

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Stafford Borough

Final Report

December 2012



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Executive Summary

Introduction

In September 2012 arc⁴, working in partnership with Homespace Sustainable Accommodation (Homespace SA), were commissioned by Stafford Borough Council to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers from across the borough.

The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base to inform future reviews of Supporting People Strategies, Local Plans and housing strategies.

Methodology

The methodology for this study comprised:

- Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers;
- Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch information;
- A census of sites reviewing total number of pitches, number of pitches occupied and vacant, and total number of households;
- A Key Stakeholder on-line questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities.

The primary fieldwork for this study comprised survey work with Gypsies and Travellers. This work was managed by Homespace SA and undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller fieldworkers. Homespace SA was involved in the design of the questionnaire and in the recruitment of fieldworkers. A total of 92 interviews were secured (Table ES1), 57 with households living on a pitch on a private site, 26 living on the local authority site, 7 with people living in bricks and mortar accommodation and 2 living on an unauthorised site.

Table ES1 Summary of achieved interviews by type of dwelling

Dwelling location	Existing household	Emerging household	Total
Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	5	2	7
Local Authority Site	22	4	26
Private Site	45	12	57
Unauthorised Development	1	1	2
Total	73	19	92

In conjunction with interviews with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, a range of complementary research methods have been used to permit the triangulation of results. This includes a site census, review of caravan counts and stakeholder consultation.

Legislative and policy context

The report sets out the legislative and policy context within which the Council is working to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, which includes new guidance and definitions set out within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning policy for traveller sites documentation from CLG. The following definition of Gypsies and Travellers is adopted:

‘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 or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.’

It is within this policy context that the local planning authorities will have to plan future provision for Gypsies and Travellers across their respective areas. The new National Planning policy emphasises the role of evidence and how it should be used within this context.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Planning policy for traveller sites state that;

‘Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling show people which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities’.

Local planning authorities should:

- a) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years’ worth of sites against their locally set targets;
- b) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten 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 across its area (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.

The current picture: population, provision and pitch availability

According to the 2011 Census, a total of 133 residents in Stafford Borough identified as having a White British Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity. This figure may include residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Across Stafford Borough there is one Council owned site (12 pitches), four private permanent authorised sites (56 pitches), one private temporary site (5 pitches) and one private unauthorised tolerated site (2 pitches).

Tenure

Overall, 47.1% of respondents own their own home, 36.8% rent privately, 14.9% rent from the Council and 1.1% stated other tenure

Facilities

Overall, all respondents living on pitches had access to a slab and most had access to a shed and toilet. A majority (at least 50%) had access to a shower, mains water, mains sewerage and mains electric. Fewer than a third of respondents had access to a laundry or laundry drying area, a bath, living room or a mains gas supply.

Repairs and improvements

73.4% described the state of repair of their home as being good or very good. However, this fell to only 26.9% of respondents living on the Council site. Across all respondents, improvements to bathroom facilities were most frequently mentioned, followed by improvements to slabs/drives, more space on the pitch and improved kitchen facilities.

Space standards and overcrowding

76.8% of respondents felt they had enough space for their trailers and wagons, although the proportion was lower for respondents living on the Council site (60%) compared with those living on private sites (83.6%).

Of respondents living on pitches, 68.8% felt there was sufficient space in their amenity block/sheds. However, only 29.2% of respondents living on the Council Site felt there was sufficient space compared with 88.9% living on private sites.

76.5% of respondents felt there was sufficient space overall on their pitch (Table 5.13), with those living on a pitch most likely to say there was enough space (87%) compared with 60% of respondents living on the Council site.

No respondent felt that their home was overcrowded.

Location and safety

93.4% overall stated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the location of their home. No respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with location. Similarly the majority of respondents were either very happy or happy (91.2%) with their neighbourhood.

In terms of safety virtually all (98.9%) of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood.

Cost of accommodation and services

41.8% of respondents have none of their housing costs met by Housing Benefit. Of the remainder who receive benefit, 44.8% have some of their housing costs met and 13.4% have all of their costs met.

A majority of households felt that the cost of gas was not okay (61.7%) nor was the cost of electricity (50.9%), whilst 30.8% felt the cost of oil was not okay and 35% the cost of water was not okay. Residents on the Council site were more likely to say that the cost of services was not okay, with over 80% stating that the cost of electricity and gas was not okay.

Planned moves

Respondents were asked whether they planned to move over the next five years. Virtually all respondents plan to stay where they are (98.8%).

Pitch requirements

There is a total demand over the next five years (2012/13 to 2016/17) for 118 pitches across Stafford (Table ES3) compared with a current supply of 100 pitches across authorised sites (existing pitches plus turnover). This includes demand for 5 pitches from the Spotacre site which has a temporary planning permission due to expire during 2014, so the underlying shortfall is **13** pitches for the five year period.

Table ES2 Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls (2012/13 to 2016/17)

	Total
1. Existing authorised supply (at Nov 2012)	72
2. Common Road Unauthorised Site*	2
3. Vacant Pitches (at Nov 2012)	1
4. Anticipated turnover (2012/13 to 2016/17)	25
5. Total pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2016/17	118
Shortfall (1+2+3+4-5) including Spotacre 5 pitches	18
Shortfall (1+2+3+4-5) excluding Spotacre 5 pitches	13

*This is a long-term unauthorised tolerated site at Common Road

Modelling assumes a five year time horizon but it is feasible to extrapolate the findings over a longer time-frame. Assuming there is no significant change in demand for pitches or pitch availability, analysis would suggest a total 15 year shortfall (2012/13 to 2026/27) of **44** pitches across the Borough (this includes a 5 pitch requirement resulting from the expiry of the temporary planning permission at the Spotacre site during 2014).

Travelling practices and experiences

Around one-fifth (21.7%) of respondents had travelled in the previous year, with the majority (52.9%) travelling for less than one month. A range of reasons were given for travelling but the most frequently mentioned were for religious reasons (38.9%) and visiting family/friends (38.9%). A range of problems can be experienced whilst travelling and respondents were asked to identify these. Most frequently the

problems mentioned were lack of toilet facilities (80%), no water facilities (80%) and police behaviour (66.7%).

Transit sites and stop over places

Views were sought on the current provision of transit sites across the Borough and 86.4% of respondents said that there was a need for provision of new transit sites. 91.4% believed there was a need for stop over places within Stafford Borough.

Although views have been expressed on the need for transit and stop over places, it would be recommended that these are accommodated within existing sites. Evidence from the Local Authority indicates that there have been no unauthorised encampments within Stafford Borough in the past three years.

Homelessness

Overall 10 (or 10.9%) of respondents said that they had experienced homelessness within the past five years.

Wider service and support needs

The vast majority of respondents interviewed stated that they were registered with a doctor (92.4%) and 79.3% were registered with a dentist. In terms of the use of services, the most used services were Doctor (GP) and Dentist. GP services were accessed by 97.8% of respondents, and Dentists were accessed by 71.1% of respondents. Additionally 51.1% had used the Accident and Emergency service. The proportion of respondents using other services tended to be considerably lower, with fewer than 10% using traveller education, adult education, law advocacy and Citizens Advice.

Long term illness and disability

Asthma and arthritis are the main long-term illnesses identified.

Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholders identified the following key issues as those most affecting Gypsies and Travellers across the area:

- Lack of understanding of settled community as to culture of Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- Prejudice and discrimination – Gypsies and Travellers viewed as ‘devaluing property’ if they live near-by; and
- Lack of access to sites with amenities.

Key issues and how to tackle them

The key priority issues identified by the research include:

- Meeting pitch requirements;
- Addressing poor conditions on the Council site; and
- Tackling wider service and support needs.

Recommendations for meeting pitch requirements

To enable the Council to meet the identified pitch requirements it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That the Council works collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities to meet identified need;
- That mechanisms are established to enable effective engagement with both settled and Traveller communities about identifying future sites;
- That existing sites are reviewed to ascertain the scope for extension and increasing the number of pitches available
- That appropriate sites are identified to meet requirements;
- That needs are monitored on an on-going basis;
- That options to secure provision of pitches through planning gain and exception sites are pursued;
- That the use of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to meet needs is explored;
- That consideration is given to disposal of publicly owned land to meet pitch requirements;
- That consideration is given as to the ways in which Gypsies and Travellers can be supported through the planning application process;
- That a key point of contact is identified for the Council to deal with all matters relating to Gypsy and Travellers;
- That key stakeholders are kept up-to-date and fully briefed on progress;
- That resources are identified to develop a proactive communications strategy, starting with dissemination of these research findings, to enable positive media coverage of Gypsy and Traveller issues; and
- That, where necessary, training is provided for staff and elected members to promote better cultural understanding, counter prejudice and aid communication.
- Consider the development of transit or stop-over provision within the Borough within existing sites.

Recommendations for addressing poor conditions on sites

To enable the Council to address issues linked to poor site condition it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That all planning applications ensure decent site design and layout, that is developed in partnership with the Gypsy and Traveller community, and is in accordance with CLG Design Guidance as a minimum;
- That the Council reviews the viability of improving conditions on their site;
- That appropriate planning policy guidance in respect of site design and layout is adopted within the Local Plans; and
- That improvements in conditions on existing pitches are encouraged through on-going dialogue and partnership working with Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Recommendations for tackling wider service and support needs

To enable the Districts to tackle wider service and support needs it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That, in line with best practice, the Council reviews how it engages with Gypsy and Traveller communities locally, and develops new methods of long-term, on-going engagement;
- Provision of additional support to Gypsy and Traveller communities to enable them to better access services and support;
- That the Council liaises with local colleges and schools to identify opportunities to support and facilitate opportunities to improve literacy amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- Continue to work with healthcare professionals to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers, including working to improve property conditions, which adversely impact upon the health of those living on pitches on sites.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2012 arc⁴, working in partnership with Homespace Sustainable Accommodation (Homespace SA), were commissioned by Stafford Borough Council to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers from across the Borough.
- 1.2 The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base to inform future reviews of Supporting People Strategies, Local Plans and housing strategies.
- 1.3 The research provides information about the current and future accommodation needs and demands of Gypsies and Travellers; as well as providing information about additional support needs.
- 1.4 The study adopts the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' set out within the Government's 'Planning policy for traveller sites' (March 2012) within which the following definition of Gypsies and Travellers is adopted:

'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 or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.'
- 1.5 Similarly, the following definition from the Guidance in respect of showpeople is used:

'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 or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.'
- 1.6 The following definitions also apply:

'[A] "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.'

¹
- 1.7 For the purposes of this study, Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches on sites. Travelling showpeople are not included within the scope of this research.
- 1.8 The overall objectives of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment are:

¹ CLG Planning policy for traveller sites Appendix A Glossary March 2012

- To undertake a comprehensive accommodation assessment including the supported housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers residing in Stafford Borough;
- To prepare an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs for the Borough, including recommendations about how many private and social rented residential and transit pitches are needed now, and by the plan period in 2031; and
- To provide detailed evidence of a range of factors including:
 - Housing and support needs;
 - Accommodation and housing requirements;
 - Demography;
 - Working patterns;
 - Health;
 - Education and training; and
 - Access to services.

Study Components

- 1.9 The study comprised three phases, which are set out and detailed below:
- Phase 1: Collation and review of existing information and literature and stakeholder survey and discussions;
 - Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across the Borough; and
 - Phase 3: Report production and dissemination.

Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and stakeholder discussions

- 1.10 This phase comprised a review of available literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers.
- 1.11 Relevant regional, sub-regional and local information has been collected, collated and reviewed, including information on:
- The national policy and legislative context;
 - Current policies towards Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough (drawn from LA and sub-regional policy documents, planning documents, housing strategies, homelessness strategies and Supporting People strategies);
 - Analysis of existing data sources available from stakeholders
- 1.12 Views have been sought from a range of stakeholders identified by the Council, including providers, education officers, housing and planning professionals.

Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers across Stafford Borough

- 1.13 The survey of Gypsies and Travellers across the local authority area was organised and undertaken by Homespace SA. Interviews have been carried out during November 2012. Interviews were carried out with residents living on authorised local authority and private sites across the Borough. Additional interviews were held with Gypsy and Traveller respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation; and with respondents on unauthorised encampments. To maintain confidentiality and at the request of many respondents interviewed, the specific locations of sites is not identified in this report.
- 1.14 Interviews were undertaken by trained members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Using members of the community as interviewers helps secure a good response rate, and ultimately deliver a more comprehensive picture of need.
- 1.15 The cultural needs of Gypsies and Travellers differ from those of the rest of the population and consideration of culturally specific requirements such as the need for additional permanent caravan sites and/or transit sites and/or stopping places (or improvements to existing sites) are key to this study. The research has therefore explicitly sought information from Travelling people across the Borough living in housing, on sites, on unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments.
- 1.16 To maximise the value of the fieldwork, we have also obtained information on housing and housing-related support issues.

Phase 3: Production of report

- 1.17 The report structure is as follows:
- Chapter 1 Introduction: provides an overview of the study;
 - Chapter 2 Methodology: provides details of the study's research methodology;
 - Chapter 3 Legislative and policy context: presents a review of the legislative and policy context;
 - Chapter 4 The current picture: looks at the current provision of sites across Stafford Borough to provide a baseline picture of what is currently available;
 - Chapter 5 The current picture: reviews estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller population across the Borough and the scale of existing site provision. A review of the current accommodation situation of Gypsies and Travellers will identify any issues arising;
 - Chapter 6 Pitch requirements: focuses on current and future pitch requirements. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, pitch supply and current shortfalls across the Borough;

- Chapter 7 Travelling practices and experiences: highlights issues relating to transit sites;
- Chapter 8 Wider service and support needs: considers the wider service and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers including health and education;
- Chapter 9 Summary of findings: focuses on key outputs and headlines emerging from the research; and
- Chapter 10 Conclusion and strategic response concludes the report, identifying headline issues, and recommending ways in which these could be addressed.

1.18 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:

- Appendix A which provides details of the legislative background underpinning accommodation issues for Gypsies and Travellers.
- Appendix B Policy and guidance
- Appendix C Questionnaire
- Appendix D Stakeholder survey questionnaire
- Appendix E Glossary of terms

2. Methodology

2.1 The methodology for this study has comprised:

- Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers;
- Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch information; and
- A Key Stakeholder on-line questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities.

2.2 The primary fieldwork for this study comprised survey work with Gypsies and Travellers. This work was managed by Homespace SA and undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller fieldworkers. Homespace SA was involved in the design of the questionnaire and in the recruitment of fieldworkers. A total of 92 interviews were secured, 57 with households living on a pitch on a private authorised site, 26 living on local authority sites, 7 living in bricks and mortar accommodation and 2 living on unauthorised private sites. It should be noted that 73 interviews were carried out with existing households and 19 interviews were carried out with emerging households.

Table 2.1 Summary of achieved interviews by type of dwelling

Dwelling location	Existing household	Emerging household	Total
Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	5	2	7
Local Authority Site	22	4	26
Private Site	45	12	57
Unauthorised Development	1	1	2
Total	73	19	92

2.3 The ethnicity of respondents (Table 2.2) indicates that most respondents were either English Gypsy (56.3%) or Romany Gypsy (33.3%). English Gypsies were the dominant ethnicity across all types of dwelling location.

Table 2.2 Range of responses achieved by ethnicity and dwelling type

Ethnicity of Head of household	Dwelling location				Total	%
	Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	Local Authority Site	Private Authorised Site	Private Unauthorised Development		
Romany Gypsy	1	7	21	0	29	33.3
English Gypsy	4	17	26	2	49	56.3
English Traveller	1	0	4	0	5	5.7
Irish Traveller	1	0	0	0	1	1.1
Welsh Gypsy	0	1	1	0	2	2.3
Other	0	1	0	0	1	1.1
Total	7	26	52	2	87	100.0

Base: 87 valid responses; 5 non-responses

2.4 In conjunction with interviews with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, a range of complementary research methods have been used to permit the triangulation of results. These include:

- Desktop analysis of existing documents and data;
- A database of authorised and unauthorised sites; and
- A key stakeholder on-line questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller communities across the Borough.

2.5 Good practice guidance and evidence from other studies emphasises that building trust with Travelling communities is a prerequisite of meaningful research. In this case it has been achieved by using interviewers from Gypsy, and Traveller communities to conduct the interviews, by engaging with Gypsy and Traveller groups, by using local resources and workers to make links, and working closely with officers who have already established a good relationship.

2.6 We have also used the following sources of information:

- The bi-annual caravan count for CLG;
- Records from local authority managed sites;
- Local Authority information on existing site provision.

2.7 The assessment of pitch requirements has been calculated by utilising information on current supply of pitches and the results from the survey. The overall number of pitches has been calculated through Local Authority information but current and anticipated behaviour has been assessed through the survey. A detailed explanation of the analysis of pitch requirements is contained in section 6.

3. Legislative and Policy Context

3.1 This research is grounded in an understanding of how the national legislative and policy context has affected Gypsy and Traveller communities to date.

Legislative background

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

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

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

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

- Council Gypsy caravan sites;
- Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission;
- Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence along with land required for seasonal farm workers

3.5 The 1994 Act resulted in increased pressure on available sites. It eventually resulted in further reviews of law and policy, culminating in the Housing Act 2004 which placed a requirement (s.225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.

3.6 More detail on the legislation affecting Gypsies and Travellers can be found at Appendix A.

Policy background

3.7 As part of this research we have carried out a literature review. A considerable range of guidance documents have been prepared by central Government to assist local authorities in discharging their strategic housing and planning functions, and numerous research and guidance documents have been published by other agencies. This review examines influential guidance and research which relates specifically to Gypsies and Travellers or makes reference to them; see Appendices A and B for further information.

- 3.8 Overall, this range of statutory documentation, advisory and guidance notes and accepted good practice has helped set a broad context within which this research is positioned.
- 3.9 Some of the key themes to emerge from the review of relevant literature include:
- Recognising the long-standing role Gypsies and Travellers have played in society and how prejudice, discrimination and legislative change have increasingly marginalised this distinctive ethnic group;
 - A recognised shortage of pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites;
 - The importance of understanding Gypsy and Traveller issues in the context of recent housing and planning policy development;
 - Recognition that Gypsies and Travellers are the most socially excluded group in society and are particularly susceptible to a range of inequalities relating to health, education, law enforcement and quality of accommodation;
 - Recognition of the considerable prejudice and discrimination faced by Gypsy and Traveller communities;
 - A need for better communication and improved understanding between, and within, Travelling communities themselves, and between Travelling communities and elected members, service providers and permanently settled communities.
- 3.10 In March 2012 the Government published both the National Planning Policy Framework and its Planning policy for traveller sites. These documents replace all previous national planning policy and guidance in respect of Gypsies and Travellers. This new national guidance is now a material consideration in determining local planning applications and its overarching aim is 'to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers.'
- 3.11 Local planning authorities are encouraged to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning and plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. The policy aims to promote more private traveller site provision 'while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites'.
- 3.12 The policy also states that:
- 'Plan making and decision taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.'
 - Planning policies need to be fair, realistic and inclusive; and
 - Should increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under-provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.
- 3.13 It is within this policy context that local planning authorities will have to plan future provision for Gypsies and Travellers across their respective areas. The new National Planning policy emphasises the role of evidence and how it should be used within this context. Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively

and manage development stresses the need for timely, effective and on-going community engagement (both with Travellers and the settled community); in addition the 'use of a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions' is advocated. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Planning policy for traveller sites state that;

'Local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling show people which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities'.

Local planning authorities should:

- a) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;
- b) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten 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 across its area (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.

3.14 Despite the intention to abolish of the Regional Spatial Strategy, the need for strategic planning remains, especially to ensure coherent planning beyond local authority boundaries. To this end the Localism Act has introduced the Duty to Co-operate which the Planning Advisory Service advises :

- Requires councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in relation to planning of sustainable development;
- Requires councils to consider whether to enter into agreements on joint approaches or prepare joint local plans (if a local planning authority); and
- Applies to planning for strategic matters in relation to the preparation of local and Marine Plans, and other activities that prepare the way for these activities.

3.15 The Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework set out a requirement for local authorities to fulfil a Duty to Co-operate on planning issues, including provision for Gypsies and Travellers, to ensure that approaches are consistent and address cross border issues with neighbouring authorities. The new Duty is intended to act as a driver for change in order to enhance co-operation and partnership working to assist in delivering appropriate provision of future accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, which can be contentious. In addition the National Planning Policy Framework sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development to guide local authorities in the delivery of new developments whilst the 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' provides specific advice as detailed above.

3.16 In April 2012 the Government published a Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, which summarised progress in terms of meeting 'Government commitments to tackle inequalities and promote fairness for Gypsy and Traveller communities.'² The report covers 28 measures from across Government aimed at tackling inequalities, these cover:

- Improving education outcomes;
- Improving health outcomes;
- Providing appropriate accommodation;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Improving interaction with the National Offender Management Service;
- Improving access to employment and financial services; and
- Improving engagement with service providers.

3.17 In respect of provision of appropriate accommodation, the report advises that financial incentives and other support measures have been put in place to help councils and elected members make the case for development of Traveller sites within their areas. Changing perceptions of sites is also identified as a priority, and to this end the Government has made the following commitment:

- 'The Department for Communities and Local Government will help Gypsy and Traveller representative groups showcase small private sites that are well presented and maintained'.
- 'Subject to site owners agreeing to have their homes included we will help produce a case study document which local authorities and councillors, potential site residents and the general public could use. It could also be adapted and used in connection with planning applications.'³

3.18 Also aimed at improving provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, the Government has committed to:

- The provision of support, training and advice for elected members services up to 2015; and
- The promotion of improved health outcomes for Travellers through the planning system; the report states that 'one of the Government's aims in respect of traveller (sic) sites is to enable provision of suitable accommodation, which supports healthy lifestyles, and from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.'⁴

² www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322

³ CLG Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012 commitment 12 page 18

⁴ CLG Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012 para 4.13 page 19

3.19 Conversely, in August 2012, the Government published guidance for local authorities setting out the powers available to them and landowners to remove unauthorised encampments from both public and private land. Commenting on the guidance set out in 'Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: A summary of available powers', the Chartered Institute of Housing comments that: 'Gypsy and Traveller communities are some of the most marginalised communities in modern times. Long standing difficulties in the provision of private and authorised sites, coupled with fewer stopping places across the country, have resulted in increasing numbers of unauthorised sites and the increasing marginalisation of these communities. There is a real need to develop a planning system that enables the provision of well situated, decent and accessible site provision for Gypsies and Travellers.'⁵

CLG Design Guidance

3.20 The Government's new 'Planning policy for traveller sites' provides no guidance on design for Gypsy and Traveller sites, concentrating instead on the mechanics of the planning process, from using evidence, to plan making and decision taking. The new policy does not therefore add to existing design guidance from CLG, which suggests that, among other things, there must be an amenity building on each pitch and that this must include, as a minimum:

- Hot and cold water supply;
- Electricity supply;
- A separate toilet;
- A bath/shower room; and
- A kitchen and dining area.

3.21 The access to the toilet should be through a lobbied area. The amenity building must include: secure storage space for harmful substances/medicines; enclosed storage for food, brooms, washing, cleaning items etc.; and space for connection of cooker, fridge/freezer and washing machine. The inclusion of a day/living room in the amenity unit is recommended. The day/living room could be combined with the kitchen area to provide a kitchen/dining/lounge area. It is desirable that the day/living room should not be part of essential circulation space, nor contain essential storage.

3.22 The Guidance also maintains that the design and construction of amenity buildings must meet the requirements of the current Building Regulations, Housing Corporation Design and Quality Standards, the Institution of Electrical Engineers regulations, and the Local Water Authority. Materials used must comply with the relevant British Standard Specifications and Codes of Practice and must provide for durable and low maintenance buildings. Its construction should be sympathetic to local architecture, attractive and of a domestic nature.

⁵ www.cih.org Housing policy: Gypsies and Travellers

- 3.23 It is also recommended that amenity buildings incorporate cost effective energy efficiency measures. The building layout and construction should be designed to maximise energy conservation and the use of passive solar gain. All mechanical and electrical systems should be as energy efficient as possible. Consideration should be given to the insulation of plumbing systems, the use of low energy light fittings and appropriate heating and ventilation systems. Any opportunities for using energy from renewable sources should be considered.
- 3.24 A recent Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) review (January 2012) of Non-Mainstream Housing Design Guidance found that the CLG Design Guide most ‘succinctly outlines the physical requirements for site provision for travellers.’ It also identified a number of ‘pointers’ for future guidance, and these are worth mentioning here:
- The family unit should be considered to be larger and more flexible than that of the settled community due to a communal approach to care for the elderly and for children;
 - A distinct permanent building is required on site to incorporate washing and cooking facilities, and provide a base for visiting health and education workers; and
 - Clearer diagrams setting out the parameters for design are called for, both in terms of the scale of the dwelling and the site. Incorporating requirements for maintenance, grazing, spacing, size provision, communal spaces, etc. ‘would ensure that a set of best practice principles can be established.’⁶
- 3.25 The HCA Review suggested the following design considerations:
- Travelling Showpeople should be considered in the development of provision for temporary/transit sites;
 - Vehicular access is a requirement and not an option;
 - Open space is essential for maintenance of vehicles and grazing of animals;
 - Open play space for children needs to be provided;
 - A warden’s office is required for permanent sites;
 - Communal rooms for use of private health/education consultations are required; and
 - An ideal ratio of facilities provision (stand pipes, parking area, recreation space) to the number of pitches.
- 3.26 The HCA Review also identified the following best practice suggestions:
- Greater separation between aspects of living and those of cooking/washing;
 - Disabilities should be accounted for within provision;

⁶ Non-Mainstream Housing Design Guidance Literature Review, HCA January 2012 page 63

- When determining proposed locations, accessibility and proximity to local amenities and the surrounding community should be considered;
- Issues associated with reducing alienation with the settled community need to be accounted for;
- Measures for emergency sites accommodating a population not accounted for should be outlined;
- The Right to Buy should be taken into account in the provision of permanent sites; and
- Greater guidance for the planning, procurement and consultation process to ensure sites meet the needs of proposed residents, as well as reassuring neighbouring settled communities regarding impact.

4. The Current Picture: provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites

- 4.1 This chapter considers the current provision of sites across Stafford Borough. This is based on information provided by the Council and supplemented with observations from the fieldwork team.

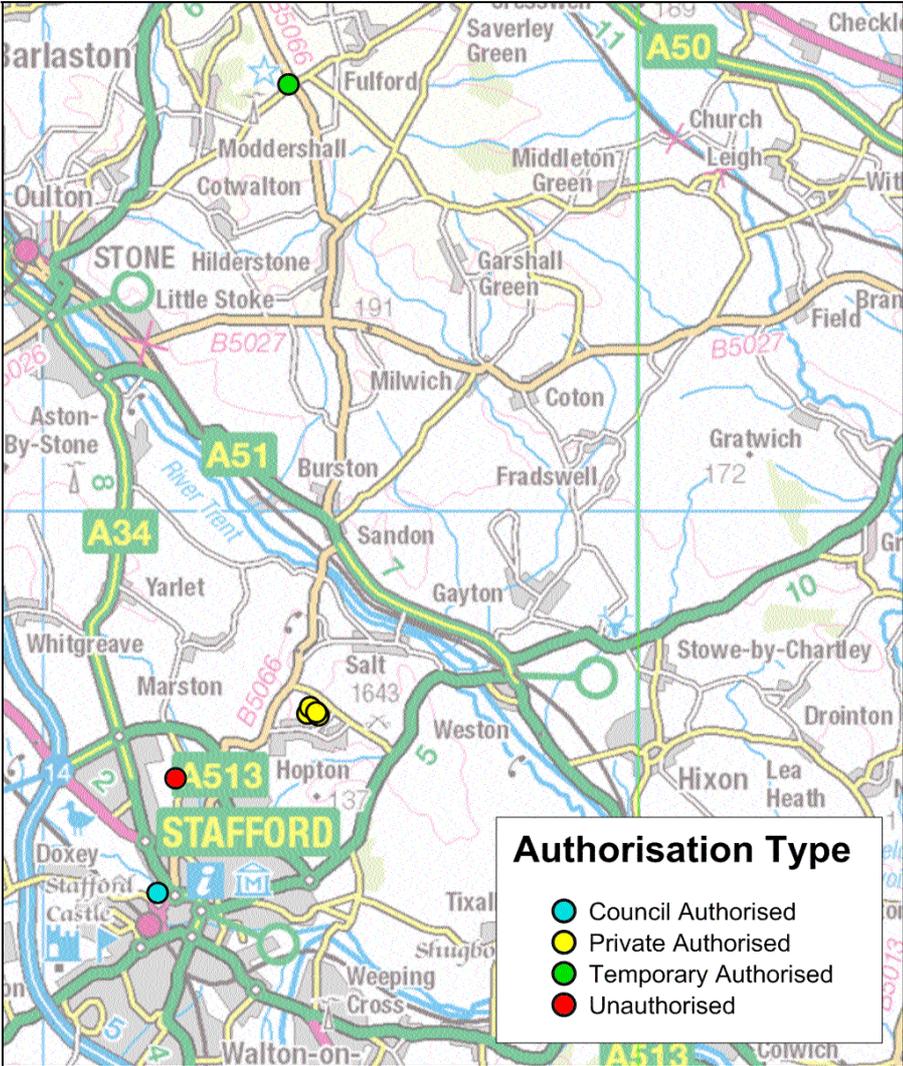
Provision of authorised and unauthorised sites

- 4.2 Overall, there is one Council owned site (12 pitches), four private permanent authorised sites (56 pitches), one private temporary site (5 pitches) and one private unauthorised site (2 pitches).
- 4.3 The location of sites is illustrated in Map 4.1.

Table 4.1 List of authorised sites as at 1Nov 2012

Site Name	Site Location	Type of Site	Ownership	Total Number of Pitches on Site	Number of Pitches currently Being Used	Number of Interviewer Identified Households on Site
Glover Street Caravan Site	Stafford	Permanent	Council Rented	12	12	20
Ashlea Mobile Home	Hopton	Permanent	Private with planning permission	16	16	14
Ashlea Caravan Site	Hopton	Permanent	Private with planning permission	6	6	6
Spot Acre	Fulford	Permanent	Private with 5 year temporary planning permission	5	5	5
Rear Widdens	Hopton	Permanent	Private with planning permission	20	19	25
Front Widdens	Hopton	Permanent	Private with planning permission	14	14	15
Common Road	Stafford	UAD	Private with no planning permission	2	2	2
TOTAL				75	74	87
TOTAL AUTHORISED (PERMANENT)				68	67	80
TOTAL AUTHORISED (TEMPORARY)				5	5	5
TOTAL UNAUTHORISED				2	2	2

Map 4.1 Location of Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Stafford Borough



5. The Current Picture: Gypsy and Traveller population and pitch availability

Population Estimates

- 5.1 This chapter looks at the current picture in terms of the current population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers across Stafford Borough before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the area.
- 5.2 According to the 2011 Census, a total of 133 residents in Stafford Borough identified as having a White British Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity. This may include residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 5.3 As the number of pitches on sites is known, the main issue is the number of Gypsies and Travellers in housing. It may well be that there are significant numbers of people of Gypsy or Traveller descent living in houses who are unknown to Traveller Education providers. Nevertheless, for the purposes of analysing pitch requirements, where possible interviews have been carried out with Gypsies and Traveller living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Caravan Counts and Authorised Pitches

- 5.4 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the Government in 1979, and have since been made by local authorities on a voluntary basis every January and July. Their accuracy varies between local authorities and according to how information is included in the process. A major criticism is the non-involvement of Gypsies and Travellers themselves in the counts. However, the counts conducted on a single day twice a year is the only systematic source of information on the numbers and distribution of Gypsy and Traveller trailers. The counts include caravans (or trailers) on and off authorised sites (i.e. those with planning permission) but do not relate necessarily to the actual number of pitches on sites.
- 5.5 A major review of the counting system was undertaken in 2003 by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which made a number of recommendations and improvements to the process.
- 5.6 The July 2012 Caravan Count nationally found that:
 - The total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans was approximately 19,400. This is about 700 more than the total in July 2011;
 - There were 6,800 caravans on socially rented sites, an increase of about 200 since July 2011;
 - The number of caravans on authorised privately financed sites was approximately 9,400, an increase of about 1,300 since the July 2011 count;
 - The number of caravans on authorised developments on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers decreased by approximately 200 between July 2011 and July 2012 to almost 1,800;

- Overall the count indicated that 84% of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England were on authorised sites, with 16% being on unauthorised sites.⁷

5.7 The figures for the last five caravan counts for Stafford are set out in Table 5.2. This indicates that the number of caravans on sites has averaged 78 over the past 5 counts, with the majority of caravans located on private authorised sites. The total number of caravans recorded has steadily increased over the last three counts, rising from 75 to 87 over the period July 2011 to July 2012. Caravans on unauthorised sites without planning permission were first noted in the July 2012 count.

Table 5.2 Bi-annual Caravan Count figures 2010 to 2012

Count	Authorised pitches with planning permission		Unauthorised pitches without planning permission	Total
	Social Rented	Total Private		
Jul-12	13	70	4	87
Jan-12	12	69	0	81
Jul-11	11	64	0	75
Jan-11	12	69	0	81
Jul-10	12	54	0	66
5 count average	12	65.2	0.8	78

Source: CLG Caravan Count

- 5.8 It should be noted that there may be more than one trailer per pitch, and in the case of households doubling up on pitches there could be several trailers. For obvious reasons Gypsies and Travellers living on sites may not be present on the days in which the counts are conducted.
- 5.9 There has been no systematic attempt to quantify the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in conventional housing and they have not been listed as ethnicities in any census. Table 5.3 summarises the range of sites known to the Council.

⁷ CLG National Caravan Count July 2012

Table 5.3 Summary of sites and pitches

Stafford Borough	No. Sites	No. Pitches
Council owned	1	12
Private authorised	4	56
Private temporary	1	5
Private unauthorised	1	2
TOTAL Authorised	5	68
TOTAL Temporary	1	5
TOTAL Unauthorised	1	2
GRAND TOTAL	7	75

Source: Stafford Borough Council

5.10 Residents on all these site were contacted and asked to participate in the study. A total of 92 interviews were achieved; of these, 85 were with respondents living on a pitch on a site and 7 respondents were living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The achieved interviews also included responses from 19 emerging households.

5.11 In order to maintain confidentiality of response, data are presented for households living on local authority and private authorised sites along with a total figure for all Gypsy and Traveller households. It is not appropriate to report data for households living in bricks and mortar accommodation or living on unauthorised sites given the relatively low numbers of households reported.

Tenure of respondents

5.12 Overall, 47.1% of respondents own their own home, 36.8% rent privately, 14.9% rent from the Council and 1.1% stated other tenure (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4 Tenure of respondents

Tenure	Frequency	%
Rent from Council	13	14.9
Rent privately	32	36.8
Own home	41	47.1
Other	1	1.1
Total (valid responses)	87	100.0
Missing cases	5	
Grand Total	92	

5.13 According to the responses given by respondents, the vast majority of those living on pitches rent the land they live on with planning permission (61.2%). A further 28.8% rent a pitch from the Council, 8.8% rent a pitch (with no planning permission) and 1.3% stated another type of ownership.

Table 5.5 Ownership of land where trailer/caravan located

Ownership of land you live on	Frequency	%
Rent pitch from Council	23	28.8
Rent pitch privately (with planning permission)	49	61.3
Rent pitch privately (with no planning permission)	7	8.8
Other	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0
Missing cases	5	
Grand Total (living on a pitch)	85	

Facilities on pitches

5.14 Respondents were asked to identify the facilities they had on their pitch (Table 5.6). Overall, all respondents living on pitches had access to a slab and most had access to a shed and toilet. A majority (at least 50%) had access to a shower, mains water, mains sewerage and mains electric. Fewer than a third of respondents had access to a laundry or laundry drying area, a bath, living room or a mains gas supply.

Table 5.6 Facilities provided on pitch

Facilities on Pitch	Location of Pitch	
	Council Site (%)	Private Authorised Site (%)
Slab	100.0	100.0
Shed	100.0	88.9
Kitchen	0.0	46.3
Laundry	15.4	31.5
Laundry drying area	0.0	46.3
Bath	0.0	9.3
Shower	0.0	77.8
Toilet	100.0	96.3
Living room	0.0	13.0
Mains water	61.5	77.8
Mains sewerage	61.5	57.4
Mains electric	88.5	79.6
Gas supply	0.0	9.3
Total (valid response)	26	54
Missing cases	0	3
Grand Total	26	57

Amenities elsewhere on the site

5.15 According to respondents there were relatively few amenities provided elsewhere on sites (Table 5.7), with car parking most frequently mentioned.

Table 5.7 Amenities provided elsewhere on site

Amenities elsewhere on site	Location of Pitch (%)	
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site
Amenity block	0.0	0.0
Toilets	3.8	1.8
Showers	0.0	0.0
Laundry	0.0	0.0
Car parking	3.8	38.6
Space for storing loads	0.0	1.8
Play area	0.0	0.0
Communal meeting area	0.0	0.0
Base (Valid Responses)	2	22
Missing cases	24	35
Grand Total	26	57

Repairs and improvements

5.16 Overall around two-thirds of all respondents stated that they had no repair problems although this varied markedly between respondents living on the Council Site (where 26.9% stated they had no repair problem) and the Private Authorised sites (where 81.5% stated they had no repair problems). 33.3% of other respondents, which included those living on unauthorised sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation, stated they had no repair problems.

Table 5.8 Repair problems by accommodation type

Stafford Borough	Location of dwelling (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
No repair problems	26.9	81.5	33.3	62.7
Repair problem(s) stated	73.1	18.5	66.7	37.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Responses)	26	54	3	83
Non response	0	3	6	9
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

5.17 Overall around three-quarters described the state of repair of their home as being good or very good (Table 5.9). However, whereas 94.6% of residents

living on private authorised sites stated the repair was very good or good, only 26.9% of residents on the Council site stated this to be the case. In contrast, 73.1% commented that the state of repair was poor or very poor (with 38.5% stating very poor).

Table 5.9 State of repair

State of repair	Location of dwelling (%)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Very Good	15.4	78.2	33.3	57.1
Good	11.5	16.4		14.3
Neither Good nor Poor		3.6		2.4
Poor	34.6	1.8	33.3	13.1
Very Poor	38.5		33.3	13.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base	26	55	3	84
Missing cases	0	2	6	8
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

5.18 Table 5.10 shows the range of repairs or improvements identified by survey respondents. Improvements to bathroom facilities were most frequently mentioned, followed by improvements to slabs/drives, more space on the pitch and improved kitchen facilities.

5.19 CLG guidance states that sites should provide, as a minimum, access to a separate toilet, bath/shower room, and a kitchen and dining area should be provided.

Table 5.10 Repairs or improvements needed

State of repair	Location of pitch (%)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
More space on pitch	52.6	80.0	100.0	64.5
Slab/drive	52.6	90.0	100.0	67.7
Roof	52.6	60.0	100.0	58.1
Doors/windows	52.6	60.0	100.0	58.1
Kitchen facilities	52.6	70.0	100.0	61.3
Bathroom facilities	100.0	60.0	100.0	87.1
Base (Repair problem stated)	19	10	2	31

Space Requirements

5.20 Whilst there is no set pitch size, CLG guidance states that there should be sufficient space on pitches to allow for:

- Manoeuvrability of an average size trailer of up to 15 meters in length;
- Capacity for larger mobile homes of up to 25 meters on a number of pitches on a site; and
- A minimum of six meters between every trailer, caravan or park home that is separately occupied on a site.

5.21 In terms of space for trailers, wagons and vehicles (Table 5.11), around three-quarters of respondents felt they had enough space, although the proportion was lower for respondents living in the Council site (60%) compared with those living on private sites (83.6%).

Table 5.11 Enough space for trailers, wagons and vehicles

Sufficient space for trailers, wagons, vehicles and loads	Location of pitch (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Yes	60.0	83.6	100.0	76.8
No	40.0	16.4		23.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	25	55	2	82
Non response	1	2	7	10
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

5.22 Of respondents living on pitches, around two-thirds felt there was sufficient space in their amenity block/sheds (Table 5.12). However, only 29.2% of respondents living on the Council Site felt there was sufficient space compared with 88.9% living on private sites.

Table 5.12 Enough space in amenity blocks/sheds on pitch

Enough space in your amenity block (shed)	Location of pitch (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Yes	29.2	88.9		68.8
No	70.8	11.1	100.0	31.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	24	54	2	80
Non response	2	3	7	12
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

5.23 Around three-quarters of respondents felt there was sufficient space overall on their pitch (Table 5.13), with those living on a pitch most likely to say there was enough space (87%) compared with 60% of respondents living on the Council site.

Table 5.13 Enough space on pitch

Enough space on your pitch	Location of pitch (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Yes	60.0	87.0		76.5
No	40.0	13.0	100.0	23.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	25	54	2	81
Non response	1	3	7	11
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

Satisfaction with location of your home

- 5.24 Satisfaction with the location of the home is high (Table 5.14), with 93.4% of respondents overall stating that they were very satisfied or satisfied. No respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with location.
- 5.25 Satisfaction levels were highest amongst respondents living on the Council Site, with 96.2% satisfied or very satisfied with its location.

Table 5.14 Satisfaction with the location of your home

Satisfaction with location of your home	Location of pitch (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Very satisfied	57.7	51.8	33.3	51.6
Satisfied	38.5	41.1	55.6	41.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3.8	7.1	11.1	6.6
Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	26	56	9	91
Non response	0	1	0	1
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

Overcrowding

- 5.26 No respondent felt that their home was overcrowded.

Table 5.15 Do you think your home is overcrowded?

Do you think your home is overcrowded?	Location of pitch (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Yes	0	0	0	0
No	100	100	100	100
Total	100	100	100	100
Base (Valid responses)	25	55	2	82
Non response	1	2	7	10
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

Facilities shared with other households

5.27 There was only one reported incidence of households having to share facilities and this was the sharing of toilet facilities.

Cost of accommodation and services

5.28 Respondents were asked about the cost of accommodation and services provided. However all respondents refused to divulge this information.

5.29 Overall, 41.8% of respondents have none of their housing costs met by Housing Benefit. Of those receiving benefit, 44.8% have some of their housing costs met and 13.4% have all of their costs met.

5.30 Receipt of full Housing Benefit was highest amongst those living on private authorised sites (18.2%) compared with only 6.3% of those living on the Council site.

Table 5.16 Housing costs covered by Housing Benefit

Housing costs covered by Housing Benefit	Location of dwelling (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
None	37.5	38.6	71.4	41.8
Part	56.3	43.2	28.6	44.8
All	6.3	18.2		13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid responses)	16	44	7	67
Non response	10	13	2	25
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

5.31 Please note that it was not deemed culturally sensitive to ask about income in the survey.

5.32 The extent to which respondents felt that the cost of services (gas, electricity, oil and water) were ‘okay’ or ‘not okay’ is presented in Table 5.17. This shows that 49.1% of respondents felt that the price of electricity was OK, 38.3% that the price of gas was OK, 69.2% that the price of oil was OK and 65% that the price of water was OK. However, residents on the Council site were more likely to say that the cost of services was not OK, with over 80% stating that the cost of electricity and gas was not OK. In comparison, the majority or respondents living on private sites stated that prices were OK.

Table 5.17 Cost of services

		Location of dwelling (%)		
		Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other
How do you find the cost of electricity?	OK	18.8	72.7	0.0
	Not OK	81.3	27.3	100.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	16	33	6
	Non response	10	24	3
	Grand Total	26	57	9
How do you find the cost of gas?	OK	15.4	57.1	0.0
	Not OK	84.6	42.9	100.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	13	28	6
	Non response	13	29	3
	Grand Total	26	57	9
How do you find the cost of oil?	OK	30.0	88.9	0.0
	Not OK	70.0	11.1	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Non response	16	30	7
	Grand Total	26	57	9
How do you find the cost of water?	OK	33.3	85.2	0.0
	Not OK	66.7	14.8	100.0
	Base (Valid Response)	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Non response	17	30	5
	Grand Total	26	57	9

Feelings about neighbourhood, safety and security

5.33 Interviewees were asked how happy they were with the neighbourhood in which they were located (Table 5.18); overall the majority of respondents were either very happy or happy (91.2%) with their neighbourhood. 8.8% were neither happy nor unhappy; and none was unhappy or very unhappy. 64.3%

of respondents living on private authorised sites were very happy with their neighbourhood compared with 38.5% of respondents living on the Council site.

Table 5.18 Happy with neighbourhood

Happy with Neighbourhood	Dwelling type (%)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Very happy	38.5	64.3		50.5
Happy	53.8	33.9	44.4	40.7
Neither happy nor unhappy	7.7	1.8	55.6	8.8
Unhappy	0	0	0	0.0
Very unhappy	0	0	0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	56	9	91
Non response	0	1	0	1
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

Safety

5.34 In terms of safety (Table 5.19), virtually all respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood, although 3.8% of respondents living on the Council site said they did not feel safe.

Table 5.19 Do you feel safe in this neighbourhood?

Feel safe in neighbourhood	Dwelling type (%)		
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other
Yes	96.2	100.0	100.0
No	3.8		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	26	56	9
Non response	0	1	0
Grand Total	26	57	9

Location to amenities

5.35 Respondents were asked if they felt being near to a range of amenities was important, slightly important or not important to them (Table 5.20). Over 95% felt it was important to be close to primary schools, doctors and main roads; between 90 and 95% stated it was important to be close to other amenities including secondary schools, pubs and shops.

Table 5.20 Location to amenities

Amenity	Importance	Dwelling type (%)			
		Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Primary School nearby	Important	100.0	93.6	100.0	95.8
	Slightly Important	0.0	4.3	0.0	2.8
	Not Important	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Secondary School nearby	Important	100.0	89.7	100.0	92.5
	Slightly Important	0.0	7.7	0.0	5.7
	Not Important	0.0	2.6	0.0	1.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Doctors nearby	Important	100.0	96.3	100.0	97.6
	Slightly Important	0.0	3.7	0.0	2.4
	Not Important	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Pubs nearby	Important	100.0	86.5	100.0	91.8
	Slightly Important	0.0	10.8	0.0	6.6
	Not Important	0.0	2.7	0.0	1.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Shops nearby	Important	100.0	90.4	100.0	94.1
	Slightly Important	0.0	9.6	0.0	5.9
	Not Important	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Public Transport nearby	Important	94.4	87.2	100.0	89.6
	Slightly Important	5.6	12.8	0.0	10.4
	Not Important	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Main Roads nearby	Important	100.0	94.4	100.0	96.2
	Slightly Important	0.0	5.6	0.0	3.8
	Not Important	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Grand Total		26	57	9	92

Moving

5.36 Respondents were asked whether they planned to move over the next five years. Virtually all respondents plan to stay where they are (98.8%).

Table 5.21 Respondents planning to move in the next five years

Moving intention	Dwelling type (%)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Planning to stay where you are based now	100.0	98.1	100.0	98.8
Planning to move elsewhere		1.9		1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	23.0	52.0	8.0	83.0
Non response	3	5	1	9
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

Cross-border mobility

5.37 The household survey identified a high degree of mobility, with 58.9% of households moving to their current place of residence in the past 5 years (43 out of 73 households) (Table 5.22). Of these households 26.8% had moved from within Stafford. A further 56.1% had moved from outside the Borough from various locations, mainly the West Midlands, London/South East and the North West; 14.6% had travelled all of the time and 2.4% had been previously homeless. Note that a household may be from the Stafford area originally and had subsequently returned to their home area.

Table 5.22 Summary of the origin of moving households

Origin	Number	%
Within Stafford	11	26.8
From outside Stafford	23	56.1
Travelling all the time	6	14.6
Homeless	1	2.4
Total	41	100.0
Not Specified	2	
Grand Total	43	
Total Existing Households	73	

Summary of origins outside Stafford	Number	%
West Midlands	8	34.8
North West	4	17.4
London/South East	8	34.8
Elsewhere	3	13

6. Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements

- 6.1 This chapter reviews the overall pitch requirements of Gypsies and Travellers across the Borough. It takes into account current supply and demand, as well as future demand, based on modelling of data, as advocated by the CLG. Requirements for Gypsies and Travellers are reviewed. This chapter also considers planning issues.
- 6.2 The calculation of pitch requirements is based on CLG modelling as advocated in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance (CLG, 2007). The CLG Guidance requires an assessment of the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers and a projection of future needs. The Guidance advocates the use of a survey to supplement secondary source information and derive key supply and demand information.
- 6.3 The GTAA has modelled current and future demand and current and future supply. The following analysis focuses on Gypsies and Travellers specifically.
- 6.4 In terms of **demand**, the model considers:
- The baseline number of households on authorised and unauthorised sites (as at Nov 2012);
 - The number of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation (a minimum baseline based on achieved interviews) and the number wanting to move to a pitch;
 - Existing households planning to move in the next five years (currently on sites);
 - The current shortfall in pitches relative to households on existing sites; and
 - Emerging households currently on sites and planning to stay within the study area; to derive a figure for
 - Total demand.
- 6.5 In terms of **supply**, the model considers :
- Total supply of pitches on authorised sites and the unauthorised tolerated site;
 - Turnover on existing authorised sites; and
 - Total supply of authorised pitches based on turnover and existing pitch provision and supply from the unauthorised tolerated site.
- 6.6 The model then reconciles total demand and existing authorised supply by summarising:
- Total demand for pitches; and
 - Total supply of authorised and unauthorised tolerated pitches.

- 6.7 The assessment of current need should, in line with the guidance, take account of existing supply and demand. In the CLG model, current residential supply refers to local authority residential sites and authorised privately owned sites.
- 6.8 In this assessment we have reported the existing number of pitches on authorised local authority and private sites (this is the actual number of pitches on sites available for occupancy at November 2012).
- 6.9 Data have not been weighted as we have achieved a very high level of response from Gypsy and Traveller households across Stafford Borough.

Table 6.1 Summary of demand and supply factors

DEMAND		Stafford Total
1	Current Households	
	1a. On LA Site	12
	1b. On Private Site - Authorised	60
	1c. On Private Site - Temporary Authorised	5
	1d. Unauthorised	2
	1e. Total (1a to 1d)	79
2	Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (baseline information only)	
	2a. TOTAL	7
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years	
	Currently on sites	
	3a. To another pitch/same site	1
	3b. To another site in local authority area	0
	3c. To Bricks and Mortar	0
	3d. Demand from Spotacre when temporary planning permission ends in 2014	5
	Currently in houses	
	3e. Planning to move to a site	0
	3f. TOTAL (3a+3b-3c+3d+3e)	6
4	Emerging households (5 years)	
	4a. Currently on sites and planning to live on current site	33
	4b. Currently on sites and planning to live on another site in LA	0
	4c. Currently in houses planning to move to a site	0
	4d. TOTAL (4a+4b+4c)	33
5	Total Demand	
	1e+3f+4d	118
SUPPLY		
6	Turnover on existing authorised pitches	
	6a Annual	5
	6b 5 Years	25
7	Total supply of pitches (5 yrs)	
	7a. Current authorised pitch provision (1a+1b+6b)	97
	7b. Current vacancies on authorised pitches	1
	7c. Current supply of tolerated unauthorised pitches	2
	7d. TOTAL (7a+7b+7c)	100
RECONCILING DEMAND AND SUPPLY		
7	Total demand for pitches (5 yrs)	from 5
		118
8	Total supply of pitches (5 yrs)	from 7d
		100
Total 5yr Shortfall (2012/13 to 2016/17)		(Including 5 pitches on Spotacre site)
		18
Total 5yr Shortfall (2012/13 to 2016/17)		(Excluding 5 pitches on Spotacre site)
		13

Notes:

Needs Analysis based on surveys carried out during November 2012; Base date of pitch supply is November 2012

The shortfall includes a requirement for 5 pitches one the temporary authorised planning permission expires on the Spotacre site in 2014, implying an underlying shortfall of 13 pitches over the 5 years 2012/13 to 2016/17

Description of factors in the model

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

Demand

6.11 Current households (1a to 1e)

These figures are derived from the Local Authority and the site census carried out as part of the fieldwork.

6.12 Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (2)

This is a minimum figure based on the respondents who were interviewed as part of the fieldwork

6.13 Households planning to move in the next five years (3)

This was derived from information from the household survey for respondents currently on authorised and unauthorised pitches and respondents in bricks and mortar accommodation who would prefer to live on a site.

This analysis also includes demand for 5 pitches from the Spotacre site which currently has temporary planning permission which is due to expire during 2014.

6.14 Emerging households (4)

This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next five years based on household survey information from respondents living on authorised and unauthorised pitches.

6.15 Total demand for pitches (5)

This is a total of current households on pitches (authorised and unauthorised), households planning to move in the next five years (either on pitches or in bricks and mortar accommodation) and demand from emerging households.

Supply

6.16 Turnover on existing pitches (6)

Survey information identifies the proportion of pitches which have been occupied for less than five years and the household moved onto a site. Analysis assumes that 5 pitches become available each year for households wanting to move onto a site (this excludes those planning to move within a site).

6.17 Total supply (7)

This figure is based on the total number of pitches available (12 Council plus 60 private authorised pitches) plus a five year supply based on turnover rates (6b) and any vacant pitch provision identified in the site surveys. Total supply includes two pitches on an unauthorised tolerated site at Common Road.

Reconciling supply and demand

- 6.18 In summary, there is a total demand over the next five years (2012/13 to 2016/17) for 118 pitches in Stafford Borough.
- 6.19 Analysis does not factor in the potential for additional pitches which are subject to planning permission nor any expansion of existing sites.
- 6.20 Table 6.2 summarises current supply and future need for the Local Authority over the period 2012/13 to 2016/17.
- 6.21 This should be viewed as a minimum requirement based on the current supply of pitches and the views expressed by Gypsies and Traveller households who have been interviewed. The demand for pitches should be regularly reviewed to determine the extent to which this minimum requirement is changing over time. This shortfall includes a requirement for 5 additional pitches once the Spotacre temporary planning permission expires during 2014.

Table 6.2 Summary of current pitch supply and shortfalls 2012/13 to 2016/17

	Total
1. Existing authorised supply (at Nov 2012)	72
2. Common Road Unauthorised Site*	2
3. Vacant Pitches (at Nov 2012)	1
4. Anticipated turnover (2012/13 to 2016/17)	25
5. Total pitch requirements 2012/13 to 2016/17	118
Shortfall (1+2+3+4-5) including Spotacre 5 pitches	18
Shortfall (1+2+3+4-5) excluding Spotacre 5 pitches	13

Potential longer-term requirements

- 6.22 Modelling assumes a five year time horizon but it is feasible to extrapolate the findings over a longer time-frame. Assuming there is no significant change in demand for pitches or pitch availability, analysis would suggest a total 15 year shortfall (2012/13 to 2026/27) of **44** pitches across the Borough (this assumes an underlying shortfall of 13 pitches over the 5 year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and a requirement for 5 pitches once the temporary planning permission for the Spotacre site expires in 2014).

Type of new provision

- 6.23 Respondents were asked if there is a need for new permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers across the area and, if so, what sort of provision this should be and where should it be located. Responses to these questions are now looked at in turn.

Table 6.3 Need for new provision

Need for new permanent site	Dwelling type (%)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Yes	90.0	85.1	100.0	87.8
No	10.0	14.9	0.0	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid response)	20	47	7	74
Missing Cases	6	10	2	18
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

6.24 The majority of respondents (87.8%) stated that there was a need for new provision across the Borough. Respondents tended to state that new provision should be owned and managed by both RSLs/Housing Associations (62.1%) and Privately by Gypsies and Travellers (62.1%) (Table 6.4). 34.5% wanted new provision to be managed by the Council.

Table 6.4 Preferred Site Management Option

Site management option	Dwelling type (% would consider option)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Council	45.0	25.7	66.7	34.5
Private (Gypsy/Traveller)	35.0	77.1	66.7	62.1
Registered Social Landlord / Housing Association	65.0	57.1	100.0	62.1
Base (Valid response)	20	35	3	58
Missing Cases	6	22	6	34
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

6.25 In terms of locations for new provision (Table 6.5), the most frequently mentioned location was Hopton and Coton (by 92.7% of respondents to the question), followed by Weston (by 12.2% of respondents to the question).

Table 6.5 Site location preferences

Parish/Locality	Number mentioning	% mentioning
Adbaston	1	2.4
Barlaston East	1	2.4
Barlaston Park	1	2.4
Berkswich	1	2.4
Bradley	1	2.4
Brocton	1	2.4
Chebsey	1	2.4
Church Eaton	1	2.4
Colwich - Great Haywood	1	2.4
Colwich - Little Haywood	1	2.4
Creswell	2	4.9
Doxey	1	2.4
Eccleshall	3	7.3
Eccleshall - Croxton	2	4.9
Eccleshall - Horsley	1	2.4
Eccleshall - Slindon	1	2.4
Ellenhall	1	2.4
Forton	1	2.4
Fradswell	1	2.4
Fulford	1	2.4
Fulford - Blyth Bridge	1	2.4
Hopton & Coton	38	92.7
Salt & Enson	1	2.4
Stafford Town	1	2.4
Tixall	3	7.3
Weston	5	12.2

- 6.26 Respondents were asked how many new pitches they felt were needed in their area now and in the next 5 years. In terms of requirements now, 70 households responded to the question and the average number of new pitches required now was 18, the median was 10 and the mode (most frequently mentioned number) was also 10.
- 6.27 In terms of requirements over the next 5 years, 67 households responded to the question and the average number of new pitches required over the next 5 years was 42, the median was 30 and the mode (most frequently mentioned number) was 20.

7. Travelling practices and experiences

- 7.1 The purpose of this chapter is to review the travelling patterns associated with respondents across the Borough. Broadly speaking, travelling patterns are seasonal, generally linked to seasonal employment but travelling also takes place to visit family and friends and attend events such as weddings and funerals. Families require safe and secure places from which they do their travelling and this is usually from where they access GPs, schools and a dentist.
- 7.2 Respondents were asked about their travelling practices in the previous year (Table 7.1). Around one-fifth of respondents (21.7%) had travelled.

Table 7.1 Travelling behaviour by dwelling type

Travelled in last year	Dwelling type (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Yes	23.8	18.9	33.3	21.7
No	76.2	81.1	66.7	78.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Base (Valid Response)	21	53	9	83
Non response	5	4	0	9
Grand Total	26	57	9	92

- 7.3 Of respondents that have travelled in the previous year, a majority (52.9%) had travelled for less than one month, a further 23.5% had travelled for between 5 and 8 weeks and 11.8% for between 9 and 12 weeks. A total of 11.8% had travelled for more than 13 weeks.

Table 7.2 Length of time travelling

Length of time travelling	Dwelling type (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Two to four weeks	50.0	60.0	33.3	52.9
5 to 8 weeks	50.0	10.0	33.3	23.5
9 to 12 weeks	0.0	10.0	33.3	11.8
13 to 26 weeks	0.0	10.0	0.0	5.9
Over 6 months but less than 10 months	0.0	10.0	0.0	5.9
Base (valid response)	4	10	3	17

7.4 A range of reasons were given for travelling but the most frequently mentioned were for religious reasons (38.9%) and visiting family/friends (38.9%). (Table 7.3)

Table 7.3 Reasons for travelling

Reason	Number	%
Culture	2	11.1
Holiday	3	16.7
Religion	7	38.9
To visit family/friends	7	38.9
Work	3	16.7
Base (respondents)	18	100.0

Base:18 respondents who gave a reason why they travelled; more than one reason could be expressed

7.5 A range of problems can be experienced whilst travelling and respondents were asked to identify these. Most frequently the problems mentioned were lack of toilet facilities (80%), no water facilities (80%) and police behaviour (66.7%).

Table 7.4 Problems whilst travelling

Problem	Responses	%	% respondents mentioning
No places to stop over	6	9.1	40.0
Closing of traditional stopping places	2	3.0	13.3
Abuse, harassment or discrimination	8	12.1	53.3
Lack of toilet facilities	12	18.2	80.0
No water facilities	12	18.2	80.0
Problems with rubbish collection	7	10.6	46.7
Police behaviour	10	15.2	66.7
Enforcement officer behaviour	8	12.1	53.3
Behaviour of other travellers	1	1.5	6.7
Total responses	66	100%	
Total respondents	18		

Transit sites and stop over places

7.6 The CLG Guidance suggests that, in addition to the need for permanent provision, an assessment should be made of the need for temporary places to stop-over while travelling. Two types of temporary provision have been identified elsewhere:

- Transit sites: intended for short-term use while in transit. Sites are usually permanent but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay; and

- Stop-over places: designated temporary camping areas tolerated by local authorities, used for short-term encampments and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.
- 7.7 Views were sought on the current provision of transit sites across the Borough and 86.4% of respondents said that there was a need for provision of new transit sites across the area, whilst 13.6% said not.
- 7.8 In terms of location for new transit provision the following locations were identified:
- Hopton and Coton (mentioned by 90.2% of respondents);
 - Eccleshall (mentioned by 7.3% of respondents);
 - Eccleshall Croxton (mentioned by 4.9% of respondents);
 - Stafford town (mentioned by 4.9% of respondents);
 - 2.4% of respondents each stated Creswell, Doxey, Eccleshall Horsley, Gnosall, Salt and Enson, Standon, Stone Rural and Swynnerton-Yarnfield
- 7.9 There is a strong preference for the management of transit sites by Housing Associations (54.7%) and privately by Gypsy/Travellers (60.5%) (Table 7.5).

Table 7.5 Preferred management of transit provision

Management of transit sites	% mentioning
Councils	25.6
Registered Social Landlords / Housing Associations	54.7
Private (Gypsy/Traveller)	60.5
Base (Valid Response)	86

Note: Respondents could tick more than one response so percentages do not add up to 100%

- 7.10 91.4% of respondents believed there was a need for stop over places within Stafford Borough.
- 7.11 In terms of location for stop over provision the following locations were identified:
- Hopton and Coton (mentioned by 95% of respondents);
 - Weston (mentioned by 15% of respondents);
 - Tixall (mentioned by 10% of respondents);
 - 2.5% of respondents each stated Creswell, Eccleshall, Eccleshall Croxton, Salt and Enson, and Stafford Town.
- 7.12 Although views have been expressed on the need for transit and stop over places, it would be recommended that these are accommodated within existing sites. Evidence from the Local Authority indicates that there have been no unauthorised encampments within Stafford Borough in the past three years.

Homelessness

- 7.13 Respondents were asked if they, or any member of their household, had been homeless in the last five years. Overall 10 (or 10.9%) of respondents said that they had experienced homelessness within the past five years. Rates of homelessness were slightly higher amongst those living on a private site (12.3%) compared with 7.7% living on the Council site. The predominant reason for being made homeless was not having anywhere to stop over.

Planning

- 7.14 Respondents owning their own land were asked if they were intending to apply for planning permission in the next five years. A total of 7 respondents stated they were intending to apply for planning permission for residential use on the site they currently live on or apply for more caravan accommodation than that currently permitted on the site currently lived on.

8. Wider Service and Support Needs

8.1 This research provides a valuable opportunity to review the wider service and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and this chapter discusses issues raised through household surveys and stakeholder consultation.

Registration with doctor and dentist

8.2 The vast majority of respondents interviewed stated that they were registered with a doctor (92.4%) and 79.3% were registered with a dentist (Table 8.1).

Table 8.1 Registration with a doctor and dentist

Registered with:	Dwelling type (% registered)			
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	Total
Doctor	96.2	89.5	100.0	92.4
Dentist	84.6	75.4	88.9	79.3
Base (total respondents)	26	57	9	92

Services used in the last year

8.3 Interviewees were asked which services they had used in the last year (Table 8.2). The most used services were Doctor (GP) and Dentist. GP services were accessed by 97.8% of respondents, and Dentists were accessed by 71.1% of respondents. Additionally 51.1% had used the Accident and Emergency service.

8.4 The proportion of respondents using other services tended to be considerably lower, with fewer than 10% using traveller education, adult education, law advocacy and Citizens Advice.

Table 8.2 Services used in past twelve months (%)

Services used in last year	Dwelling type (%)			Total
	Council Site	Private Authorised Site	Other	
Traveller Education	8.0	10.7	0.0	8.9
Adult Education	0.0	5.4	0.0	3.3
Law Centre	0.0	3.6	0.0	2.2
Citizens Advice Bureau	4.0	10.7	0.0	7.8
Doctor (GP)	96.0	98.2	100.0	97.8
Dentist	64.0	69.6	100.0	71.1
Accident and emergency	36.0	64.3	11.1	51.1
Health visitors	8.0	12.5	11.1	11.1
Base (valid responses)	25	56	9	90
Missing cases	1	1		2
Grand total	26	57	9	92

Long-term illness or disability

8.5 The incidence of long-term illnesses or disability among Gypsy and Traveller respondents is set out in the table below. Asthma and arthritis are the main long-term illnesses identified.

Table 8.3 Incidence of long-term illness or disability

Illness/disability	% respondents mentioning
Arthritis	30.8
Asthma	59.0
Depression	15.4
Diabetes	12.8
Problems with hearing	5.1
Learning difficulties/dyslexia	5.1
Learning disability	2.6
Problems with mobility	12.8
Problems with vision	10.3
Other	2.6
Base (valid responses)	39

9. Stakeholder consultation

- 9.1 Consultation with stakeholders formed part of this study, with all key partners being invited to participate in an on-line survey to ascertain their views on the most pressing issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller communities across the Borough. A comprehensive summary of the stakeholder consultation survey responses is now presented.

Key issues and outcomes

- 9.2 Stakeholders identified the following key issues as those most affecting Gypsies and Travellers across Stafford Borough:
- Lack of understanding of settled community as to culture of Gypsy and Traveller communities;
 - Prejudice and discrimination – Gypsies and Travellers viewed as ‘devaluing property’ if they live near-by; and
 - Lack of access to sites with amenities.
- 9.3 When asked what they would like to be the main outcome from this research stakeholders identified:
- Understanding what the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities within the Borough are; and
 - A better level of understanding between the Borough’s different communities.

Prejudice and lack of awareness

- 9.4 There was a broad consensus of opinion that Gypsy and Traveller communities experience prejudice and discrimination. A lack of awareness and understanding of Gypsy and Traveller communities was identified as a key issue.
- 9.5 Lack of sites, both permanent and transit, was identified as causing problems for Gypsies and Travellers, both those living within and travelling through the Borough. The problems that this lack of provision creates include the perpetuation of the view of Gypsies and Travellers as ‘problematic’, as they are forced to seek accommodation on unauthorised encampments.

Access to healthcare

- 9.6 Stakeholders identified a lack of specialist healthcare support services as an issue for Gypsies and Travellers locally.

Strategic commitment

- 9.7 Stakeholders identified the need for sites to be identified by the Council to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers within the Borough. Sites should be accessible and sensitively located.
- 9.8 Limited action appears to have been undertaken by stakeholders locally to defuse negative portrayals of Gypsies and Travellers locally; however, there was a willingness to address this matter through existing equality and diversity work. Given that public perception and prejudice was identified as a significant barrier to new provision it would make sense to prioritise this work.

Barriers to new provision

- 9.9 To deliver more sites/pitches within the study area barriers to delivery will need to be tackled. Stakeholders were asked to identify what these barriers to delivery are and cited the following:
- Prejudice;
 - Public perception;
 - Planning legislation; and
 - Green belt land.
- 9.10 The lack of consideration of provision for Gypsies and Travellers locally was perceived to be a significant issue, with the need for sites to be identified being advocated. It was hoped that the new Planning Policy Framework would help improve the situation locally.

10. Summary of Findings

This section of the report summarises the key headlines findings from the research, identifying the key issues for the Borough.

Headline findings from the research

Current conditions

- 10.1 Across Stafford there are a total of 6 authorised sites (1 Council and 5 Private) and 1 unauthorised site. The authorised sites have a total of 68 pitches. Overall, 47.1% of respondents own their own home, 36.8% rent privately, 14.9% rent from the Council and 1.1% stated other tenure. 93.4% of respondents were happy with the location of their home.
- 10.2 Whilst 62.7% of respondents stated they had no repair problems, the situation varied markedly between those living on the Council and private sites. 73.1% of respondents on the Council site commented that the state of repair was poor or very poor compared with only 1.8% of those living on private sites.
- 10.3 Where repairs and improvements were identified as being needed, these tend to be improvements to bathroom facilities, improvements to slabs/drives, more space on the pitch and improved kitchen facilities
- 10.4 Overcrowding and lack of space generally were not identified as significant problems for the majority of respondents. No respondents felt that they were overcrowded; 76.5% felt like they had sufficient space on their pitch, and 76.8% had sufficient space for their trailers, wagons and vehicles.
- 10.5 A majority of households felt that the cost of gas was not okay (61.7%) nor was the cost of electricity (50.9%), whilst 30.8% felt the cost of oil was not okay and 35% the cost of water was not okay. Residents on the Council site were more likely to say that the cost of services was not okay, with over 80% stating that the cost of electricity and gas was not okay.

Pitch Requirements

- 10.6 Since the obligation to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites was abolished in 1994, a gap in the provision of permanent sites has emerged nationally. The study has provided robust estimates of the size of the population of these communities and establishes the current and future accommodation for the Borough.
- 10.7 Using the CLG-approved model for calculating pitch requirements, the research has demonstrated that across the Borough there is a shortfall of **18** pitches over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 (this includes a requirement for 5 pitches once the temporary planning permission at Spotacre expires during 2014; and an underlying need for 13 pitches). Although it is recommended that the analysis is reviewed on a regular basis, if the same shortfall is extrapolated over the 15 year period to 2026/27, the total shortfall

would be **44** pitches across the Borough (including demand from 5 pitches at Spotacre).

- 10.8 Survey respondents did express a need for transit provision across the study area although management and enforcement issues would suggest that the use of temporary pitches on authorised sites would be more appropriate.
- 10.9 CLG guidance advocates smaller permanent sites of between six and 12 pitches. There is a need to take a long-term view of the site management as it is more intensive and demanding than most conventional housing management, and it would be sensible to look at this issue in greater depth. Different management models may be appropriate for different sites, with mainstream approaches to recruitment and selection of managers needing to reflect cultural sensitivities.
- 10.10 For all communities, the method of analysis is such that it is possible to periodically update the assessment of accommodation need through the careful recording of key data. For Gypsy and Traveller Communities, the number of extant authorised pitches and a summary of the number of households on sites needs to be regularly updated from the baseline information provided in this assessment.

Travelling Practices and Requirements

- 10.11 The current understanding of travelling patterns and the associated requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller communities is more limited. The communities continue to travel because it is part of their cultural heritage, for work, social and religious reasons.
- 10.12 There is support by a vast majority of respondents for the provision of transit sites and stopping places which allow for temporary stopovers while travelling.

Wider service needs

- 10.13 Respondents reported limited wider service and support needs beyond access to doctors and dentists; registration with doctors and dentists was particularly high.

Health

- 10.14 Asthma and Arthritis are the main long-term illnesses identified in the household survey. This reflects a general concern voiced by healthcare professionals working with the Gypsy and Traveller community living on pitches on sites.

11. Conclusion and Strategic Response

- 11.1 This concluding chapter looks at the key challenges and issues facing the local authorities in respect of meeting the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers in Stafford Borough. The chapter provides:
- A brief **summary of key issues** emerging from the research, and the challenges these pose;
 - Advice on the **strategic responses available** to the local authorities to address identified issues, including examples of good practice; and
 - Recommendations and next steps.

Key issues and how to tackle them

- 11.2 Chapter 10 provides a summary of the headline findings from the research, so these will not be reiterated here. This section of the report focuses on the key issues emerging from the research, and looks at how these challenges might be addressed by the local authorities. Recommendations are highlighted throughout the chapter.
- 11.3 The key priority issues identified by the research include:
- Meeting pitch requirements;
 - Addressing poor conditions on existing sites;
 - Tackling wider service and support needs;

Meeting pitch requirements

- 11.4 An overall five year pitch requirement of 18 over the period 2012/13 to 2016/17 has been identified by the research. This includes a 5 pitch requirement for Spotacre which is subject to temporary planning permission due to expire in 2014, resulting in an underlying shortfall of 13 pitches over the 5 years 2012/13 to 2016/17. In order to meet these requirements the Council needs to firstly review the potential to increase the number of pitches on available sites and secondly to ensure it has an adequate supply of additional sites identified in the Local Plan to address immediate and longer-term need. The Council will need to work closely with both settled and Travelling communities to do this. The Council, in partnership with Travelling communities, need to consider the options available to help meet identified need, including the expansion of existing sites, re-designation of unauthorised sites, use of Community Land Trusts and exceptions site policies. Each of these areas is now looked at in more detail, alongside good practice in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision.
- 11.5 Local planning authorities have a duty to identify land for development (Housing Act 2004 S225). Planning authorities are best placed to do this as

they are most likely to know the current status of the land and the probability of securing planning permission.

Expansion of existing sites

- 11.6 Discussions with residents on sites would suggest there is scope for expanding private sites. Site-by-site viability assessments and a review of surrounding land ownership would be recommended to confirm this.

New site identification

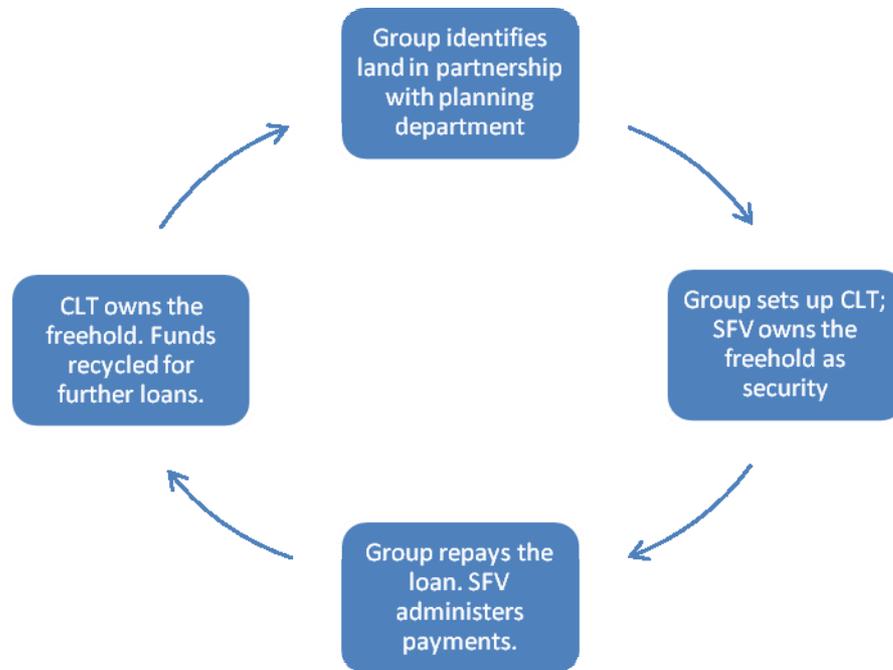
- 11.7 The Council should look to their land bank for suitable and appropriate land for development that is not in need of remediation, as this may well incur more financial investment than site provision itself. Council land should also be considered but given the current economic climate, 'going rates' may negate the viability of development. The Council should be looking to review releasing land for development rather than seeing this as an opportunity for fiscal reward. The Homes and Communities Agency also have a land bank and this should also be explored. Local land owners should also be approached as there may be 'set aside' land that is not economically viable to the landowner, but would be suitable for a small family unit and could 'reap' a dividend, thus making it attractive as a business venture. There has been suggestion of some local authorities 'gifting' land for development and although not a popular suggestion, it should be given consideration.
- 11.8 The idea of local community members 'knowing' what land is available or suitable is a misnomer that has been indicated by research carried out by Homespace SA that shows Travellers are usually unaware of planning restrictions and current/past land use.

Community Land Trusts

- 11.9 The 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act established Community Land Trusts as an option for local communities to acquire and manage land to address a social, environmental or economic interest.
- 11.10 Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are now emerging as an option to help meet the need for more sites for Gypsies and Travellers (Figure 11.1). This approach has successfully been adopted by Mendip District Council in Somerset, which has committed funding to developing a CLT locally, despite Government cuts in funding.
- 11.11 In the Mendip model, the Council has worked with Travellers and community groups to develop a CLT which facilitates Gypsies and Travellers purchasing land at low cost with a loan made available through a specific funding vehicle (SFV). Travellers develop a business plan for their proposal. Land owners are needed to sell small parcels of land for sites; this land cannot be sold for profit but is retained in perpetuity for provision of Traveller site accommodation. To incentivise landowners an upfront deposit is provided. The following diagram illustrates how the model works. A fundamental challenge with this approach is

resourcing the model in the absence of Government subsidy; in Mendip the local authority has provided £100,000 to get their scheme off the ground.

Figure 11.1 How does CLT model work?



Planning gain and Exception Sites policy

11.12 Use of planning obligations to deliver sites for Gypsies and Travellers could be explored further by the Council. The approach has been used successfully elsewhere. Planning obligations to address Gypsy and Traveller requirements on sites other than trailer parks could also be considered. However, it is important that, where this approach is adopted, regular monitoring takes place to ensure that the requisite pitches are being made available to, and are being used by, Gypsies and Travellers; enforcement action will be necessary where this is not the case.

Good practice in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision

11.13 There are a number of resources available to local planning authorities to assist them in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision, including resources from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), which are presented in Appendix B. In addition, the Local Government Agency and Local Government Association, have resources available for local authorities working with Gypsy and Traveller communities to

identify sites for new provision, these include dedicated learning aids for elected members⁸.

11.14 Work undertaken by PAS⁹ identified ways in which the planning process can increase the supply of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches. The RTPi has developed a series of Good Practice notes for local planning authorities. Both are summarised at Appendix B.

⁸ I&DeA (now Local Government Agency) local leadership academy providing Gypsy and Traveller sites

⁹ PAS spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help

Recommendations for meeting pitch requirements

To enable the Council to meet the identified pitch requirements it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That the Council works collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities to meet identified need;
- That mechanisms are established to enable effective engagement with both settled and Traveller communities about identifying future sites;
- That existing sites are reviewed to ascertain the scope for extension and increasing the number of pitches available
- That appropriate sites are identified to meet requirements;
- That needs are monitored on an on-going basis;
- That options to secure provision of pitches through planning gain and exception sites are pursued;
- That the use of CLTs to meet needs is explored;
- That consideration is given to disposal of publicly owned land to meet pitch requirements;
- That consideration is given as to the ways in which Gypsies and Travellers can be supported through the planning application process;
- That a key point of contact is identified for the Council to deal with all matters relating to Gypsy and Travellers;
- That key stakeholders are kept up-to-date and fully briefed on progress;
- That resources are identified to develop a proactive communications strategy, starting with dissemination of these research findings, to enable positive media coverage of Gypsy and Traveller issues; and
- That, where necessary, training is provided for staff and elected members to promote better cultural understanding, counter prejudice and aid communication.
- Consider the development of transit or stop-over provision within the Borough.

Addressing poor conditions on sites

11.15 The household survey identified particular concerns about the quality of pitch provision on the local authority site. However, work is ongoing to review the viability of refurbishing the Council site.

11.16 Information in Chapter 3 provides a useful starting point for the Council when considering good practice advice in respect of new site and pitch provision.

Recommendations for addressing poor conditions on sites

To enable the Council to address issues linked to poor site condition it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That all planning applications ensure decent site design and layout, that is developed in partnership with the Gypsy and Traveller community, and is in accordance with CLG Design Guidance as a minimum;
- That the Council reviews the viability of improving conditions on their site;
- That appropriate planning policy guidance in respect of site design and layout is adopted within the Local Plans; and
- That improvements in conditions on existing pitches are encouraged through on-going dialogue and partnership working with Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Good practice in Gypsy and Traveller provision: Case Study

- 11.17 Carlisle City Council identified a need for Gypsy and Traveller provision and were successful in securing funding to develop the first local authority site in Cumbria. Lower Harker Dene is a flag ship site, currently managed on a 15 year lease by Homespace SA. Homespace SA applied to HCA for a grant under the AHP, TPF and were awarded £1.368m to develop a further 40 pitches across Cumbria. Carlisle and Homespace SA are currently in negotiations with HCA to provide for a 7 pitch transit site in Carlisle; planning permission has been submitted and validated. The Council also won the North West Employers Equality and Diversity Award for their development, in consultation with Homespace SA.
- 11.18 Homespace SA works in partnership with all stakeholders to break the cycle of deprivation associated with homelessness due to the lack of site provision and addresses community tensions caused by unauthorised encampments. Homespace SA's operating model does not use a 'gate keeping' management system, but believes that residents should take responsibility for their own accommodation and associated living costs and to respect their neighbours. The 'standard' site manager approach is not employed and a 'care taker' ensures that all residents have their needs catered for without the continued presence of a 'landlord'.

Tackling wider service and support needs

- 11.19 The vast majority of respondents have access to doctors and dentists. Uptake of other services is more limited. Consideration needs to be given to the ways in which the Council and other statutory agencies engage with Traveller communities that struggle with high levels of illiteracy and social exclusion. Attendance at meetings, especially in local authority offices, is not to be expected. The only way to achieve an effective, meaningful and on-going

dialogue with Gypsy and Traveller communities is to invest time and resources in this, either directly or by working in partnership with an appropriate community group or organisation. It is possible to make information available to Travellers in a number of different ways (see above Good practice in planning for Gypsy and Traveller provision) and these methods need to be adopted as standard practice when working with Traveller communities.

Recommendations for tackling wider service and support needs

To enable the Council to tackle wider service and support needs it is recommended that consideration is given to the following:

- That, in line with the best practice set out within this chapter, the Council reviews how it engages with Gypsy and Traveller communities locally, and develop new methods of long-term, on-going engagement;
- Provision of additional support to Gypsy and Traveller communities to enable them to better access services and support;
- That the Council liaise with local colleges and schools to identify opportunities to support and facilitate opportunities to improve literacy amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- Continue to work with healthcare professionals to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers, including working to improve property conditions, which adversely impact upon the health of those living on pitches on site.

Concluding comments

11.20 The overarching purpose of this study has been to identify the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers across Stafford Borough. An overall shortfall of pitches has been identified which needs to be addressed. It is also recommended that this work is refreshed on a regular basis to ensure that the level of pitch provision remains appropriate for the Gypsy and Traveller population across Stafford Borough.

Appendix A: Legislative Background

Overall approach

- A.1 Between 1960 and 2003, three Acts of Parliament had a major impact upon the lives of Gypsies and Travellers. The main elements of these are summarised below.
- A.2 The **1960 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act** enabled Councils to ban the siting of caravans for human occupation on common land, and led to the closure of many sites.
- A.3 The **Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II)** required local authorities 'so far as may be necessary to provide adequate accommodation for Gypsies residing in or resorting to their area'. It empowered the Secretary of State to make designation orders for areas where he (sic) was satisfied that there was adequate accommodation, or on grounds of expediency. Following the recommendations of the Cripps Commission in 1980, provision began to grow rapidly only after the allocation of 100% grants from central government. By 1994 a third of local authorities had achieved designation, which meant that they were not required to make further provision and were given additional powers to act against unauthorised encampments. The repeal of most of the Caravan Sites Act under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in 1994 led to a reduction in provision, with some sites being closed over a period in which the Gypsy and Traveller population was increasing.
- A.4 The **1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJ&POA)**:
- Repealed most of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act;
 - Abolished all statutory obligation to provide accommodation;
 - Discontinued government grants for sites; and
 - Under Section 61 made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.
- A.5 Since the CJ&POA the only places where Gypsies and Travellers can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:
- Council Gypsy caravan sites; by 2000 nearly half of Gypsy caravans were accommodated on council sites, despite the fact that new council site provision stopped following the end of the statutory duty;
 - Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission; usually owned by Gypsies or Travellers. Such provision now accommodates approximately a third of Gypsy caravans in England; and
 - Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence, and land required for seasonal farm workers (under site licensing exemptions).

- A.6 By the late 1990s the impact of the 1994 Act was generating pressure for change on both local and national government. There was a major review of law and policy, which included:
- A Parliamentary Committee report (House of Commons 2004).
 - The replacement of Circular 1/94 by Circular 1/2006.
 - Guidance on accommodation assessments (ODPM 2006).
 - The Housing Act 2004 which placed a requirement (s.225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.
- A.7 More recent legislation with a direct impact on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers includes the Housing Act 2004 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- A.8 **Section 225: Housing Act 2004** which imposes duties on local authorities in relation to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers:
- Every local housing authority must as part of the general review of housing needs in their areas under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their district;
 - Where a local housing authority are required under section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003 to prepare a strategy to meet such accommodation needs, they must take the strategy into account in exercising their functions;
 - A local housing authority must have regard to section 226 ('Guidance in relation to section 225') in:
 - carrying out such an assessment, and
 - preparing any strategy that they are required to prepare.
- A.9 **The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004** set out to introduce a simpler and more flexible planning system at regional and local levels. It also introduced new provisions which change the duration of planning permissions and consents, and allow local planning authorities to introduce local permitted development rights using 'local development orders'. It made the compulsory purchase regime simpler, fairer and quicker, to support major infrastructure and regeneration initiatives.
- A.10 The Act introduced major changes to the way in which the planning system operates. The Development Plan now comprises the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks. Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Framework, the key components of which are:
- A **Local Development Scheme**, which sets out what local development documents Local Planning Authorities will prepare, along with their timetable and whether they are to be prepared jointly with one or more other authorities.
 - A **Statement of Community Involvement**
 - **Local Development Documents**, which must be in general conformity

with the Regional Spatial Strategy, and which effectively replace local plans, unitary development plans and structure plans. County Councils are able to participate in the preparation of local development documents by becoming part of a joint committee with one or more LPA

- **Annual Monitoring Reports**

- A.11 Part 8 of the Act contains a series of measures to reform the compulsory purchase regime and make it easier for local planning authorities to make a case for compulsory purchase orders where it will be of economic, social or environmental benefit to the area. This section also brings in amended procedures for carrying out compulsory purchase orders, including a widening of the category of person with an interest in the land who can object, and deals with ownership issues and compensation.
- A.12 **The Localism Act 2011** introduced a number of reforms, including changes to planning enforcement rules, which strengthen the power of local planning authorities to tackle abuses of the planning system. The changes give local planning authorities the ability to take actions against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development, and tackle abuses of retrospective planning applications. The Act also introduced the Duty to Co-operate which applies to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites; the Duty aims to ensure that neighbouring authorities work together to address issues such as provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers in a planned and strategic way.

Appendix B: Policy and Guidance

Introduction

B.1 As part of this research, we have carried out a review of literature, which is presented in this Appendix. A considerable range of guidance documents has been prepared by Central Government to assist local authorities discharge their strategic housing and planning functions. In addition there is considerable independent and academic research and guidance on these issues; some of the key documents are summarised here. The documents are reviewed in order of publication date.

B.2 A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for Implementation Update, DCLG, June 2006

Although not primarily about the provision of caravan sites, facilities or pitches, the June 2006 updated CLG guidance for social landlords provides a standard for such provision. The guidance is set out under a number of key headings:

- Community-based and tenant-led ownership and management
- Delivering Decent Homes Beyond 2010
- Delivering mixed communities
- Procurement value for money
- Housing Health and Safety

The guidance defines four criteria against which to measure the standard of a home:

- It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing
- It is in a reasonable state of repair
- It has reasonably modern facilities and services
- It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort

B.3 Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers - Part 1: Unauthorised Encampments, ODPM, 2006

The Guide is the Government's response to unauthorised encampments which cause local disruption and conflict. Strong powers are available to the police, local authorities and other landowners to deal with unauthorised encampments. It provides detailed step-by-step practical guidance to the use of these powers, and sets out advice on:

- Choosing the most appropriate power;
- Speeding up the process;
- Keeping costs down;
- The eviction process;

- Preventing further unauthorised camping.

B.4 Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers, Commission for Racial Equality, May 2006

This report was written four years after the introduction of the statutory duty on public authorities under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations and to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination. The CRE expressed concerns about relations between Gypsies and Irish Travellers and other members of the public, with widespread public hostility and, in many places, Gypsies and Irish Travellers leading separate, parallel lives. A dual concern about race relations and inequality led the Commission in October 2004 to launch the inquiry on which this report was based.

The Report's recommendations include measures relating to central government, local authorities, police forces and the voluntary sector. Among those relating to central government are:

- developing a realistic but ambitious timetable to identify land for sites, where necessary establishing them, and making sure it is met,
- developing key performance indicators for public sites which set standards for quality and management that are comparable to those for conventional accommodation,
- requiring local authorities to monitor and provide data on planning applications, outcomes and enforcement, and on housing and homelessness by racial group, using two separate categories for Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- requiring police forces to collect information on Gypsies and Irish Travellers as two separate ethnic categories.

Strategic recommendations affecting local authorities include:

- developing a holistic corporate vision for all work on Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- reviewing all policies on accommodation for Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- designating a councillor at cabinet (or equivalent) level, and an officer at no less than assistant director level, to coordinate the authority's work on all sites,
- emphasising that the code of conduct for councillors applies to their work in relation to all racial groups, including Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- giving specific advice to Gypsies and Irish Travellers on the most suitable land for residential use, how to prepare applications, and help them to find the information they need to support their application,
- identifying and reporting on actions by local groups or individuals in response to plans for Gypsy sites that may constitute unlawful pressure on the authority to discriminate against Gypsies and Irish Travellers,
- monitoring all planning applications and instances of enforcement action at every stage, by type and racial group, including Gypsies and Irish

Travellers, in order to assess the effects of policies and practices on different racial groups.

Among other recommendations, the Report states that police forces should

- include Gypsies and Irish Travellers in mainstream neighbourhood policing strategies, to promote race equality and good race relations,
- target individual Gypsies and Irish Travellers suspected of anti-social behaviour and crime on public, private and unauthorised sites, and not whole communities,
- treat Gypsies and Irish Travellers as members of the local community, and in ways that strengthen their trust and confidence in the police,
- provide training for all relevant officers on Gypsies' and Irish Travellers' service needs, so that officers are able to do their jobs more effectively,
- review formal and informal procedures for policing unauthorised encampments, to identify and eliminate potentially discriminatory practices, and ensure that the procedures promote race equality and good race relations,
- review the way policy is put into practice, to make sure organisations and individuals take a consistent approach, resources are used effectively and strategically, all procedures are formalised, and training needs are identified.

Other recommendations relate to Parish and Community councils the Local Government Association, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the voluntary sector.

B.5 Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, DCLG, October 2007

This Guidance sets out a detailed framework for designing, planning and carrying out Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments. It includes the needs of Showpeople. It acknowledges that the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers are likely to differ from those of the settled community, and that they have hitherto been excluded from accommodation needs assessments.

The guidance stresses the importance of understanding accommodation needs of the whole Gypsy and Traveller population; and that studies obtain robust data. It recognises the difficulty of surveying this population and recommends the use of:

- Qualitative methods such as focus groups and group interviews;
- Specialist surveys of those living on authorised sites that are willing to respond; and
- Existing information, including local authority site records and the twice yearly caravan counts.
- The guidance recognises that there are challenges in carrying out these assessments, and accepts that while the approach should be as robust as possible it is very difficult to exactly quantify unmet need.

B.6 CLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide, May 2008

The Guide attempts to establish and summarise the key elements needed to design a successful site. In particular, the guidance intends to assist:

- Local authorities or Registered Providers looking to develop new sites or refurbish existing sites;
- Architects or developers looking to develop sites or refurbish existing sites; and
- Site residents looking to participate in the design/refurbishment process.

B.7 The National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into effect in March 2012; this frees local planning authorities from some of the regulation and red tape associated with the Local Development Framework (LDF) approach, but the requirements of the 2004 Act still apply with authorities still being required to produce a Local Development Framework, however, the NPPF uses the terminology of Local Plans instead of LDFs. Whilst not an Act of law, the NPPF as national policy carries the force of law behind it, and as such it has legal weight, taking precedence on issues where local planning policies remain silent

B.8 Planning policy for traveller sites, March 2012

In March 2012 the Government also published Planning policy for traveller sites, which together with the NPPF replaces all previous planning policy guidance in respect of Gypsies and Travellers. The policy approach encourages provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers where there is an identified need, to help maintain an appropriate level of supply. The policy also encourages the use of plan making and decision taking to reduce unauthorized developments and encampments.

B.9 Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, April 2012

In April 2012 the Government published a Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, which summarised progress in terms of meeting 'Government commitments to tackle inequalities and promote fairness for Gypsy and Traveller communities.'¹⁰ The report covers 28 measures from across Government aimed at tackling inequalities, these cover:

- Improving education outcomes;
- Improving health outcomes;
- Providing appropriate accommodation;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Improving interaction with the National Offender Management Service;

¹⁰ www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322

- Improving access to employment and financial services; and
- Improving engagement with service providers.

B.10 Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers, CLG August 2012

This guidance note summarises the powers available to local authorities and landowners to remove encampments from both public and private land. Powers available to local authorities being:

- Injunctions to protect land from unauthorised encampments;
- Licensing of caravan sites;
- Tent site licences;
- Possession orders;
- Interim possession orders;
- Local byelaws;
- Power of local authorities to direct unauthorised campers to leave land;
- Addressing obstructions to the public highway;
- Planning contravention notice;
- Temporary stop notice;
- Enforcement notice and retrospective planning;
- Stop notice;
- Breach of condition notice; and
- Powers of entry onto land.

B.11 PAS spaces and places for Gypsies and Travellers: how planning can help

PAS list the following as key to successful delivery of new provision:

- **Involve Gypsy and Traveller communities:** this needs to happen at an early stage, innovative methods of consultation need to be adopted due to low levels of literacy and high levels of social exclusion within Gypsy and Traveller communities. PAS cites as good practice examples, authorities using members of the Gypsy and Traveller community as trained interviewers on Accommodation Assessments (Cambridgeshire, Surrey, Dorset and Leicestershire). Other good practice examples include distribution of material via CD, so that information can be 'listened to' as opposed to read. The development of a dedicated Gypsy and Traveller Strategy is also seen to be good practice, helping agencies develop a co-ordinated approach and so prioritise the issue. The report also recommends the use of existing Gypsy and Traveller resources such as the planning guide published in Traveller's Times, which aims to explain the planning process in an accessible way to members of the Gypsy and

Traveller community. As well as consulting early, PAS also flags the need to consult often with communities;

- **Work collaboratively** with neighbouring authorities to address the issues and avoid just ‘moving it on’ to a neighbouring local authority area. With the new duty to cooperate established within the NPPF, working collaboratively with neighbouring local authorities has never been more important. Adopting a collaborative approach recognises that local authorities cannot work in isolation to tackle this issue;
- **Be transparent:** trust is highly valued within Gypsy and Traveller communities, and can take a long time to develop. The planning system needs to be transparent, so that members of the Gypsy and Traveller community can understand the decisions that have been taken and the reasoning behind them. PAS states that ‘ideally council work in this area should be led by an officer who is respected both within the Council and also within Gypsy and Traveller communities: trust is vital and can be broken easily.’¹¹ Local planning authorities also need to revisit their approach to development management criteria for applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites ‘to ensure that criteria make it clear what applications are likely to be accepted by the council. Authorities need to ensure that these are reasonable and realistic. Transparent and criteria-based policies help everyone to understand what decisions have been made and why.’¹² Kent and Hertsmere councils are listed as examples of good practice in this regard.
- **Integration:** accommodation needs assessments need to be integrated into the Local Plan evidence base, with site locations and requirements set out within specific Development Plan Documents (DPDs); dedicated Gypsy and Traveller DPDs are advocated as a means of ensuring that the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are fully considered and addressed within the local planning process; and
- **Educate and work with councillors:** members need to be aware of their responsibilities in terms of equality and diversity and ‘understand that there must be sound planning reasons for rejecting applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites’¹³. It is helpful for members to understand the wider benefits of providing suitable accommodation to meet the requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community, such as:
 - An increase in site provision;
 - Reduced costs of enforcement; and
 - Greater community engagement and understanding of community need.

¹¹ PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 8

¹² PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 8 & 14

¹³ PAS *spaces and places for gypsies and travellers how planning can help* page 10

B.12 RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers

The RTPI has developed a series of Good Practice notes for local planning authorities 'Planning for Gypsies and Travellers'; the notes cover four key areas:

- Communication, consultation and participation;
- Needs assessment;
- Accommodation and site delivery; and
- Enforcement.

Whilst the notes were developed prior to the NPPF and the introduction of the new Planning policy for traveller sites, they remain relevant, and it is worth considering some of the papers' key recommendations.

In terms of **communication, consultation and participation** the RTPI highlight the following good practice:

- **Define potentially confusing terminology** used by professionals working in the area;
- **Use appropriate methods of consultation:** oral exchanges and face-to-face dealings are essential to effectively engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities, whilst service providers tend to use written exchanges;
- **Consultees and participants need to be involved in the entire plan making process;** this includes in-house participants, external organisations, Gypsy and Traveller communities, and settled communities. The RTPI concludes that:
 - 'Local authorities should encourage Gypsy and Traveller communities to engage with the planning system at an early stage. However, they may request other agencies that have well-established relationships with members of Gypsy and Traveller communities to undertake this role.' and
 - 'In the past, settled communities have often only become aware of the intention to develop Gypsy and Traveller accommodation when the local authority issues a notice or consultation. ... cultivating the support of the settled community for the development of sites should start as soon as possible. ... There is a sound case for front-loading and sharing information with small groups in the [settled] community, rather than trying to manage large public gatherings at the start of the process. Again, it may be beneficial for the local authority to work in partnership with organisations with established links in the community. The settled community is not a homogeneous whole. There will be separate groups with different perceptions and concerns, which the local authority must take account of.'¹⁴
- **Dialogue methods:** the RTPI correctly identify that the experience of many Gypsies and Travellers of liaising with both public sector agencies and the

¹⁴ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 8

settled community is both frightening and negative. As a result 'there should be no expectation that Gypsies and Travellers will participate in open meetings. Stakeholders should investigate suitable methods of bringing together individuals from the respective communities in an environment that will facilitate a constructive exchange of information and smooth the process of breaking down animosity and hostility.'¹⁵ The use of public meetings is discouraged, and the use of organisations with experience of working within both Gypsy and Traveller, and settled communities encouraged – advice and support groups, assisted by the latter, holding regular local meetings can be an effective means of engaging constructively with both communities. Representatives from these groups can also be included on appropriate forums and advisory groups. The location and timing of meetings needs to be carefully considered to maximise participation, with a neutral venue being preferable.

- **The media** has an important role to play in facilitating the delivery of sites locally, with past reporting being extremely damaging. Positive media liaison is important and requires:
 - A single point of contact with the local authority;
 - A liaison officer responsible for compilation and release of briefings, and for building positive relationships with editors, journalists, radio and television presenters;
 - All stakeholders to provide accurate and timely briefings for the liaison officer;
 - Provision of media briefings on future activities;
 - Officers to anticipate when and where the most sensitive and contentious issues will arise and use of a risk assessment to mitigate any negative impact;
 - Use of the media to facilitate engagement with both settled and Gypsy and Traveller communities; and
 - Stakeholders to provide politicians with clear, accurate and comprehensive briefings.
- **On-going communication, participation and consultation** are important. The continued use of the most effective methods of engagement once an initiative is completed ensures the maximum use of resources:
 - 'The delivery of some services, such as the identification of sites in development plan documents, is the end of one process and the start of another. The various committees and advisory groups established to participate in the process of site identification and the accommodation needs assessment will have considerable background information and

¹⁵ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 13

expertise embedded in their membership. This will prove useful in the management and monitoring of subsequent work. ... Whilst on-going engagement with all service users is important, it is especially important with regard to Gypsies and Travellers, given their long history of marginalisation.¹⁶

Whilst the RTPI's Good Practice Note Planning for Gypsies and Travellers predates the NPPF, the principles that it establishes at Part C remain largely relevant in terms of the role of local plan making. The Note advises that whilst the use of the site specific DPDs to identify sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation may seem less divisive, subsequent to identification of sufficient sites to meet identified demand, local planning authorities should seek to integrate provision for Gypsies and Travellers within their general housing strategies and policies. Early involvement of stakeholders, the community and special interest groups will help achieve a consensus.

However, the RTPI point out that, due to the contentious nature of Gypsy and Traveller provision, the use of a criteria based approach to the selection of development sites is unlikely to be successful 'in instances where considerable public opposition to the development might be anticipated.' The paper concludes that it is not appropriate to rely solely on criteria as an alternative to site allocations where there is an identified need for the development.¹⁷

The RTPI advocate adopting a pragmatic approach, whereby local planning authorities work with the Gypsy and Traveller communities within their areas to identify a range of potentially suitable sites:

- 'The local authority and Gypsy and Traveller communities are both able to bring forward their suggested sites during this process, and the distribution and location of transit as well as permanent sites can be covered. The practicable options would then go forward for discussion with the local community, interest groups, and other stakeholders before the selection of preferred sites is finalised. The advantages of this approach are its transparency and the certainty it provides both for Gypsies and Travellers and for settled communities.'¹⁸

The RTPI also advocates the use of supplementary planning guidance to provide additional detail on policies contained within a Local Plan; in terms of Gypsies and Travellers this could include:

- Needs assessment evidence base;
- Design principles; and
- A design brief for the layout of sites.

¹⁶ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part A page 18

¹⁷ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part C page 11

¹⁸ RTPI Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Good Practice Note 4 Part C page 11

Appendix C: Fieldwork Questionnaire

Stafford Gypsy and Traveller Survey

Introduction

I am an independent researcher doing a study on the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. This work is being done for Stafford Borough Council. I don't work for the Council but they have asked me to do this study.

We want to find out:

- What sort of homes – sites and houses – Gypsies and Travellers need.
- What you think of existing sites and homes
- Whether you think new permanent and temporary sites are needed
- Whether you travel and if so whether you've had problems while travelling
- What you think about the costs of your homes – houses and sites
- What other services you feel you need to support you

Interviewed before?

1. Have you been interviewed for this survey before (you would have received a pen like this)?
 - ***If 'Yes' and in same location as previous interview, politely decline interview and find new respondent.***

- ***If 'Yes' on roadside and in different location from previous interview carry on with introduction***
- ***If 'No' carry on with introduction***

Do you have time to talk with me about these things – it will take about 40 minutes?

Your answers are completely confidential – I won't use your name in any report that I write and no one will be able to trace any answer back to you. You don't have to answer everything - if you don't want to answer any particular questions, just tell me to skip them.

[For most answers, check the boxes most applicable or fill in the blanks.]

Interview details

Attach label with interviewer details and URN

Date and time _____

Location (site name and address)

Type: Unauthorised Encampment / Unauthorised Development / Caravan in Garden / Local Authority Site / Private Site / House

No. of separate **respondent** self identified households living on pitch [this is to be added to site census sheets after all interviews completed]

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5 or more

Home base

1. Do you usually live here?

1. Yes
2. No

2. Why do you live here?

(Select all that apply.)

1. Close to family and friends
2. Near to place of work
3. Nowhere else that is suitable
4. Choose to travel

5. Other **[please state]**
:_____

3. How long have you lived here?

(Select only one.)

1. up to 1 year
2. Over 1 and up to 2 years
3. Over 2 and up to 3 years
4. Over 3 and up to 4 years
5. Over 4 and up to 5 years
6. 5 years or over

4. What do you normally live in?

(Select only one.)

1. Trailer or wagon - **go to Q 7**
2. Chalet/mobile home (or similar) - **go to Q 7**
3. House
4. Bungalow
5. Flat
6. Sheltered housing
7. Other **[please state]:**

5. Are you happy with your home or would you prefer to live in a trailer, wagon or chalet?
(Select only one.)

- 1. Happy with house
- 2. Prefer caravan
- 3. Prefer wagon
- 4. Prefer chalet

5a. Why do you feel like this?

6. If you are living in bricks and mortar accommodation, would you like to move to a site if this was an option?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

7. Do you rent or own the home where you normally live?
(Select only one.)

- 1. Rent from Council
- 2. Rent privately
- 3. Rent from Housing Association
- 4. Own home -
- 5. Other **[please state]:**_____

8. Do you own or rent the land you live on?
(Select only one.)

- 1. Own land where trailer/wagon is normally located (with planning permission) – **go to Q 9**
- 2. Own land where trailer/caravan is normally located (no planning permission) – **go to Q9**
- 3. Rent pitch from Council **go to Q10**
- 4. Rent pitch privately (with planning permission) **go to Q9**
- 5. Rent pitch privately (no planning permission) go **to Q9**
- 6. Other **[please state]**_____

9. If you own land, over the next five years, are you likely to:

1. Apply for planning permission for residential use on the site you live on now
2. Apply for planning permission for residential use on another site
3. Apply for more caravan accommodation than currently permitted on the site you live on now
4. Apply for more caravan accommodation than currently permitted on another site
5. Reapply for planning permission on the site you live on now
6. Reapply for planning permission on another site

10. How satisfied are you with your home?
(Select only one.)

1. Very Satisfied
2. Satisfied
3. Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
4. Dissatisfied
5. Very Dissatisfied

11. [ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON SITES]

What is provided on your pitch?
(Select all that apply.)

1. slab
2. shed
3. kitchen
4. laundry
5. laundry drying area
6. bath
7. shower
8. toilet
9. living room
10. mains water
11. mains sewerage
12. mains electric
13. gas supply
14. Other **[please state]**_____:

12. **[ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON SITES]**

What is provided for your use elsewhere on the site?
(Select all that apply.)

- 1. amenity block
- 2. toilets
- 3. showers
- 4. laundry
- 5. car parking
- 6. space for storing loads
- 7. play area
- 8. communal meeting area
- 9. Other **[please state]:**

NEW QUESTIONS:

[ALL ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON SITES]

13. How many pitches are there currently on the site where you are living?

.....

14. Are these all occupied?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't know

15a. If no, how many pitches are vacant?

15b. How long have these been empty? If more than one vacant pitch please comment on the one that has been vacant for the longest time.

- 1. up to 1 year
- 2. 1 to 2 years
- 3. 2 to 3 years
- 4. 3 to 4 years
- 5. 4 to 5 years
- 6. over 5 years

16. In your opinion, is there capacity for further development of the site on which you live to incorporate new pitches?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

17. If yes, how many new pitches?

18. Do you have any other comments about the capacity of the site you are currently living on?

19. Do you think your home is overcrowded?

(Select only one.)

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

20. If yes, please tell us in what way the home is overcrowded (i.e. number of caravans/households living on pitch)

21. What repairs or improvements, if any, are needed to your home?

(Select all that apply.)

- 1. none
- 2. more space on pitch
- 3. slab/drive
- 4. roof
- 5. doors/windows
- 6. kitchen facilities
- 7. bathroom facilities
- 8. Other **[please state]:**

22. How would you describe the state of repair of your home?

(Select only one.)

- 1. Very Good
- 2. Good
- 3. Neither Good nor Poor
- 4. Poor
- 5. Very Poor

23. Do you feel you have enough space:
a) for your trailers, wagons, vehicles and loads?

Yes 1. No 2.

b) in your own amenity block (shed) - if relevant?

Yes 1. No 2. Not relevant 3.

c) on your pitch - if relevant?

Yes 1. No 2. Not relevant 3.

24. Do you have to share any of the following facilities with another household? (Select all that apply.)

1. Bathroom

2. Toilet

3. Kitchen

4. Laundry

25. How many bedrooms/sleeping trailers or wagons do you have?

Number: _____

26. How much does your home cost per week (excluding water, heating and lighting; including rent, mortgage, and ground rent)?

Please state amount

£ _____

27. How much of this amount if any is covered by housing benefit? (Select only one.)

1. None

2. Part

3. All

28. How do you find the cost of :

OK Not OK

a. Electricity 1 2

b. Gas 1 2

c. Oil 1 2

d. Water 1 2

29. Is there anything else you would like to add about your home base? ***[Prompt: safety, views about wardens on sites, management, maintenance issues, living conditions]***

Neighbourhood and local services

30. How satisfied are you with the location of your home?
(Select only one.)

1. Very Satisfied
2. Satisfied
3. Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
4. Dissatisfied
5. Very Dissatisfied

31. How happy are you with the neighbourhood?
(Select only one.)

1. Very Happy
2. Happy
3. Neither happy nor unhappy
4. Unhappy
5. Very unhappy

32. Do you feel safe in this neighbourhood?
(Select only one.)

1. Yes
2. No

33. Please say if the being near to the following is important, slightly important or not important to you?

	Important	Slightly Important	Not important
Primary schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secondary schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Main roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

34. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your neighbourhood? ***[Prompt - how do you find local people, shops, problems with the environment etc.?)***

Housing History

35. Where did you live before you came here (or moved to your existing home)?

1. Please state town/district _____
2. Travelling all the time (no permanent home) - **go to Q40**
3. Homeless - **go to Q 41**

36. How long did you live there?
(Select only one.)

1. up to 1 year
2. 1 to 2 years
3. 2 to 3 years
4. 3 to 4 years
5. 4 to 5 years
6. over 5 years

37. What kind of home did you have there?
(Select only one.)

1. Trailer or wagon
2. Chalet/mobile home (or similar)
3. House

4. Bungalow

5. Flat

6. Sheltered

7. Other **[please**

state]_____:

38. Why did you leave that place?

39. How many times have you moved in the last 2 years

Number:_____

Or b. Travelled for the whole time

40. Have you or a member of your household been homeless in the last five years? [For example, with no home to go to or on the roadside with nowhere else to go lawfully.]

(Select only one.)

1. Yes

2. No - **go to Q 42**

41. **[IF HOMELESS]** What were the main causes and how could they have been prevented? **[Prompt: e.g. relationship breakdown, domestic violence, leaving home, leaving hospital, death of spouse or partner, debt; leaving bricks and mortar accommodation, being frequently moved on)**

Problem	How prevented
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Travelling

42. In the last year, have you travelled?
(Select only one.)

1. Yes
2. No - go to Q46

43. How many days or weeks do you normally travel every year?

(Select only one.)

3. No more than thirteen days
4. 2 to 4 weeks (or one month)
5. 5 to 8 weeks (or 2 months)
6. 9 to 12 weeks (or 3 months)
7. 13 to 26 weeks (or 6 months)
8. Over 6 months but less than 10 months
9. Over 10 months but less than 12 months
10. All year

44. Where would you normally go when you are travelling and why?

Location	Reason
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	

45. What problems do you have while travelling?

(Select all that apply.)

1. No places to stop over
2. Closing of traditional stopping places
3. Abuse, harassment or discrimination
4. Lack of toilet facilities
5. No water facilities
6. Problems with rubbish collection
7. Police behaviour
8. Enforcement officer behaviour
9. Behaviour of other travellers
10. Other ***[please state]:***

(Tick all that apply)

46. Transit sites are intended for short-term use while in transit. Sites are usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Is there a need for a transit site(s) in Stafford borough? (Select all that apply.)

1. Yes
2. No

47. If yes, where should the transit site(s) be located?

Adbaston	1
Barlaston East	2
Barlaston Park	3
Berkswich	4
Bradley	5
Brocton	6
Chebsey	7
Church Eaton	8
Colwich-Gt Haywood	9
Colwich-Little Haywood	10
Creswell	11
Doxey	12
Eccleshall	13
Eccleshall-Croxton	14
Eccleshall-Horsley	15
Eccleshall-Slindon	16
Ellenhall	17
Forton	18
Fradswell	19
Fulford	20
Fulford-B/Bridge	21

Fulford-Meir Heath	22
Fulford-Rough Close	23
Gayton	24
Gnosall	25
Gnosall-Knightley	26
Gnosall-Moreton	27
Haughton	28
High Offley	29
High Offley-Woodseaves	30
Hilderstone	31
Hixon	32
Hopton&Coton	33
Hyde Lea	34
Ingestre	35
Marston	36
Milwich	37
Norbury	38
Ranton	39
Salt & Enson	40
Sandon&Burstun	41
Seighford	42
Seighford-Derrington	43

Seighford-Gt Bridgeford	44
Stafford Town	45
Standon	46
Stone Rural	47
Stone Rural-Meaford	48
Stone Rural-Moddershall	49
Stone Rural-Oulton	50
Stone Town-St Michaels	51
Stone Town- Stonefield&Christchurch	52
Stone Town-Walton	53
StoweByChart	54
Swynnerton	55
Swynnerton-Tittensor	56
Swynnerton-Trentham	57
Swynnerton-Yarnfield	58
Tixall	59
Weston	60
Whitgreave	61
Other location [please specify]	

48. Who should manage transit sites? (Select all that apply.)

1. Councils
2. Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations
3. Private (Gypsy/Traveller)
4. Private (non-Gypsy or Traveller)
5. Other ***[please state]:***

49. Stop-over places are designated temporary camping areas or pitches tolerated by local authorities, used for short-term encampments and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Is there a need for a stopover places in Stafford Borough?

1. Yes
2. No

50. If yes, where should the stop over place(s) be located? (Tick all that apply)

Adbaston	1
Barlaston East	2
Barlaston Park	3
Berkswich	4
Bradley	5
Brocton	6
Chebsey	7
Church Eaton	8
Colwich-Gt Haywood	9
Colwich-Little Haywood	10
Creswell	11
Doxey	12
Eccleshall	13
Eccleshall-Croxton	14
Eccleshall-Horsley	15
Eccleshall-Slindon	16
Ellenhall	17
Forton	18
Fradswell	19
Fulford	20
Fulford-B/Bridge	21
Fulford-Meir Heath	22

Fulford-Rough Close	23
Gayton	24
Gnosall	25
Gnosall-Knightley	26
Gnosall-Moreton	27
Haughton	28
High Offley	29
High Offley-Woodseaves	30
Hilderstone	31
Hixon	32
Hopton&Coton	33
Hyde Lea	34
Ingestre	35
Marston	36
Milwich	37
Norbury	38
Ranton	39
Salt & Enson	40
Sandon&Burston	41
Seighford	42
Seighford-Derrington	43
Seighford-Gt Bridgeford	44

Stafford Town	45
Standon	46
Stone Rural	47
Stone Rural-Meaford	48
Stone Rural-Moddershall	49
Stone Rural-Oulton	50
Stone Town-St Michaels	51
Stone Town-Stonefield&Christchurch	52
Stone Town-Walton	53
StoweByChart	54
Swynnerton	55
Swynnerton-Tittensor	56
Swynnerton-Trentham	57
Swynnerton-Yarnfield	58
Tixall	59
Weston	60
Whitgreave	61
Other location [please specify]	

51. Why do you travel?
(Select all that apply.)

1. Cultural heritage
2. Personal preference
3. Work related
4. Visit family/friends
5. Only way of life I know
6. Other **[please state]**

:

52. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your travelling experience, transit sites and/or stopping places?

Advice, support, health and other services

53. Have you used any of the following services in the last year?

(Select all that apply.)

1. Traveller liaison
 2. Traveller Education
 3. Adult education
 4. Law Centre
 5. Citizens Advice Bureau
 6. Other welfare rights advice
 7. Doctor (G.P.)
 8. Dentist
 9. Accident and emergency
 10. Health visitors
 11. Social services
 12. Other **[please state]:**
-

54. Are you registered with the following
(Select all that apply.)

1. Doctor
2. Dentist

55. Do you or anyone in your household have any health problems(Select all that apply for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Arthritis	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Asthma	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Depression	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Diabetes	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Problems with hearing	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []
Learning difficulties/dyslexia	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []
Learning disability	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []
Problems with mobility	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []
Problems with vision	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []
Other [please state]:	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []	10 []

56a Does your home need adapting in any way, for instance to help with mobility around the home?

1. Yes
2. No

57b If yes, what adaptations are required? e.g. Handrails, Bathroom adaptations

Adaptation 1	
Adaptation 2	
Adaptation 3	

58. What type of services (other than those you currently receive) would help you with your health care needs?

59. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your health or health services?

The future

60. ***In the next five years, is your household:***

1. Planning to stay where you are based now – ***go to Q62***
2. Plan to move elsewhere - ***go to Q61***

61. If you are planning to move elsewhere, are you planning to move to (select one):

1. Another pitch on the same site in a trailer/wagon
2. Another pitch on the same site in a chalet/mobile home
3. Onto another site (if so, where)

4. Into bricks and mortar accommodation go to Q53
5. From bricks and mortar accommodation onto a site (if so, where?)

62. If you are planning to move to bricks and mortar accommodation

a. Where would it be ? _____

b. What type of accommodation?

1. House
2. Bungalow
3. Flat
4. Sheltered/extra care housing

c. Would you be renting or buying?

1. Rent from Council
2. Rent privately
3. Rent from Housing Association
4. Buy
5. Other **[please state]:** _____

63. How do you think sites should be managed?
(Select only one.)

1. Councils
2. Private (Gypsy/Traveller)
3. Private (non-Gypsy or Traveller)

4. Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations

5. Other **[please state]:** _____

64. Is there a need for new permanent sites in Stafford Borough? [

1. Yes
2. No

65. If yes, in which of the following locations? (Tick all that apply)

Adbaston	1
Barlaston East	2
Barlaston Park	3
Berkswich	4
Bradley	5
Brocton	6
Chebsey	7
Church Eaton	8
Colwich-Gt Haywood	9
Colwich-Little Haywood	10
Creswell	11
Doxey	12
Eccleshall	13
Eccleshall-Croxton	14
Eccleshall-Horsley	15
Eccleshall-Slindon	16
Ellenhall	17
Forton	18
Fradswell	19
Fulford	20
Fulford-B/Bridge	21

Fulford-Meir Heath	22
Fulford-Rough Close	23
Gayton	24
Gnosall	25
Gnosall-Knightley	26
Gnosall-Moreton	27
Haughton	28
High Offley	29
High Offley-Woodseaves	30
Hilderstone	31
Hixon	32
Hopton&Coton	33
Hyde Lea	34
Ingestre	35
Marston	36
Milwich	37
Norbury	38
Ranton	39
Salt & Enson	40
Sandon&Burston	41
Seighford	42
Seighford-Derrington	43

Seighford-Gt Bridgeford	44
Stafford Town	45
Standon	46
Stone Rural	47
Stone Rural-Meaford	48
Stone Rural-Moddershall	49
Stone Rural-Oulton	50
Stone Town-St Michaels	51
Stone Town-Stonefield&Christchurch	52
Stone Town-Walton	53
StoweByChart	54
Swynnerton	55
Swynnerton-Tittensor	56
Swynnerton-Trentham	57
Swynnerton-Yarnfield	58
Tixall	59
Weston	60
Whitgreave	61
Other location [please specify]	

66. How many new pitches in Stafford Borough do you think are needed now and in the next 5 years?

a. Number now: _____

b. Number next 5 years: _____

67. Is there anything else that you want to tell us about the future need for homes and sites for Gypsies and Travellers?

68. Do you have children or grandchildren who want to live in a similar way to you (e.g. Travelling lifestyle)?

(Select only one.)

Yes

No

Emerging Families

69. How many members of your family who are living with you now, if any, are likely or need to move on and set up by themselves in the next five years? **[IF POSSIBLE, ASK THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO MOVE ON THE 'EMERGING FAMILIES' QUESTIONS DIRECTLY - PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX]**

(Select only one.)

1. 1

2. 2

3. 3

4. 4

Q69b	✓
1. Respondent is part of emerging household	
2. Respondent is not part of emerging household	

70. What type of household (HH) are you (or they) likely to form?

(Select only one for each household.)

		HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
	Continue to live on current site					1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
	Move to another site					2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Single person (under 60 years)		1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []				
Single person (60 years and over)		2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []				
Lone parent		3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []				
Young couple (under 30) with no children		4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []				
Young couple (under 30) with child(ren)		5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []				
Couple (aged 30-under 60)with no children		6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []				
Couple (aged 30-under 60)with children.		7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []				
Older Couple (at least one over 60 years)		8 []	8 []	8 []	8 []				
Other [please state]:		9 []	9 []	9 []	9 []				

72. If planning to move to another location, where would you (they) prefer to live? Please state town/district

HH1 _____

HH2 _____

HH3 _____

HH4 _____

71. What would you (or they) want as a permanent base?

73. What type of home do you (or do you think they would) want as a permanent base?
(Select only one for each household.)

Extra Care housing is designed with the needs of frailer older people in mind. It includes flats, bungalows and retirements villages. You have your own front door. Domestic support and personal care are available.)

74. Which of the following options would you (or do you think they would) prefer?
(Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)		HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Trailer or wagon	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []					
Chalet/mobile home or similar	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []	Rent pitch from Council	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
House - go to q 75	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []	Rent pitch privately	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Bungalow - go to q 75	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []	Own land where trailer/ caravan is normally located	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Flat - go to q 75	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []	Other [please state]:	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Sheltered housing go to q 75	6 []	6 []	6 []	6 []					
Extra Care Housing – go to q75	7 []	7 []	7 []	7 []					

Interviewer note:

Sheltered housing is usually a group of bungalows or flats and you have your own front door. Schemes usually have a manager/warden to arrange services and are linked to a careline/alarm service

Your Household

75. If in a house, which of the following options would you (or do you think they would) prefer? (Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Rent house/flat from Council	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
Rent house/flat privately	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []
Rent house/flat from Housing Association	3 []	3 []	3 []	3 []
Own house	4 []	4 []	4 []	4 []
Other [please state]:	5 []	5 []	5 []	5 []

77. Family type (Select only one.)

1. []	Single person (under 60 years)
2. []	Single person (60 years and over)
3. []	One parent
4. []	Young couple (aged under 30) – no children
5. []	Young Couple (aged under 30 years) - with children
6. []	Couple (aged 30 to under 60) - no children
7. []	Couple (aged 40 to under 60) - with children
8. []	Older Couple (at least one of 60 years or over)
9. []	Other [please

state]: _____

76. Do you (or do you think they will) want to travel for some time of the year? (Select only one.)

	HH1 (a)	HH2 (b)	HH3 (c)	HH4 (d)
Yes	1 []	1 []	1 []	1 []
No	2 []	2 []	2 []	2 []

Number of Households sharing a pitch

78. How many other households are currently living on your pitch with you? (i.e. grandparents, parents, children and their respective spouses)

Number of households:

- 1. 1
- 2. 2
- 3. 3
- 4. 4
- 5. Other (please specify): _____

79. Of these households, how many want to live on their own pitch on a site?

- 1. 1
- 2. 2
- 3. 3
- 4. 4
- 5. Other (please specify): _____

IF RESPONDENT HAS A SPOUSE OR PARTNER THEN RECORD INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PERSON IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

80. For each person in your household, starting with yourself and then your spouse (partner, husband or wife) please could you tell us their sex and age? (Select only one for each person.)

R (a) P2 (b) P3 (c) P4 (d) P5 (e) P6 (f) P7 (g)

Male 1 1 1 1 1 1

Female 2 2 2 2 2 2

81. Age

R (a) P2 (b) P3 (c) P4 (d) P5 (e) P6 (f) P7 (g)

Age							
-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

IF NO SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN GO TO Q 83

82. What type of education are your children receiving?

(Select all that apply.)

1. Nursery education
2. State school
3. Private school
4. Home schooled
5. College or university
6. Other **[please state]:** _____

83. Employment status (Select only one for each person.)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Full-time employee	1 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Part-time employee	2 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Self-employed	3 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Retired	4 <input type="checkbox"/>						
No paid work	5 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Disability benefit	6 <input type="checkbox"/>						
In education	7 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Other [please state]:	8 <input type="checkbox"/>						

84. How would you describe yourself (ethnic or cultural identity)?(Select all that apply)

	R (a)	P2 (b)	P3 (c)	P4 (d)	P5 (e)	P6 (f)	P7 (g)
Romany Gypsy	1[]	1[]	1[]	1[]	1[]	1[]	1[]
English Gypsy	2[]	2[]	2[]	2[]	2[]	2[]	2[]
English Traveller	3[]	3[]	3[]	3[]	3[]	3[]	3[]
Irish Traveller	4[]	4[]	4[]	4[]	4[]	4[]	4[]
Welsh Gypsy	5[]	5[]	5[]	5[]	5[]	5[]	5[]
Welsh Traveller	6[]	6[]	6[]	6[]	6[]	6[]	6[]
Scottish Gypsy	7[]	7[]	7[]	7[]	7[]	7[]	7[]
Scottish Traveller	8[]	8[]	8[]	8[]	8[]	8[]	8[]
New Traveller	9[]	9[]	9[]	9[]	9[]	9[]	9[]
Showman	10[]	10[]	10[]	10[]	10[]	10[]	10[]
Circus Traveller	11[]	11[]	11[]	11[]	11[]	11[]	11[]
DK/No answer	12[]	12[]	12[]	12[]	12[]	12[]	12[]
Other [please state] :	13[]	13[]	13[]	13[]	13[]	13[]	13[]

85. Do you know of a household in bricks and mortar accommodation who'd like to move onto a site, could you provide some contact details?

86. Anything else you would like to tell us?

87a. Would you be happy to be contacted again? Yes []
No []. If yes, record contact details on SEPARATE SHEET

87b. If you would like us/the Council to contact you with the results of this research please provide either an email or postal address for us to advise you of the results. Yes []
No []. If yes, record contact details on SEPARATE SHEET TO THE ONE ABOVE



Site Count & Census Form

Stafford Borough Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

1. SITE NAME: _____

2. SITE LOCATION: _____

3. TYPE OF SITE: Permanent [
]1 Temporary/transit []2

4. OWNERSHIP: Self-owned
 with planning permission []1
 Self-owned without planning permission []2
 Self-owned planning permission applied for []3
 Local authority/Council/Social rented []4
 Private landlord/landowner []5
 Unauthorised/roadside []6

TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES ON SITE: []NUMBER

NUMBER OF PITCHES CURRENTLY BEING USED []NUMBER

NUMBER OF FAMILIES LIVING ON SITE []NUMBER

NUMBER OF RESPONDENT SELF IDENTIFIED HOUSEHOLDS ON SITE []NUMBER

NUMBER OF INTERVIEWER IDENTIFIED HOUSEHOLDS ON SITE []NUMBER

HOW MANY NON-GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS ARE LIVING ON SITE []NUMBER

Note: INCLUDE SITE WARDENS AND MANAGERS AND PROVIDE BRIEF DETAILS OF WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE BELOW.



5. FACILITIES ON SITE:

- Rubbish collection** []1
- Water supply** []2
- Electricity supply** []3
- Gas supply** []4
- Shared washing machine** []5
- Hard surfaces for caravans etc** []6
- Public telephone** []7
- Public toilet** []8
- Public showers** []9
- Site management** []10
- Noisy/dangerous proximity to traffic** []11
- Internet access** []12
- Recycling** []13

Other

[pleasestate]: _____

Appendix D: Stakeholder Consultation

Overall approach

- D.1 All key stakeholders identified by the Council were invited to take part in an on-line survey aimed at identifying a range of information, including establishing the key perceived issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller community across the Borough, and ways in which these could best be addressed.
- D.2 An initial explanatory email invitation and link to the on-line survey was sent out to stakeholders in early November 2012; the initial email and web-survey was followed up with a reminder email to all non-responding stakeholders later that month.
- D.3 Stakeholders were asked to respond to any of the 17 questions within the survey. The questions and stakeholders' responses are set out below. Six responses were received; the views expressed by stakeholders are set out below.

Stakeholder questions and responses

- D.4 Do you think that there is sufficient understanding of the education, employment, health and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers within the area(s) within which you work? What could be done to improve the current position?
- No there isn't sufficient understanding of their needs.
 - No there does not seem to be any health care support services available that specialise in their [Gypsy and Traveller] cultures and beliefs. Meeting with them and drawing up a plan of their specific needs and how they would like to access them.
 - Don't know, am not aware of any supporting networks within the Borough to assist.
 - I have no information.
- D.5 Do you think that more could be done to appropriately monitor the needs of Gypsies and Travellers? If so what?
- A survey could be undertaken amongst those already residing within Stafford Borough to ascertain the difficulties that they encounter, as I think that as their children grow up and get married there is insufficient room for them to set up their own family unit on the existing sites.
 - Not sure what provision there is within the Borough to monitor health needs.
 - The Council could release information so stakeholders could understand [the issue].

- D.6 In your opinion, what additional support is most needed to help Gypsy and Traveller families living within the area(s) within which you work?
- They are often left with nowhere to go when either living or travelling through the Borough. This then causes upset with other members of the community as they do not wish to see them next to their property.
 - Don't know as unaware of existing provisions.
 - Partnerships need to understand the issues so their services can be accessed
- D.7 Do you think that more could be done to raise awareness of the needs and requirements of Gypsies and Travellers? If so, what?
- There needs to be specific areas of land allocated for the use of gypsies and travellers.
 - Yes, if there is any provision within the Borough.
 - Yes as above.
- D.8 What action has your organisation undertaken to defuse negative portrayals of Gypsies and Travellers locally?
- None.
 - None at present but more than happy to put it on the agenda at our equality and diversity meetings and to work with agencies to portray the positives rather than the negatives that are portrayed on T , in the press .
 - Unaware of provision.
 - We haven't targeted this area - our policies are open to all client groups
- D.9 Do you think that there is currently sufficient provision of sites/pitches for Gypsies and Travellers within the Stafford Borough Council area?
- No there isn't.
 - Unaware of provision within borough.
 - Again my own figures would not suggest any more are needed but are there any other figures available that could drive this?
- D.10 If new sites/pitches are needed, where do you think that these should be located?
- They should be located where they cause minimum upset to property owners, but within reach of local services.
 - In areas where they can access amenities.
- D.11 What do you perceive to be the main barriers to new provision?
- People being prejudiced towards them. As with all types of people you will get the genuine responsible people and also those who commit crime. The general public see Gypsies as a threat to their property.
 - Public perception, planning legislation, green belt.
 - I have no comment.

- D.12 Do you think that additional provision of sites/pitches needs to be made to accommodate the requirements of Gypsies and Travellers currently living in settled (i.e. bricks and mortar) accommodation?
- Lifestyle choices.
 - I refer to my previous comments about identifiable need before progressing with new sites.
- D.13 Are Gypsies and Travellers able to access permanent accommodation if they require it?
- Don't know.
 - Don't know.
- D.14 Is there sufficient support available to Gypsies and Travellers living in settled accommodation to help them manage their housing effectively (i.e. help in dealing with practical tenancy issues, such as paying rent, bills and making benefit applications)?
- Unsure.
 - Yes, access to floating support can be obtained.
 - At SARH all our support and interventions are open to all.
- D.15 Do Gypsies and Travellers living in settled accommodation feel safe and are their specific cultural needs considered by the local authority when offering conventional accommodation?
- Don't know.
 - Don't know - SBC does not own any accommodation, but can provide advice and assistance to accessing accommodation and additional tenancy support if required.
 - We have no data to answer this question.
- D.16 To date, what if anything has hampered provision of new sites/pitches for Gypsies and Travellers within the area(s)? What steps could be taken to address these issues in each of the areas in the future?
- They haven't been given consideration and therefore areas of land need to be allocated.
 - Don't know.
 - Not aware of any issues.
- D.17 Do you think that more could be done to identify and bring forward new sites for the provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers? If so, what.
- Forward planning need to assess what provision could be made.
 - A G&T needs assessment to take place to assess requirements of existing communities and the whether there is a growing need for more pitches.
 - Again it is about identifying need before going down the route of extra provision.

- D.18 What impact do you think that the Government's proposed changes to planning policy will have on future provision?
- Hopefully it should improve the situation.
 - Any new provision should be well informed and looked at on its merits based on need.
- D.19 What do you see as the key issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers living in the study area?
- The Local people do not understand their culture and therefore do not see why the gypsies should benefit from anything. They are also seen as devaluing their property if they live nearby.
 - Access to sites with amenities without prejudice.
 - I have no information to answer this question.
- D.20 What would you want to see as the key strategic messages coming from the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment?
- Hopefully more harmony between the different communities.
 - To understand, as the main registered provider in Stafford, what the needs are.

Appendix E: 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.

CLG: 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 CLG 'Planning policy for traveller sites' (March 2012) 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 or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.'

'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 or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.'

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.

Plot: see pitch

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 plot/pitch. Some contain a cooker and basic kitchen facilities.

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)

Showpeople: Defined by CLG 'Planning policy for traveller sites' (March 2012) 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 or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.'

Stopping places: 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.

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

Transit site: A Gypsy 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 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 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.

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.