Traveller Community, non-Travellers)				
42	Do you own any land or know of anywhere within the district which could be considered for development as a site?				

	Transit and temporary stopover need			
43	Is there a need to provide places where people can stop whilst travelling through the district? This can include transit pitches or stopover places	Y / N		
44	Is there a need for transit pitches (for people stopping over temporarily) in the district? A transit pitch is intended for short-term use and usually includes space for two caravans, parking space and access to electricity, a toilet, washing facilities	Y / N		
45	If so, how many are needed?			
46	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)			
47	Where should they be located?			
48	Is there a need for stopover places? A stopover place is land which can be used on a temporary basis and usually include access to portaloos, waste disposal and water	Y / N		
49	If so, how many are needed?			
50	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)			
51	Where should they be located?			
	Residential history			
	Is this your homebase or do you have a homebase somewhere else? If so where and type of accomodation and how often to you use it			
52a	How many years have you lived here?			
Routing	If more than five years	Go to Q58		
	If five years or less	Go to Q53		
53	Where did you move from? (District)			
54	Were you living on a Private Site, Council Site, Roadside or Bricks and Mortar housing?			
55	When you moved here, was the pitch vacant, a brand new pitch or had the pitch been created by dividing up an existing pitch?			
56	What were the reasons for moving here?			
57	Did you already have a connection with the area ? (e.g. family or friends living here; or you used to live here?)			
	Support needs			
58	Do you or a member of your household have any health-related needs? Could you please explain what they are?	Please say how many people in your household		
59	Is there a need for your home to be adapted in any way?	Please tick if needed in caravan/trailer/mobile	Please tick if needed in shed	
	Better heating			
	More insulation			
	Adaptations to kitchen (e.g. accessible/drop-down units)			
	Adaptations to bathroom (e.g. level-access shower/wetroom)			
	Adaptations relating to sensory (eyesight/hearing) needs (e.g. to radiators, floors, sockets)			
	Internal hand/grab rails			
	External hand/grab rails			
	Lever door handles			
	Wheelchair adaptations (including door widening and			
	Other adaptations (please say what is needed)			

60	Are you or someone in your household in need of any support because of health reasons?			
	Pregnancy support			
	Post-natal support			
	Medical treatment from GP			
	Medical treatment from hospital			
	Occupational Therapy			
	Counselling			
	Other support (please say what)			
61	IF RELEVANT: Do you or someone in your household need any support with the education of your child(ren) ?			
	Help for children of primary school age			
	Help with children of secondary school age			
	Other support (please say what)			
62	IF RELEVANT: Do you or someone in your household require any support with job-related training ?	Go through list of support		
	Help with English, Maths and/or IT skills			
	Help applying for an apprenticeship			
	Help applying for a course at college/university			
	Other support (please say what)			
	Questions on site locations	(For each important, not important, no view/hot relevant)		
63	When thinking about new residential sites, which of the following are important or not important to you			
	Within walking distance from primary schools			
	Within walking distance from secondary schools			
	Within walking distance from shops			
	Within walking distance of church/place of worship			
	easy access to public transport/bus stop			
	access to main roads/motorways			
	Close to doctors			
	Child-friendly with safe places to play			
	Community spaces and buildings			
	Parking for visitors			
	Room for family and visitors to stay for a short while			
	Makes sites accesible for people with disabilities			
	Haivng different sizes of pitch for different types of households			
	Space for equipment/vehicles			
	Anything else?			
	Final questions			
64	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your housing or support needs?			
65	Do you know anyone in bricks and mortar housing looking to live on a pitch? If so,can you provide contact details			

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Caravans: Mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as trailers.

CJ&POA: Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; includes powers for local authorities and police to act against unauthorised encampments.

CRE: Commission for Racial Equality.

DCLG: Department for Communities and Local Government; created in May 2006. Responsible for the remit on Gypsies and Travellers, which was previously held by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (O.D.P.M.).

Gypsies and Travellers: Defined by DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015) as “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”. The planning policy goes on to state that, “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”.

Irish Traveller: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Irish Travellers have a distinct indigenous origin in Ireland and have been in England since the mid nineteenth century. They have been recognised as an ethnic group since August 2000 in England and Wales (O’Leary v Allied Domecq).

Mobile home: Legally a ‘caravan’ but not usually capable of being moved by towing.

Pitch: Area of land on a Gypsy/Traveller site occupied by one resident family; sometimes referred to as a plot, especially when referring to Travelling Showpeople. DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015) states that “For the purposes of this planning policy, “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often called a “yard”). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use plots for “travelling showpeople”, which may / will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment”.

Plot: see pitch

PPTS: Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012 and 2015 editions)

Roadside: Term used here to indicate families on unauthorised encampments, whether literally on the roadside or on other locations such as fields, car parks or other open spaces.

Romany: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Romany Gypsies trace their ethnic origin back to migrations, probably from India, taking place at intervals since before 1500. Gypsies have been a recognised ethnic group for the purposes of British race relations legislation since 1988 (CRE V Dutton).

Sheds: On most residential Gypsy/Traveller sites 'shed' refers to a small basic building with plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC, sink), which are provided at the rate of one per pitch/plot. Some contain a cooker and basic kitchen facilities.

Showpeople: Defined by DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015) as “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”.

Site: An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy/Traveller caravans; often though not always comprising slabs and amenity blocks or ‘sheds’. An authorised site will have planning permission. An unauthorised development lacks planning permission.

Slab: An area of concrete or tarmac on sites allocated to a household for the parking of trailers (caravans)

Stopping places/stopover sites: A term used to denote an unauthorised temporary camping area tolerated by local authorities, used by Gypsies and Travellers for short-term encampments, and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Tolerated site: An unauthorised encampment/site where a local authority has decided not to take enforcement action to seek its removal.

Trailers: Term used for mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as caravans.

Transit site: A site intended for short-term use while in transit. The site is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Unauthorised development: Establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission, usually on land owned by those establishing the site. Unauthorised development may involve ground works for roadways and hard standings. People parking caravans on their own land without planning permission are not Unauthorised Encampments in that they cannot trespass on their own land – they are therefore Unauthorised Developments and enforcement is always dealt with by local planning authorities enforcing planning legislation.

Unauthorised encampment: Land where Gypsies or Travellers reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations (roadside, car parks, parks, fields, etc.) and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner’s consent. Unauthorised encampments fall into two main categories: those on land owned by local authorities and those on privately owned land. It is up to the land owner to take enforcement action in conjunction with the police.

Wagons: This is the preferred term for the vehicles used for accommodation by Showpeople.

Yards: Showpeople travel in connection with their work and therefore live, almost universally, in wagons. During the winter months these are parked up in what was traditionally known as ‘winter quarters’. These ‘yards’ are now often occupied all year around by some family members.