

# Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment: Update 2010

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The Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit is a dedicated multi-disciplinary research and consultancy unit providing a range of services relating to housing and urban management to public and private sector clients. The Unit brings together researchers drawn from a range of disciplines including: social policy, housing management, urban geography, environmental management, psychology, social care and social work.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Objectives and scope of the study

The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In 2007, along with the majority of local authorities across the Lancashire sub-region, Rossendale Borough Council commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) to produce a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA).<sup>1</sup> This GTAA provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population. Crucially the GTAA identified the housing need – in the form of residential and transit pitch/plot shortfall – of the population on a sub-regional and individual district level.

Planning guidance contained within Circular 01/2006 indicated that the district level requirements identified in GTAAs should be submitted to the Regional Planning Body (RPB), in this case 4NW, and a ‘strategic view’ of needs taken. The broad purpose of the strategic view was to ensure requirements were identified fairly and should not compound existing inequalities of accommodation provision. The intention was that these figures, once agreed, would be incorporated into the Regional Spatial Strategy which in turn would be adopted by each local authority’s Local Development Framework (LDF).

The RSS for the North West was adopted in September 2008. Following adoption of the RSS 4NW commenced a partial review on those policy areas identified as weaknesses in the adopted RSS. These policy areas included Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision; Travelling Showpeople pitch provision and regional parking standards. During the partial review the pitch requirements that were identified in the GTAAs covering the North West were subject to consultation and a number of subsequent amendments were made. These amendments suggested a certain degree of redistribution of need as well as some uplift in the level of pitch requirements. The partial review was subject to an Examination in Public (EiP) in March 2010.<sup>2</sup> The Inspector’s Report was later published but for information purposes only.

In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies and as a consequence the North West Plan was not completed. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop LDF core strategies and, where these had already been adopted, use the adopted Development Plan Documents as the local planning framework. Specific guidance was providing in respect of determining the level of provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites.<sup>3</sup> With respect to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers guidance stated that:

Local councils are best placed to assess the needs of travellers. The abolition of Regional Strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for

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<sup>1</sup> Brown, P., Hunt, L., Steele, A. and Niner, P. (2007) Lancashire Sub-Regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessment. SHUSU. The University of Salford.

<sup>2</sup> North West Plan Partial Review: Examination in Public March 2010. Report of the Panel.

[http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/rss/Nw\\_RSS\\_PR\\_Panel\\_report.pdf](http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/rss/Nw_RSS_PR_Panel_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1631904.pdf>

determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in DPDs. They should continue to do this in line with current policy. *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (GTAAAs) have been undertaken by all local authorities and if local authorities decide to review the levels of provision these assessments will form a good starting point. However, local authorities are not bound by them. We will review relevant regulations and guidance on this matter in due course.

In light of the decision to revoke and ultimately abolish the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), together with an acknowledgement of the time lag between the production of the GTAA in 2007, Rossendale Borough Council requested an updated assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation shortfall to inform production of the Core Strategy.

### **Aim and objectives**

The aim of this report is to provide updated evidence to be used in the preparation of the Core Strategy. The interim nature of this assessment reflects possible future changes to the national policy context with regards to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation as well as potential changes in the methodology for assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need. It is recommended that should the policy context change and/or new guidance be released for the assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs this interim assessment should be replaced by a more formal assessment of need.

The specific objectives of this Study are, to:

- Assess the need for permanent residential Gypsy and Traveller pitch accommodation
- Assess the need for transit Gypsy and Traveller pitch accommodation
- Assess the need for future permanent residential Gypsy and Traveller pitch accommodation
- Assess the need for Travelling Showpeople plot based accommodation.

### **Research approach**

The approach to this update was desk-based and involved:

- An analysis of the need contained within the 2007 Lancashire sub-regional GTAA
- An analysis of the numbers of unauthorised encampments recorded within the Borough between 2006-2010
- An analysis of the number of unauthorised developments featuring in the Borough between 2006-2010
- An analysis of the number of authorised sites in the Borough
- An analysis of planning applications for sites in the Borough

This analysis was supported by consultations with a small number of key stakeholders. In addition, the EIP Report of the Panel was drawn upon as well as findings from various GTAA's produced in other areas.

## **Gypsies and Travellers**

Defining Gypsies and Travellers is not straightforward. Different definitions are used for a variety of purposes. At a very broad level the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' is used by non-Gypsies and Travellers to encompass a variety of groups and individuals who have in common a tradition or practice of nomadism. More narrowly both Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised minority ethnic groupings.

At the same time Gypsies and Travellers have been defined for accommodation and planning purposes. The statutory definition of Gypsies and Travellers for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment required by the Housing Act 2004 is:

- (a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and*
- (b) all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:*
  - (i) such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and*
  - (ii) members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).*

There is a separate definition for planning purposes as specified in ODPM Circular 01/2006 which offers a narrower definition and excludes Travelling Showpeople.

This assessment has adopted the Housing Act 2004 definition and has sought to be inclusive in the Gypsy and Traveller groupings. More specifically it sought to include all Gypsies and Travellers (including New Travellers) living in caravan-based or bricks and mortar accommodation. As the Housing Act 2004 definition indicates, we have also sought to include Travelling Showpeople living on a permanent base within the Study Area.

## **Housing/accommodation need**

Crucially, for Gypsies and Travellers, the definition of housing need is varied slightly to acknowledge the different contexts in which members of these communities live. The general definition of housing need is "households who are unable to access suitable housing without some financial assistance", with housing demand defined as "the quantity of housing that households are willing and able to buy or rent."<sup>4</sup>

In recognising that in many cases these definitions are inappropriate for Gypsies and Travellers, the guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments refers to distinctive requirements that necessitate moving beyond the limitations of

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<sup>4</sup> ODPM (2006) Definition of the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004. Consultation Paper, February, London: HMSO.

the definition for both caravan dwellers and those in bricks and mortar housing. For caravan dwelling households, need may take the form of those:<sup>5</sup>

- who have no authorised site on which to reside;
- whose existing site accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, but who are unable to obtain larger or more suitable accommodation; and
- who contain suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units and are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.

In the context of bricks and mortar dwelling households, need may take the form of:

- those whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable (including unsuitability by virtue of psychological aversion to bricks and mortar accommodation).

This assessment has used a definition of accommodation need which encompasses all the circumstances detailed above. While some may see this as a measure of 'aspiration' or 'demand' rather than 'need', we believe that this is justifiable for two different reasons:

- This is the approach taken in the majority of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) of which we are aware. Despite the Guidance, there is no method at present of reliably distinguishing 'need' from 'aspiration' for Gypsies and Travellers.
- More significantly, because of a current national shortage of sites, frequent hostility to proposals for site provision and the need for new sites to gain planning permission, site requirements can only be met through conscious public policy actions. In this sense, all requirement is 'need' in a way which is normally not true of bricks and mortar housing with its large second-hand market.

Need is assessed at the level of a single family unit or household (broadly a group of people who regularly live and eat together). On Gypsy and Traveller sites, this is assumed to equate to a 'pitch'; in housing, to a separate dwelling.

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<sup>5</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*. London: HMSO.

## 2. CONTEXT

This section briefly reviews the current policy issues affecting the assessment and delivery of sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. It should be noted however that these are currently in a period of policy flux and it is unclear how long the following policies will remain in place.

### ***Local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: a guide to responsibilities and powers***

In 2007, Communities and Local Government published *Local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: a guide to responsibilities and powers*. This provides local authorities with a summary of their responsibilities and powers in relation to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and sets out the priorities of the legislation and policy:

- Adequate provision must be made for authorised sites
- The planning system and property rights must be respected and effective enforcement action taken promptly against problem sites
- The small minority who indulge in anti-social behaviour must be dealt with promptly and effectively before they cause further harm to relationships between communities.

Of importance here are the main sections of the guide which set out how the Government sees these priorities being achieved by local authorities:

- Each local authority must identify land for the sites that are needed in its area
- Local authorities and the police should use existing powers to deal with Gypsies and Travellers who camp on other people's land
- Local authorities and the police should deal with anti-social behaviour by Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community alike
- Local authorities should take the lead in assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers alongside those of their settled population
- Locally assessed needs of Gypsies and Travellers are to be incorporated into the Regional Spatial Strategy (note – this is now no longer the case)
- Each local authority should play its part in meeting those needs through the planning system by identifying appropriate sites in local plans.

### ***Planning policy since 2006***

The main document for detailing planning policy in England remains ODPM Circular 01/2006 *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*. This specifies that the aims of the legislation and policy developments are to:

- Ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision
- Reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments
- Increase significantly the number of Gypsy and Traveller sites in appropriate locations and with planning permission in order to address under-provision over the next 3-5 years (bearing in mind the date of the Circular this means by 2011)



- Protect the traditional travelling way of life of Gypsies and Travellers
- Underline the importance of assessing accommodation need
- Promote private site provision
- Avoid Gypsies and Travellers becoming homeless, where eviction from unauthorised sites occurs and where there is no alternative accommodation.

Travelling Showpeople are the subject of separate planning guidance, CLG Circular 04/07, which aims to ensure that the system for pitch assessment, identification and allocation as introduced for Gypsies and Travellers is also applied to Travelling Showpeople.

### ***The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant***

The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant has provided capital funding for improving sites and increasing Gypsy and Traveller site / pitch provision by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) recently took over management of the Grant programme. A total of £97m was made available for bids from local authorities and Registered Social landlords over the period 2008-11. However, the Grant succumbed to recent budget cuts and the future of the Grant remains uncertain. The Secretary of State has intimated that an incentive scheme will be introduced in the future which will help to encourage local authorities to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

### ***Communities and Local Government Progress Report***

In its response to the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers, the previous Government committed to report annually to Parliament on progress with regard to Gypsy and Traveller issues. The first annual report was submitted in July 2009. It highlights the current policy context on Gypsy and Traveller issues and identifies the challenges faced by Gypsies and Travellers and policy makers. Following a review on the rate of local authority progress of site provision published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC),<sup>6</sup> CLG's progress report comments on the unsatisfactory pace of site delivery. The report reinforces the emphasis in Circular 01/2006 on local authorities significantly increasing provision. It places the onus on strong leadership at a local level in order to overcome the difficulties of establishing new sites.

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<sup>6</sup> Brown, P. and Niner, P. (2009) *Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England*, Research report: 13, London, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

### 3. EVIDENCE OF ACCOMMODATION PROVISION AND NEED

This section looks at the size of the existing Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Rossendale and the indicators of potential need within the Borough.

#### **Caravan numbers and trends from the Caravan Count**

There have been no caravans counted in the Borough in either the January or July Count since 2006. The last time caravans were officially counted in the Borough was in July 2005, this amounted to 20 unauthorised encamped caravans.

#### **Authorised site provision**

A certain degree of caution needs to be taken when extrapolating the characteristics, trends and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population from the Caravan Counts alone.

#### ***Permanent authorised sites***

There are no socially rented sites in the Borough. Information from Rossendale Borough Council indicates that there is currently one authorised private site in the Borough as shown in Table 3.1.

<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Tenure</b>	<b>No. of pitches</b>	<b>No. of Caravans</b>	<b>Residential/Transit</b>
Bacup	Privately Owned	1	1	Residential

This site was granted permanent planning permission in 2009 after being refused previously. The site also has stables. There was a degree of local support for this application due to an improvement in the landscape the owner of the site had made.

#### ***Temporary authorised sites***

Information from the local authority additionally indicates that there is a single authorised site with temporary planning permission within the Borough as shown in Table 3.2.

<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Permission expires</b>	<b>No. of pitches</b>	<b>No. of Caravans</b>	<b>Residential/Transit</b>
Stacksteads	March 2012	1	1	Residential

Temporary planning permission was granted in 2009 with permission for permanent permission refused in 2010. An appeal on this decision is currently awaited. The site has temporary planning permission until March 2012.

## Unauthorised developments

Unauthorised developments are developments on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission. Information suggests that there are no known authorised developments currently within the Borough.

Since 2006 there have been two instances of unauthorised development in the Borough. One of these received temporary planning consent (see above) the other development was located in Rising Bridge and was semi-developed with stable units and hardstanding in 2009/10. A planning application for this was withdrawn. The site is currently vacant and the owners/occupants' whereabouts is unknown to the local authority.

## Planning applications

With the exception of the sites noted above there has only been one planning application for a Gypsy and Traveller site issued since 2006. This was situated in Bacup and requested provision for 15 caravans/trailers. This was refused in 2002. No appeal was apparently lodged with the local authority.

## Unauthorised encampments

Due to the nature of unauthorised encampments (i.e. unpredictability, seasonal fluctuations etc.), it is very difficult to grasp a comprehensive picture of need for residential and/or transit accommodation without considering a range of interconnected issues.

The local authority keeps a record of **some** unauthorised encampments within the Borough. The authority is currently seeking to be more comprehensive and bring together information on all encampments irrespective of length of stay in the area. This will allow for greater accuracy.

The Caravan Count shows that no encampments have been recorded within the Study Area since 2006. Information from the local authority indicate that between 2006 and 2010 there is has been.

- 2006 – 2 encampments
- 2007 – 0 encampments
- 2008 – 1 encampment
- 2009 – 0 encampment
- 2010 – 5 encampments

This provides an average of 2 separate encampments each year.

The average encampment size over the 2006 to 2010 period was 5.5 caravans. Using 1.5 caravans per household ratio<sup>7</sup> indicates there are approximately 4 households on each encampment.

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<sup>7</sup> Following a ratio used in the majority of other GTAAAs

In terms of areas affected by encampments since 2006 this is predominantly Futures Park, Bacup which has accommodated 5 separate encampments over different years. Other areas affected include:

- Heys St Industrial Estate  
Rawtenstall
- Lee St/Market St Junction, Bacup

All recorded encampments appear to occur in late Spring and Summer. Most occupants are described as 'in transit' and reports indicate that people are on route to other destinations including Appleby Horse Fair.

The number and size of encampments has been seen to increase over recent years.

### **Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation**

Similar to many areas across England the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers currently accommodated within bricks and mortar accommodation within Rossendale is unknown. This study has not been able to estimate the size of the bricks and mortar population.

### **Travelling Showpeople**

There are currently no yards for Travelling Showpeople in the Borough and there have not been any planning applications to develop Travelling Showpeople yards within Rossendale.

## 4. CALCULATING NEED FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PITCHES

Irrespective of the current ebb in policy developments targeted at resolving Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues there are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. Indeed, population characteristics which have emerged from GTAAs agree that the formation of new households, at levels often above non-Gypsy/Traveller households, is inevitable. Although the supply of authorised accommodation has declined since 1994, the size of the population of Gypsies and Travellers does not appear to have been affected to a great extent. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.<sup>8</sup>

From an analysis of the data presented in this update there is every indication that the Study Area takes a share in meeting this national shortfall.

Despite all local authorities across England completing a first round of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTAAs) over the 2006-2009 period the methods of assessing and calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are still developing. The model drawn upon here derives from a number of sources including:

- The Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments.<sup>9</sup>
- Guidance for Regional Planning.<sup>10</sup>
- Knowledge and experience of assumptions featuring in other GTAAs and results of EiP tests of GTAAs

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

### ***Current residential supply***

- Socially rented pitches
- Private authorised pitches

### ***Residential need 2010–2015***

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

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<sup>8</sup> See Brown, P. and Niner, P. (2009) *Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England*, Research report: 13, London, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

<sup>9</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings\\_id1508209.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf)

- Potential need for residential pitches in the area from families on unauthorised encampments.

### ***Pitch supply 2010–2015***

- Pitches currently closed but re-entering use
- Pitches with permission but not developed
- New sites planned
- Vacant pitches

### **Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements**

Table 4.1 presents the Study Area requirement of need. A more detailed explanation relating to the element of need and supply and its resulting requirement is provided below.

<b>Element of supply and need</b>		<b>Pitches</b>
	<b>Current residential supply</b>	
1	Socially rented pitches	0
2	Private authorised pitches	1
<b>3</b>	<b>Total authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Total Travelling Showpeople plots</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Residential pitch need, 2010–2015</b>	
5	End of temporary planning permissions	1
6	New household formation	1
7	Unauthorised developments	0
8	Movement from sites to housing	1
9	Closure of sites	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	2
<b>11</b>	<b>Additional residential need</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Additional supply, 2010–2015</b>	
12	Pitches currently closed but re-entering use	0
13	Pitches with permission but not developed	0
14	New sites planned	0
15	Vacant pitches	0
<b>16</b>	<b>Supply, 2010–2015</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Requirement for extra residential pitches (2010–2015)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Requirement for extra residential pitches (2015–2020)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Requirement for extra residential pitches (2020–2026)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Total requirement for extra residential pitches (2010–2026)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Requirement for plots for Travelling Showpeople (2010–2015)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Requirement for plots for Travelling Showpeople (2015–2020)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Requirement for plots for Travelling Showpeople (2020–2026)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Total requirement for plots for Travelling Showpeople (2010–2026)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Total requirement for transit accommodation (2010-2026)</b>	<b>6</b>

### ***Detailed explanation of supply and need***

**Row 1:** The number of pitches on socially rented sites provided by local authority information – excludes plots for Travelling Showpeople.

**Row 2:** The number of pitches on private authorised sites provided by local authority information – excludes plots for Travelling Showpeople.

**Row 3:** The total number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches (sum of rows 1 + 2) – excludes plots for Travelling Showpeople.

**Row 4:** The total number of authorised plots provided for Travelling Showpeople.

**Row 5:** The number of pitches affected by temporary planning permissions ending within the assessment period 2010–2015

**Row 6:** This is the number of new pitches required from new household formation. This requires estimates of:

1. The number of new households likely to form;
2. The proportion likely to require a pitch; and,
3. The proportion likely to remain within the Study Area.

For clarity purposes household formation findings from sites and houses are calculated and explained separately. These figures are then combined within Row 6.

***Pitch requirement from new households forming on sites***

In the absence of primary research an assumed rate of household growth of 3% a year compound as applied to the current number of pitches available.<sup>11</sup> This produces no significant increase in pitches.

***Pitch requirement from new households forming in housing***

The population of Gypsies and Travellers accommodated in bricks and mortar housing is currently unknown. However, it is recognised that the EiP Panel Report expressed concern that the population in bricks and mortar accommodation has been frequently under-estimated in previous GTAAs. Therefore, in order to reflect a commonly held assumption that Gypsies and Travellers live in bricks and mortar accommodation in all local authorities we have assumed, for calculation purposes, an arbitrary figure of 10 Gypsy and Traveller households.<sup>12</sup>

Findings from research for other GTAAs have indicated that the rate of household formation in bricks and mortar accommodation can range widely from 10% to 50% of GTAA respondents. In order to account for a level of inter-area family formation and the eventuality that not all new households forming will want to be accommodated on site accommodation we have assumed a low percentage of 10%.

**Calculation:** 10% of estimated housed population (10 households) = **1 household.**

Total pitch need from household formation on authorised sites and bricks and mortar housing = **1 pitch.**

<sup>11</sup> Household growth rates of 2% and 3% a year were suggested as appropriate in Pat Niner, *Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England*, ODPM, 2003. This rate of growth has also been deemed appropriate in the North West Plan Partial Review Examination in Public Report of the Panel 2010.

<sup>12</sup> These households represent a conservative estimation of the proportion of housed Gypsies and Travellers in the Study Area. As a result this figure may be an understatement.

**Row 7:** There were no unauthorised developments in the Study Area at the time of the study.

**Row 8:** This is the estimation of the number of households currently on site accommodation who would move into bricks and mortar housing and vice versa during the 2010–2015 period.

***Site to housing movement***

It is not thought any site residents are likely to move into bricks and mortar accommodation.

***Housing to site movement***

It is believed it would potentially take a very attractive site to motivate people accommodated in housing to move onto site-based accommodation – particularly where there is no history of site provision within a local authority. However, in recognising concerns about the understatement of need from bricks and mortar housing we estimate that 10% of the assumed number of households currently in bricks and mortar housing will move from housing to sites. This would mean an increase in need of 1 pitch.

Total pitch need from housing/site movement = **1 pitch**.

**Row 9:** There are no plans to close sites within the Study Area.

**Row 10:** This provides an estimation of the need arising from households on unauthorised encampments. This factor takes into account households involved in unauthorised encampments that require a residential pitch in the Study Area. The calculation of need for residential accommodation requires estimates of the number of households involved in unauthorised encampments, and of how many of these need a residential pitch in the Study Area.

***Families involved in unauthorised encampments***

**Findings:** The Caravan Count shows that no encampments have been recorded within the Study Area since 2006. Information from the local authorities indicates that between 2006 and 2010 there is has been.

- 2006 – 2 encampments
- 2007 – 0 encampments
- 2008 – 1 encampment
- 2009 – 0 encampment
- 2010 – 5 encampments

This provides an average of 2 separate encampments across the Study Area each year. The average encampment size over the 2006 to 2010 period was 5.5 caravans. Using 1.5 caravans per household ratio indicates there are approximately 4 households on each encampment.

**Calculation:** Average number of encampments (2) multiplied by average encampment size (4 households) = 8 separate households.



### ***Need for residential pitches from unauthorised encampments***

**Finding:** It is not known how many households on unauthorised encampments would be interested in moving to a residential pitch in the Study Area. However, it is likely that a proportion of these households would be interested in being accommodated on a permanent residential site if one was provided.

#### **Assumptions:**

- Unauthorised encampments appear to be a regular, if minor, feature of the population and there are indications that this has increased over recent years.
- Based on previous GTAAs we assume that 30% of unauthorised encamped households would seek permanent residential accommodation in the study area
- The local authority reported that in their experience most households were in transit and appeared in greater numbers in the summer.
- This is treated as a single year element rather than a 'flow' of new families each year. Other households on unauthorised encampments should be incorporated into other GTAAs.

**Calculation:** 30% of households involved in unauthorised encampment = 30% of 8 = 2 households/pitches across the Study Area.<sup>13</sup>

The remaining 6 households each year, assumed to be in transit, should be provided for by some form of formal transit/short stay provision.

**Row 11:** Sum of rows 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

**Row 12:** There are no pitches closed which are due to be re-opened for re-use.

**Row 13:** There are no pitches for which planning permissions have been granted but which are not yet developed.

**Row 14:** There are no pitches on sites which are planned to be delivered within the assessment period.

**Row 15:** There are no pitches due to be vacated over the assessment period

**Row 16:** Sum of rows 12, 13, 14 and 15.

**Row 17:** This is the total requirement for additional residential pitches over the 2010–2015 period. Row 11 minus Row 16 = total residential pitches required – 5 pitches over the Study Area.

**Rows 18 and 19:** The current national shortage of sites and pitches for Gypsies and Travellers means that it is difficult to predict trends in living arrangements once GTAAs across the country have been implemented in the form of nationally increased site/pitch provision. There is no accurate means of knowing how Gypsies and Travellers will decide to live in the next decade. There may be an increase in smaller households, moves into bricks and mortar housing may be more common or household formation may happen at a later age. As such estimations of need beyond the initial assessment period (2010-2015) should be treated with caution. However, in order to plan for the longer term we have used an assumed rate of

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<sup>13</sup> Figure adjusted to account for rounding to nearest whole pitch at the local level.

household growth of 3% a year compound as applied to the projected number of pitches which should be available by 2015. All households on sites are assumed to require pitches. It is assumed there will be no unauthorised developments over the next period and that any households on unauthorised encampments will not require permanent residential accommodation in the Study Area. The total requirement for the Study Area over the period **2015–2026** is an additional **2 residential pitches**.

**Row 20:** Total additional residential pitch need 2010–2026 = 7 pitches.

The supply of pitches over the 2015–2026 period has been considered but has been assumed to be zero. This is consistent with other GTAA's and implicitly compensates for not taking into account needs arising from drivers other than family growth.

**Rows 21- 24:** Travelling Showpeople Accommodation need

There are no known Travelling Showpeople plots in Rossendale. In turn, there is no recorded history of planning applications being made by Travelling Showpeople in the borough.<sup>14</sup> In addition, the EiP Panel Report did not identify Rossendale as in need of absorbing the re-distribution of the compounded need from other areas across the Lancashire sub-region/North West region.

Taking these factors into account we assume that there is no need for any additional Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the Borough. This however, similar to all accommodation need, should remain under review at regular intervals.

**Row 25:** This provides estimation for the need for transit provision in the Borough. See row 10 for explanation of the calculation.

#### Overview

- There is a need for an additional 5 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers over the 2010-2015 period
- There is a need for an additional 2 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers over the 2015-2026 period
- There is a need for 6 transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers over the 2010-2026 period
- There is no apparent need for additional provision for Travelling Showpeople at this point.

<sup>14</sup> Although it is noted from the EiP Panel Report that this is not a reliable indicator of accommodation need.

If you would like a summary of this leaflet in large print, on audio cassette or in a language other than English, please let us know and we will be happy to arrange it.

Please telephone 01706 217777 or Contact Communications Section,  
Town Centre Offices, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LZ

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کا خلاصہ بڑے حروف میں، آڈیو کیسٹ پر، یا انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہے تو برائے مہربانی ہمیں بتائیں، ہم بخوشی آپ کے لیے اس کا انتظام کریں گے۔

برائے مہربانی 01706217777 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا پھر کمیونٹی کیشن سیکشن سے اس پتہ پر رابطہ قائم کریں:

Communications Section, Town Centres, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LZ

আপনি যদি এসব তথ্যের সার সংক্ষেপ বড় হরফের ছাপায়, অডিও ক্যাসেটে অথবা ইংরেজী ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদেরকে জানালে আমরা অত্যন্ত খুশী মনে তার ব্যবস্থা করব।

অনুগ্রহ করে ০১৭০৬ ২১৭৭৭৭ এই নাম্বারে অথবা কমিউনিকেশন সেকশন, টাউন সেন্টার অফিস, রটেনস্টল বি.বি.৪ ৭এল.জেড. এই ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।



**Rossendale** aliye  
BOROUGH COUNCIL