

Isle of Wight

**Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Houseboat Dweller Accommodation
Assessment**

February 2018

Planning and Housing Services

Isle of Wight Council.

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Executive Summary

The objective of this report is to provide an update to the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) Accommodation Assessment 2015 document. It also includes a review of Houseboat Dwellers (HD) as required in DCLG March 2016 guidance.

This report provides up to date evidence about the accommodation needs of GTTS and HD and determines the extent to which the Isle of Wight Council needs to plan for the provision of permanent and transit sites and specific moorings to accommodate them. It also seeks to determine what is currently required now and also to determine projected need for permanent and transit sites and pitches going forward until 2035 in line with the end of the draft Island Planning Strategy.

The periodical review of housing needs under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 is a statutory requirement on local housing authorities. This requires local housing authorities to assess and understand the accommodation needs of people residing or resorting to their district. It includes the duty to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to a district with respect to sites for caravans, and the mooring of houseboats. This report provides the evidence base to enable the council to comply with its requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004 and Housing and Planning Act 2016, the National Planning Policy Framework 2015 (NPPF) and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 (PPTS).

The study covers all Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies) and Travellers (including Irish Travellers, New Travellers and Van Dwellers) that have been able to be identified on the Island during the undertaking of this project. For ease of reference, all of these groups are referred to as 'Gypsies and Travellers'.

The report also covers the needs of people travelling for fairs and circuses and other Travelling Showpeople. This report refers to all of these groups as 'Travelling Showpeople'.

The Department for Communities and Local Government published Draft Guidance to for the review of housing needs for caravans and houseboats in March 2016¹. Therefore, in accordance with this draft document, this report also has sought to identify any known 'Bargee' Houseboat communities on the Isle of Wight at February 2018 to determine whether there were any additional moorings they may require.

This report provides additional evidence to the Isle of Wight Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014 and the 2018 Housing Needs Assessment both of which focus upon the housing need of the 'settled' population. This report indicates the current requirement and forecasts new arising site pitch need for GTTS and HD by specific Isle of Wight Regeneration Plan (draft plan 2017) areas. The primary research data in this report determines the extent of current Gypsy and Traveller encampments, incidences of Travelling Showpeople 'yards' on the Island and known locations of houseboat communities. This information has been used in conjunction with other available secondary and demographic data to estimate current and forecasted levels of need.

¹ DCLG Draft Guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs - Caravans and houseboats

The research showed that there are no Local Authority or Registered Provider owned or managed Gypsy and Traveller pitches on the Island. Through the desk-based and observational research carried out we have sought to identify all current authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments. This work has identified that there are:

- no public permanent sites owned by the Council;
- no transit sites owned by the Council;
- two unauthorised sites on public owned land , both have been unofficially 'tolerated' at least since 2012
- one unauthorised site occupied since at least 2006 which is the subject of a legal judgement, meaning that the residents; cannot be moved until a transit site is built for them;
- two other observed unauthorised sites which are believed to contain people who are not either Gypsies or Travellers.

94 people identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers in the Census 2011. These are most likely to be living in 'bricks and mortar' as Census forms are only delivered to 'settled' accommodation. It is considered that the majority of Gypsies and Travellers observed by the research were not those identified in Census 2011 as they are living in caravans and other vehicles on unauthorised encampments or 'tolerated' sites.

Many of these encampments have been in existence for several years and are unofficially 'tolerated'. One encampment has been the subject of a judicial process and no action may be taken to remove the vans currently on site, until a transit or other site is provided.

The research found 16 unauthorised caravans/vehicles on a total of five sites. Further detail is provided within the report with tabulated data for reference.

Taking into consideration Government guidance on new household formation rates², it is considered that the most robust option for determining future net household formation rates is to use the 2014 Household projection figures for the Isle of Wight issued by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) which shows projection rates updated July 2016. This approach also maintains consistency with the figures in the SHMA 2105 and the methodology proposed for the OAN 2018.

As there is currently no pitch provision at all on the Island, we have determined that one observed caravan/ converted vehicle equals one household, and therefore one pitch requirement.

The total provision suggested for Gypsies and Travellers on the Isle of Wight is for **16 Permanent pitches required now rising to 19 by 2035**. It is also recommended that a **Transit Site of 2 pitches rising to 3 by 2035** site be planned to allow for enforcement action on illegal encampments and facilitate planned move onto a suitable permanent pitch, if appropriate.

The figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area.

The observed population appears to have remained fairly settled in the same place or nearby vicinity since the GTAA assessment carried out in 2006. Therefore, this report recommends that a

² The Office for National Statistics (ONS) carried out a consultation in 2017 to determine whether household formulation methodology should be changed. Currently, (Feb 2018) it has been decided that the current methods for calculating will stand.

permanent site provision could be located within Ryde regeneration area which already has with the highest number of observed vans and caravans..

However, another consideration is that there are three long-term encampments that have previously been identified in former GTTS. These three sites are those thought to be most likely to contain people who would consider themselves as 'New Travellers' or 'Van Dwellers'. It is not within the scope of this report to survey the residents of the current sites to ascertain if they would be willing to share a site at one location, but it is suggested that a consultation would need to be carried out before any new site was provided. This would then ascertain if the occupants would be able to be accommodated on the same site or if separate sites should be planned for.

Due to changes to the definition of Travellers in the 2015 PPTS, it may now be appropriate to consider the occupants of the three long-term sites as currently being 'no longer travelling'. However, there is currently no evidence with regard to this issue to determine if they still have an intention to travel in the future (which would have an effect on planning decisions with regard to a new site) it is recommended that a formal consultation would need to be commissioned.

However, despite the recommendation that a permanent site is located in the Ryde regeneration area; another consideration is that the three long-term encampments are in separate locations/regeneration areas on the island. It is not within the scope of this report to survey the residents of the current site to ascertain if they would be willing to share a site at one location, but it is suggested that a consultation would need to be carried out before any new site was provided to ascertain if the occupants would wish to be accommodated on the same site.

This report also recommends the need to plan for a Transit site. This should possibly be located within either the Newport or Ryde regeneration areas (for ease of management). This site should comprise two pitches, rising to three by 2035.

The research carried out for this report does not indicate any evidence of a current resident population for Travelling Showpeople, nor any new household formation indication. Therefore, it is not considered that there will be any current or on-going need for any plots or yards on the Island for this group.

There are estimated 60 houseboats identified on the Isle of Wight, however, as these are not moored on Inland waterways they are not subject to regulations which require them to move every 14 days. Therefore it is not considered that any of the houseboat owners could be counted as 'Bargees'. This means that we do not believe that they fall under the Government guidance for inclusion in Traveller Counts. The lack of any evidence of approach to housing services from Houseboat dwellers for any other accommodation than 'bricks and mortar' housing would also indicate that there is no emerging need from houseboat families. Therefore no recommendation has been made within this report to seek additional moorings based on future need.

In determining new site provision the DCLG guidance includes a requirement to also take into account the needs of the 'settled' Gypsy and Traveller population (those currently considered to be living in caravans). However, it is not currently possible to determine any evidenced desire from travellers now living in 'bricks and mortar' to return to living on a caravan site without conducting extensive consultation.

It is recommended that any future consultation with this group of residents either currently living on sites or in settled housing would need to be facilitated through an established Gypsy and Traveller organisation to ensure the best likelihood of achieving a significant responses.

1. Introduction

Housing Needs Assessment

- 1.1. The needs assessment seeks to provide an evidence base to enable the council to comply with its requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004, the National Planning Policy Framework 2015 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 (PPTS).
- 1.2. The main objective of this document is to provide the council with up-to-date evidence about the accommodation needs of this group on the Isle of Wight area currently and up until 2035.
- 1.3. This work provides updated evidence to the Isle of Wight Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014 which focuses upon needs of the 'settled' population and forecasts the number of new dwellings to 2027 and beyond. It is also intended as a supplementary document to the 2018 OAN and the updated Core Strategy of the Island Plan.
- 1.4. The key consideration of this report is to determine the locations of current sites and unauthorised encampments; and to use this information in conjunction with other demographic data to estimate levels of need to enable the future provision of pitches and sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople on the Isle of Wight over the period to 2035.

What are sites and pitches?

- 1.5. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans, but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers and/or Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.6. Gypsy and Traveller sites can be either publicly or privately run. Public sites are often provided either by a Local Authority or by a Registered Provider (often a Housing Association or specific housing provider for this population group). Pitches on public sites are generally allocated through a site waiting and location preference list. The costs of running the sites are usually met from the rent paid by the residents and from any funding allocated from the provider towards this expense.
- 1.7. However, many Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople live on self-managed private sites. These often result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Other travelling households can often rent pitches on these sites through the owner. Generally, the majority of Travelling Showpeople 'yards' are privately owned and managed.
- 1.8. It is suggested that any site provided should adhere to the DCLG publication 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide' (CLG,2008) which states:
 - Size of pitch - each pitch to be a size sufficient to accommodate two touring caravans and have two parking spaces for additional associated cars or vehicles the occupier may use in their day to day or working activities.

- Private amenities - each pitch to include a small utility block including a toilet, wash basin and shower with hot and cold water supply;
- Any residents should be subject to a licensing/ rental agreement to ensure that standards and terms of tenancy are adhered to.

1.9. The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population also often utilise 'Transit' sites due to their nomadic way of living. Transit sites are most often publically provided sites. An alternative to a transit site is an 'emergency stopping place'. This type of site typically has strict restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it, and usually very limited facilities.

1.10. The definition of a transit site is a permanent facility but only intended for temporary use by Gypsies and Travellers. The length of stay generally varies between 28 days and three months. A transit site can be run by either privately or by the Local Authority and would need to provide basic amenities for power sanitation and water.

1.11. It would be a decision for a local policy and the transit site provider to determine, but it is suggested that the maximum period a family would be able to stay on a transit site should be three months duration, after which time notice would be served and if necessary enforcement action could be taken to move the Travellers on.

1.12. Some councils also operate an accepted 'encampments' policy where short-term stopovers are tolerated without enforcement action. Of wider concern is the presence of unauthorised encampments and site developments on land which does not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments can occur on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers themselves, on that owned by other landowners, and on council or highways land. These are not usually considered 'tolerated' sites by the council.

Definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers'

1.13. PPTS (2015 Annex1) sets the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Planning system:

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

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

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

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

For the purposes of this planning policy, "travelling showpeople" means:

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

(Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), August 2015)

The key change that was made to both definitions is that persons, who have ceased to travel permanently, will no longer fall under the planning definition of a Traveller for the purposes of assessing future accommodation needing a GTTSA.

1.14. Within the main definition of 'Gypsies and Traveller's' there are a number of main cultural groups which include:

- Romany Gypsies
- Irish Travellers
- English, Scottish or Welsh Gypsies or Travellers
- New Travellers/ Van Dwellers.

1.15. Travelling Showpeople are also required to be considered for determining housing need and potential site provision under the DCLG draft guidance 2016 and PPTS 2015. These are defined 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 family's or dependant's more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently (PPTS 2015)*

1.16. The 2016 DCLG Draft Guidance also included people living in Houseboats to be considered in the review of housing needs for the travelling population. This is relevant to Bargees and other people living in boats who consider themselves as part of the traveller population.

1.17. The report covers the needs of all groups identified above; but for ease of reference we have referred to the population collectively as Gypsies and Travellers, or Travelling Showpeople or Houseboat Dwellers where relevant.

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment and Island Plan Core Strategy

1.18. The IWC commissioned a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTTSAA) in 2006 to provide an assessment of housing need and pitch requirements in accordance with the settlement hierarchy set out within Policy SP1 of the Island Plan Core Strategy, the Local Development Plan, (adopted in 2012). This assessment was updated in 2102 and 2105 and this document follows on from the previous assessments. The previous assessments did not include an assessment of the housing needs of Houseboat Dwellers.

1.19. Policy DM6 of the Core Strategy confirms that:

“The Council will meet the identified need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches by allocating sufficient sites within the Area Action Plans and Delivery and Management DPDs.....”

1.20. Paragraph 7.101 of the Core Strategy confirms that in the 2006 GTTSAA, carried out by David Coultie Associates, a need for 24 pitches (including one transit site) was identified to be provided between 2006 and 2011.

1.21. Following work at the regional level to ascertain housing needs to 2027, this figure was increased to 27 (including one transit site) to take account of potential new family formation. The 2015 assessment identified several new incidences of persons living in caravans and therefore raised the potential pitch requirement to 38 pitches

1.22. Paragraph 7.102 of the Core Strategy confirms that taking account of Core Strategy period of 2011-2027, along with the fact that there had been no previous delivery of authorised sites, the council considered that the provision of 27 pitches would be required to be delivered between 2011 and 2021 to meet the identified need. It also identified that further monitoring would be carried out to identify any future need between 2021 and 2027 to ensure that additional land could be allocated if required.

1.23. It is within this context that this updated GTTSAA has been carried out in February 2018 in order to provide an updated evidence base over the period to 2035. This assessment also seeks to update any evidence for new and future pitch requirements and shows the requirements in identified generations Area, which are expected to replace the previous Area Action Plans geography

The Duty to Co-operate and Local Housing Markets

1.24. The Government has reformed the policy framework for planning and housing provision, and has revoked the policy for setting Regional Spatial Strategies. This returns the responsibilities for determining policies for housing provision to councils. The 2011 Localism Act includes a ‘Duty to Co-operate’ (DtC) on the council. This duty applies to the preparation of development plan and other local development documents, and to activities which can ‘reasonably be considered to prepare the way’ or support them (such as the preparation of evidence-base studies such as this).

1.25. The DtC is a legal test to which development plans must comply. The Council is required by Section 110(2) of the Localism Act to *“engage constructively, actively and on “an on-going basis”* with its neighbourhood LAs with regard to the planning of future housing need.

1.26. Therefore, an upward adjustment to planned housing numbers in one area may have the result of increasing in or out migration and therefore will trigger an additional requirement to assess the impacts under the DtC.

- 1.27. Councils also have a duty to cooperate with adjoining districts when setting pitch targets for likely permanent and transit sites and have to take the requirement into consideration when assessing the potential future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.28. Unless the local area can be considered a separate 'housing market area' this means, working collaboratively with neighbouring councils to identify need and allocate land for sites provision which would also go towards meeting that need across the identified local area and with reference to identified need in the adjoining councils.
- 1.29. However, both of the recent Isle of Wight Strategic Housing Market Assessments (SHMA) 2007 and 2014 identify the Isle of Wight as a separate Housing Market Area. This means that the requirement to plan for neighbouring councils requirements does not apply.
- 1.30. The findings from the SHMA 2014 also confirm that any suggested requirement for Gypsy and Traveller pitch numbers only needs to include assessed Island current and future needs. However, it also means that any requirement for authorised sites and transit pitches will need to be met on the Island itself.

Short-term encampments

- 1.31. The council are responsible for any action that arises from encampments on its own land. Issues regarding encampments on Highways and other public land are usually resolved in partnership with the relevant public owner, Island Roads and the Police. Any encampment on private land is the responsibility of the landowner themselves.
- 1.32. The approach to the management of encampments varies depending on the circumstances.

2. Legislation and Guidance

Planning, accommodation and needs

- 2.1. Decision-making for policy concerning Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework. As well as PPTS the following additional legislation and guidance is relevant when constructing policies relating to this group.
 - DCLG Draft Guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs - Caravans and houseboats;
 - National Planning Policy Framework 2015 (NPPF);
 - The Human Rights Act 1998;
 - Equalities Act 2010 ;
 - Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;
 - Caravan Sites Act 1968 (Part II);
 - Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
 - Housing and Planning Act 2016
 - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
 - Housing Act 2004;
- 2.2. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act abolished all statutory obligations to provide accommodation, discontinued Government grants for sites and made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent. Since the 1994 Act, the only places where Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can legally park their trailers and vehicles are:
 - Council and Registered [Social Housing] Providers' Gypsy caravan sites;
 - Privately owned land with appropriate planning permission; and
 - Land with established rights of use, other caravan sites or mobile home parks by agreement or licence along with land required for seasonal farm workers.
- 2.3. The 1994 Act resulted in increased pressure on available sites. Following further reviews of law and policy, the Housing Act 2004 was passed, which included placing a requirement (section 225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs within their area.
- 2.4. The 1994 Act resulted in increased pressure on available sites. Following further reviews of law and policy, the Housing Act 2004 was passed, which included placing a requirement (section 225) on local authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs within their area.
- 2.5. The recent Housing and Planning Act 2016 (section 124) creates a new duty under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to a district with respect to sites for caravans and the mooring of houseboats as part of the periodical review of housing needs. It deletes sections 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004.

Policies for tackling Gypsies and Travellers inequalities

- 2.6. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised within law as distinct ethnic groups who have needs relevant to their ethnicity and culture, and all the duties on public bodies under the Equality Act 2010, Human Rights Act 1998 and relevant case law apply. New Travellers and Van Dwellers do not have recognition as a distinct ethnic group, but in common with the rest of the travelling and settled population they do have protection under other Equality Act categories if appropriate to their personal circumstances.

Funding for Gypsy and Travellers sites

- 2.7. The Homes Agency (HA) no longer administers a separate grant funding programme for Gypsy and Traveller sites however they still welcomes bids under the affordable housing programme from councils, Gypsy and Traveller communities, Housing Associations and private development partner groups, as well as working with other Registered Providers.
- 2.8. Therefore, the council is able to liaise with HA area development teams on new site proposals which would then be eligible to access any future funding that might become available due to other non-provision.
- 2.9. Currently, all new Pitches provided by either a council or Registered Provider continue to receive New Homes Bonus equivalent to Council Tax (based on the national average for a Band A property), plus an additional £350 per annum for six years. This would equate to around £8,000 pounds per pitch.

3. Planning Policy for Travellers sites 2012 and 2015

- 3.1. In March 2012 the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and as part of this, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS 2012) was also published to be read in conjunction with the NPPF. These documents replaced all previous national planning policy in respect of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 3.2. Previously, local planning authorities had been required to set aside enough land for Gypsy and Traveller sites, with targets set in regional plans. The Coalition Government abolished regional planning under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and local authorities no longer have targets set out in regional plans.
- 3.3. PPTS 2012 instead encouraged local planning authorities to form their own evidence base for needs in their area and use this to set their own pitch and plot targets for their Local Plan.
- 3.4. In a written statement to Parliament on 17th January 2014 the Coalition Government stated:
*'Ministers are considering the case for further improvements to both planning policy and practice guidance to strengthen Green Belt protection in this regard. We also want to consider the case for changes to the planning definition of 'travellers' to reflect whether it should only refer to those who actually travel and have a mobile or transitory lifestyle. We are open to representations on these matters and will be launching a consultation in due course.'*³
- 3.5. Between September and November 2014 the Government consulted on proposed changes to PPTS. Following this, an updated policy (PPTS 2015) was published in August 2015.
- 3.6. PPTS 2015 states that *'the Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community'*.
- 3.7. The policy requires that local Planning Authorities make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning and develop strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites. The policy also requires: that plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development
 - that private traveller site provision is promoted whilst also recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites;
 - that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective;
 - that local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies and recommendations for site provision within a 'reasonable timescale';

³ House of Commons 17 January 2014,

- to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply;
- to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure;
- for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment’.

3.8. In planning for future provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, the Policy states that local planning authorities should:

- pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers’ accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups);
- cooperate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups; other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities;
- use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions.’

3.9. PPTS 2015 also sets the context for Local Plan preparation, consistent with policies in the NPPF. Paragraph 9 sets out that local planning authorities should set pitch and plot targets which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. Specifically, in producing their Local Plan, local planning authorities should:

a) ‘identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years’ worth of sites against their locally set targets;

b) identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;

c) consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross- authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints 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;

e) protect local amenity and environment.’

3.10. To be considered ‘deliverable’, sites should either be available now or be achievable with a realistic prospect that development will be delivered on the site within five years. In order to be considered

'developable', sites should be in a suitable location for traveller site development; and there should be a reasonable prospect that the site is available and could be viably developed

- 3.11. The updated PPTS (2015) has introduced some key changes to policy, including a change of the definition of 'traveller', and states that: *'In determining whether persons are "gypsies and travellers" for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:*
- a) *whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life;*
 - b) *the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life;*
 - c) *whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances.'*

- 3.12. This means that for planning-related purposes the definition of Gypsy and Traveller has been changed so that it excludes those who have permanently ceased from travelling. The Government has also indicated that it will seek to amend primary legislation to clarify the duties of local authorities to plan for the housing needs of their residents.

Protecting the Green Belt

- 3.13. The updated PPTS document changes the weight that can be given to any absence of a five-year supply of permanent sites when deciding planning applications for temporary sites in land designated as Green Belt, sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives, sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Green Space, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or within a National Park or the Broads.
- 3.14. The Government has also changed planning policy so that unmet need and personal circumstances (subject to the best interests of the child) are unlikely to clearly outweigh harm to the Green Belt. This change applies to both the settled and Traveller communities.

Unauthorised occupation

- 3.15. The Planning Policy statement issued with PPTS 2015 makes clear that if a site is intentionally occupied without planning permission this would be a material consideration in any retrospective planning application for that site. Whilst this does not mean that retrospective applications will be automatically refused, it does mean that failure to seek permission in advance of occupation will count against the application. In addition, the PPTS document makes clear that in exceptional cases where a local authority is burdened by a large-scale unauthorised site that has significantly increased need and their area is subject to strict planning constraints then there is no assumption that the local authority will be required to meet their Gypsy and Traveller site needs in full.

4. Methodology

4.1. This section sets out the methodology undertaken to identify the housing needs of GTTS.

Desk-based research

4.2. The council sought to gather background information regarding the current Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population on the Island. To do this information was collated from the following available sources:

- Census data;
- detail of all authorised public and private sites;
- detail of any identified travelling Showpeople's yards;
- figures reported for Traveller Caravan Counts;
- records of any unauthorised sites and encampments;
- information on planning applications and appeals;
- information on any other current enforcement actions;
- previous GTTSAA's and other relevant local information.

4.3. This data has been analysed in conjunction with the outcomes of the other elements of the study to allow the council to complete a review of the needs of travelling communities.

Survey of travelling communities

4.4. The council sought to physically identify as many pitches as possible as part of the approach. This was to avoid potential under or over estimates of current and future needs.

4.5. All sites (including unauthorised sites) were visited by officers of the council determine the levels of occupation on each site. All of the site fieldwork was undertaken in January and February 2018.

Census data: 'Bricks and Mortar' households

4.6. The Census 2011 carried out for the Office of National Statistics (ONS) included a question on 'ethnic group' and for the first time included a dedicated option for respondent to enter their Ethnic group as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'. The next Census is not due until 2021 so at the time of publication of this report it has not been possible to determine whether is figure is still valid.

4.7. The Census figures only record ethnicity as part of the overall population count and so therefore do not provide an estimate of the number of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households living on the Island.

4.8. Although the Census 2011 did gather details on accommodation type as well as ethnicity, it is not possible to correlate this information to determine which of the respondent and identifying themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers are living in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation.

4.9. However, due to the nature of how the Census 2011 was gathered (on permanent dwellings) it is considered that these residents are living in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation and do not form part of the 'currently travelling' population.

Traveller caravan count

4.10. Another source of local information available on the Gypsy and Traveller population derives from the bi-annual Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each council on specific dates in January and July of each year, and reported to DCLG. This is a statistical count of the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England.

4.11. With effect from July 2013, DCLG has renamed the 'Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count' as the 'Traveller Caravan Count.' This does not reflect any changes to the coverage of the count but brings its title into line with the terminology used for planning policy purposes. It is also consistent with the fact that its scope is wider than caravans lived in by ethnic gypsies and travellers, but also includes non-traditional travellers.

4.12. As this count is of caravans and not households, it makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. It must also be remembered that the count is merely a 'snapshot in time' conducted by the LA on a specific day, and that any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from authorised sites on the day of the count will not be included.

Assessing Current and future need for pitches and plots

4.13. Current need on the island is evidenced from the following sources:

- observed households living on authorised sites;
- observed households on unauthorised sites for which planning permission is not expected;
- households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
- concealed households;
- households in 'Bricks and Mortar' wishing to move to sites;
- households on waiting lists for public sites.

4.14. Total future need is made up of the following components:

- forecasted new household formation;
- projected in-migration.

Assessing future household growth

4.15. It is important when determining future household growth and requirements for new sites, that the rate of new household formation is considered.

- 4.16. Household formation rates are often the subject of challenge at appeals or examinations and can be difficult to determine. This is especially so for 'hard to reach' population groups such as Gypsies and Travellers.
- 4.17. However, previous attempts to engage the Gypsy and Travellers community on the Island have resulted in a very low response rates. The nature of their nomadic lifestyle also makes assessing future household growth problematic as the numbers people and family groups present at any one time may not be an indication of the future.
- 4.18. Therefore, for this updated research we have sought to determine a practical way of determining this figure to ensure that the Council can plan for the correct amount of pitches currently and to enable it to make a reasonable estimate for growth to meet future need. This approach is set out in Section 4.21 below.

Government advice on calculating future site requirements

- 4.19. In March 2014 letter from the Planning Minister clarified the Government's position on how Planning Policy should seek to determine household formation rates for Gypsies and Travellers: *'Following the recent consolidation of planning guidance we will be seeking to consult on updating and streamlining the remaining elements of traveller planning practice guidance and also on strengthening traveller planning policy. We will ensure that any new guidance supports councils to accurately assess their needs and would remove ambiguous references to the 3% growth rate figure, which, I stress, is only illustrative. This would, once published, have the effect of cancelling the last Administration's guidance.'* *'I can confirm that the annual growth rate figure of 3% does not represent national planning policy. The previous Administration's guidance for local authorities on carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments under the Housing Act 2004 is unhelpful in that it uses an illustrative example of calculating future accommodation need based on the 3% growth rate figure.'*

The guidance notes that the appropriate rate for individual assessments will depend on the details identified in the local authority's own assessment of need. As such the Government is not endorsing or supporting the 3% growth rate figure, though in some cases it has been reported that inspectors have, in considering the level of unmet local need when demonstrating specific traveller appeals, used the 3% growth rate figure in the absence of a local authority's own up-to date assessment of need'

Mid-year household figures and growth predictions 2014

- 4.20. It is therefore considered that the most robust option for determining future net household formation rates for Gypsies and Travellers on the Isle of Wight is to use the 2014-based Household projection figures issued by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) (*12th July 2016 update*) as shown in Table 1. The ONS figures are projected forward to 2034. Therefore this document utilises that date - although the plan period is 2035- to ensure consistency with ONS forecast figures and to allow for future updates to be based on the ONS timeline base. This approach maintains consistency

with the calculation methodology utilised for net growth in the SHMA over the plan period for the Core Strategy and that which will be utilised in the forthcoming OAN document.

Table 1: Numbers of households and percentage increase Isle of Wight 2014- 2034

Isle of Wight UA	Household number 2014 (2016update0	Projected household number 2034	Percentage Increase
	62132	72351	16.44%

Source: ONS Household Projections 2014, Table 425 Total change, average change and percentage change in household projections for Local Authority districts, England 2014-2034

- 4.21. Therefore, for the purposes of this GTTSAA it is considered that this percentage increase figure should be utilised. This would give a predicted uplift of existing Gypsy and Traveller Households of 17% (for easier calculation) from 2016 figures to 2034
- 4.22. For the purposes of this report, and in light of the data collected, we intend to consider one observed caravan/ converted vehicle to equal one household.
- 4.23. The current and predicted pitch requirements for Travelling Showpeople have been identified separately in Section 5 below.

5. Evidence of Gypsies and Travellers on the Isle of Wight

Census 2011: Ethnicity

- 5.1. The Census 2011 records 94 persons living on the Island who identified themselves as being of Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnicity. This represents 0.1% of the population. However Census figures do not provide enough correlated information to enable determination of how many of the people identifying as Gypsy or Irish Travellers are living in the same or in different households.
- 5.2. For the purposes of this report the Census 2011 records have been grouped into Parishes as shown in Tables 2 to 5 below. This represents the nearest units of geography that can be compared to the Draft regeneration areas).

Table 2: Census 2011, Total Respondents White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller: Bay area

Parish	Ethnic Group (KS201EW) White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Lake	0
Newchurch	1
Sandown	5
Shanklin	3
Total	9

Table 3: Census 2011, total respondents White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller: Medina Area

Parish	Ethnic Group (KS201EW) White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Cowes	11
East Cowes	1
Gurnard	0
Newport	47
Northwood	0
Whippingham	0
TOTAL	59

Table 4: Census 2011, total respondents White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller: Ryde

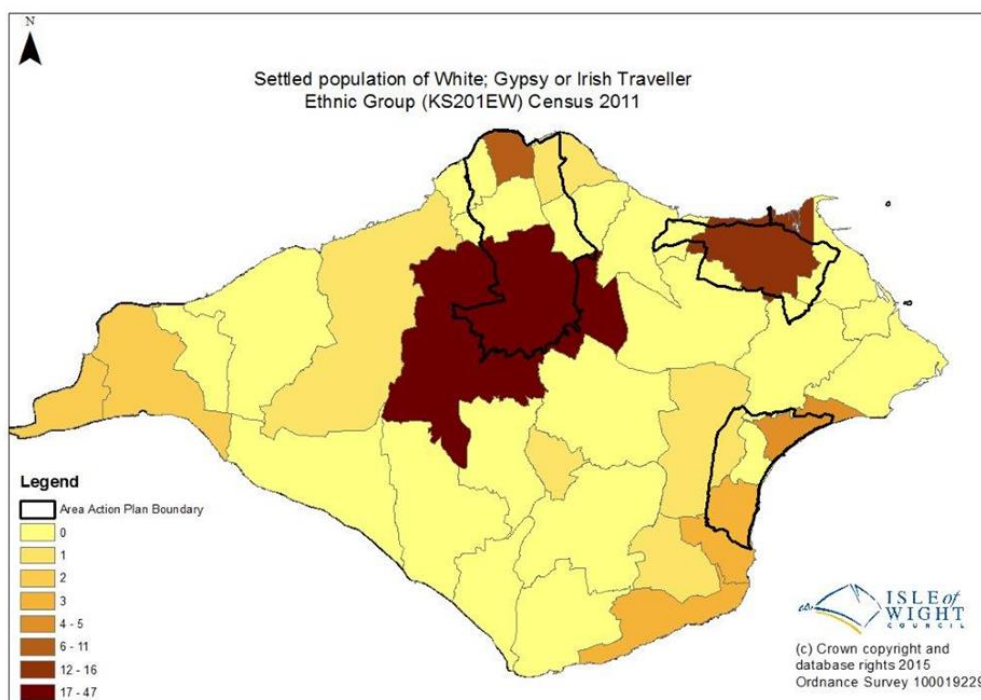
Parish	Ethnic Group (KS201EW) White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Fishbourne	0
Havenstreet and Ashe	0
Nettlestone and Seaview	0
Ryde	16
TOTAL	16

Table 5: Census 2011, total respondents White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller: Rest of the Island

Parish	Ethnic Group (KS201EW) White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Arreton	0
Brading	0
Bembridge	0
Brighstone	0
Calbourne	1
Chale	0
Chillerton and Gatcombe	0
Freshwater	2
Godshill	0
Niton and Whitwell	0
Rookley	1
Shalfleet	0
Shorwell	0
St Helens	0
Totland	2
Ventnor	3
Wootton Bridge	0
Wroxall	1
TOTAL	10

- 5.3. It is considered that these Census respondents are most likely to be formed from the 'not currently travelling' population, and to be living in settled 'bricks and mortar' accommodation. This is because Census forms are routinely delivered to all known 'permanent dwellings'. Therefore, it is thought very unlikely that the population living in caravans, even in long established locations, were contacted by Census collectors.
- 5.4. Three examples of this we can be reasonably sure of, are in regard to those travellers known to be living in Nettlestone and Seaview, Brighstone and Shalfleet Parishes, where there are long-established unofficial sites, and yet no Gypsies or Irish Travellers are identified as living in the parish on the Census returns.
- 5.5. A map showing the distribution of Census returns for White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller by Parish and AAP is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Settled population of White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller (KS201EW) Census 2011



People living on unauthorised sites

- 5.6. Of the population identified in previous GTAA's which are not in settled 'bricks and mortar' accommodation, around two thirds considered themselves to be either New Travellers or 'Van Dwellers'. Of the remaining, 18.2% identified themselves as English Travellers, 9.1% Irish Travellers, 9.1% Scottish Travellers and 4.5% Welsh Travellers.
- 5.7. From information given by people that the council has had recent contact with who are currently residing on unauthorised sites, it is considered that the majority of the people living in most of the settlements we know of would still be most likely to fall into the categories of 'New Travellers' or Van Dwellers.

Travelling Showpeople

- 5.8. Contact with the Travelling Showpeople through the council Amenity Sites Licensing team has confirmed that neither of the two established Showpeople visitors who run summer events are island-based. The same groups have been visiting for some years and interviews carried out for the previous GTTSA confirmed that they had permanent winter quarters and yard facilities on the mainland.
- 5.9. It has been confirmed with the Licensing Team that the two shows that were previously identified as running in the summer months (June-August) are still the only ones who come to the Island. One group has recurring use of a space on private land and the other does request licences for council

land, and are usually here for 4-6 weeks during the summer season. We have not found any evidence of any travelling shows coming for winter months.

- 5.10. The research has not identified any requests for planning permission for Travelling Show 'home yards' nor any incidences reported from Planning Enforcement where any groups have set up unauthorised encampments.
- 5.11. There were no showpeople groups present during the study period. It is believed from anecdotal evidence from the Amenities Licencing Team that the Travelling Showpeople who come here for the summer months are work/family groups and that no other people who would represent Island-based Travelling Showpeople are employed by them during the season.
- 5.12. It has currently not been possible to ascertain any further information on future need. At the time of the 2006 survey, one showpeople group declined an interview and the other confirmed that they were based on the mainland and did not ever envision requiring accommodation facilities on the Island. We have been unable to contact either known summer -visiting group for this update. However the situation remains the same as far as we are able to ascertain, in that no request has come forward for accommodation for travelling showperson's yards on the island since the 2015 GTSAA update.

Houseboat Dwellers

- 5.13. There are estimated 60 houseboats identified on the Isle of Wight. These are mostly moored in Newport Harbour, Wootton Creek and Bembridge Harbour. These include over 20 which have 99 year leases and which sell for comparative prices to local housing. There has recently (February 2018) been a planning application to allow more mooring spaces at this location, but if this application is granted these new leases will also be for 99 years. However at the time of writing this report, the application has not been determined.
- 5.14. As the current known houseboats on the island are not moored on Inland waterways they are not subject to regulations which require them to move every 14 days and it is therefore not considered that any of the houseboat owners are Bargees. This means that the current Houseboat Dweller population are not considered to fall under the Government guidance for inclusion in Traveller Counts.

Caravan count February 2018 information

- 5.15. The IWC has complied with the requirements for the twice-yearly DCLG Travellers Caravan count. Over the past five years the amounts of sites recorded for the count has remained relatively static at around 16-18 pitches. This is a 'snapshot' of recorded incidences observed on the one day, and so any vehicles not on site at the time was not recorded.
- 5.16. However, for this report a further separate assessment has been undertaken. This has confirmed that the main unauthorised sites of 'New Travellers' or 'Van' dwellers' that were known of in 2006, 2012 and 2015 are still in existence in the same locations now

- 5.17. However, the information gathered in 2015 indicated that there were possibly some people living in vans on unauthorised sites not known of before. Recent observations indicate that of these vans have moved or been removed and of several of those remaining many of them on private land which had shown the appearance of occupation previously now appear not to be so. We are also now aware of at least two incidence of what appears to be permanent occupation. One of these sites has been occupied since the previous count and is on private land adjacent to an occupied house. There is no evidence of planning permission for this unit but this has been in existence since at least 2012. The other known occupied site is very recent (2018) and is known to the enforcement team and to housing services as a recent client seeking housing.
- 5.18. Therefore the DCLG traveller count has now been amended to show only the three known site where we believe that are actually occupied by people identifying themselves as New Travellers or Van dwellers. This has brought the 'official' number of travellers recorded down to 16 units.
- 5.19. It is important to note that the 'sites' recorded on the count do not relate to the amount of potential 'pitch' requirements (which is based on the number of vans now identified at observed sites).

Locations of caravans /vehicles used for residential occupation

- 5.20. Through the desk-based and observational research carried out we have sought to identify all current authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments. This work has identified that there are:
- no public permanent sites owned by the Council;
 - no transit sites owned by the Council;
 - two unauthorised sites on public owned land , both have been 'tolerated' at least since 2012
 - one unauthorised site occupied since at least 2006 which is the subject of a legal judgement, meaning that the residents; cannot be moved until a transit site is built for them;
 - two other observed unauthorised sites which are believed to contain people who are not either Gypsies or Travellers.

Occupied Caravan/other vehicles count February 2018, by Parish

- 5.21. Of the unauthorised encampments observed, only two are on previously recorded sites and each of those is of a single vehicle. However, there has been an observed increase in at least two additional units present on at least one other unauthorised site although it is not known if they are occupied or used as additional space to another van.
- 5.22. Although a Caravan Count can only be a snapshot in time, it is considered that the recent observations of caravans/converted vehicles in the locations below does confirm the previous counts of those we believe to be either New Travellers or Van Dwellers.

5.23. Therefore we consider that this constitutes the best knowledge available regarding locations of the ‘New Travellers’ and other Gypsies and Travellers currently living in caravans and other vehicles on the Island.

5.24. Table 6 below shows the amount of caravans /other vehicles and number of unauthorised sites per Parish observed in a series of visits undertaken during February 2018. Of these, 3 sites (16 units) have been recorded in the DCLG return as containing either Gypsies or travellers

Table 6: Occupied Caravans /other vehicles observed February 2018.

Parish	Number of occupied caravans/ vehicles observed	Number of sites per Parish
Brighstone	1	1
Freshwater	1	1
Nettlestone and Seaview	9	1
Newport	1	1
Shalfleet	4	1
Total	16	5

5.25. However, four of these units are currently on a site which has been the subject of a judicial order previous to 2006 and which enables the occupants to stay until a transit site is provided.

5.26. At least one unauthorised site identified in the previous GTTSAA has now been cleared and has been secured. Another previously known unauthorised site now looks, on observation, to be empty. However, it does show signs of some recent vehicle movement and the gate is just padlocked, so it is possible that people may just be temporarily absent.

Estimating the numbers of residents on observed sites

5.27. The previous GTTSAA estimated that the households identified on unauthorised sites were comprised of single adults under 60 years old, with most of those in the 25 to 44 year age group.

5.28. The available evidence suggests that this is still largely the case. At one site on council-owned land, there has been regular liaison with the occupants. From this information we currently we believe that that there is a core group of nine adults living on site.

5.29. Two other unauthorised sites appear to be in occupation by at least two adults over the age of 45 both sites have been in existence since 2006 and are considered to be still occupied by the same people. .

5.30. It has been possible to ascertain that there are children on one unauthorised farmland site which does not have any planning permission but has been there for some years. However, it has not been ascertained if they live there permanently or if the residents identify themselves as Gypsies and Travellers. There are no signs of any children on any of the other observed sites.

5.31. Due to the rural nature of the majority of the unauthorised sites there was little evidence of overcrowding of units.

Population mobility

5.32. Previous GTTSAA's identified that the Isle of Wight does not form part of any established 'traditional' Gypsy and Traveller routes. We believe that this is still the case in 2018.

5.33. In support of this, it is noted that since the publication of the 2015 report there have been no incidences recorded of any traditional 'Fairs' or other similar events being held on the Island, which Gypsies and Travellers may attend as part of their regular travelling routes.

5.34. A reason could be that the Island may not be part of any established route is possibly due to the additional requirement and expense of accessing the Island by ferry. This study has also confirmed that, in the years subsequent to the publication of the last GTSAA, there have been no reported occurrences of a Traveller vehicle known to have arrived on to the Island and set up an encampment.

5.35. Therefore, we can find no evidence of significant in or out migration of Gypsies or Travellers. However there have been some reported incidences for people setting up in caravans or bringing a vehicle onto public bridleway or adjacent to established car parks at island attractions.

5.36. Of these, at least two recent incidences have been known to housing services for some time as people who have approached them for accommodation. New incidences of van dwelling are usually dealt with by planning and community enforcement officers. It is believed that at the time of writing there are four incidences known to the council which are being investigated. We do not currently believe that any of these are Gypsies or Travellers. However, due to the lack of any transit site for these vans, should they be moved the situation could just be repeated in another part of the island.

5.37. There are two main summer events/fairs (separate to the Island music festivals) run by Travelling Showpeople identified; one of which is a yearly Circus arrival. These have not changed locations since the last assessment. One of these which is always held on the same private land and does not move elsewhere, and the other travels to several Island sites utilising IWC licenses to access the land.

5.38. Both of these Travelling Showpeople groups have identified to the Amenity Licencing team that they have 'Winter quarters' off-Island.

Current encampments: mobility and access to services

5.39. Of the three most established unauthorised sites (Westridge, Shalfleet and Brighstone Forest), Westridge has the most access to services, has been established the longest and has a very small amount of pitch size fluctuation.

- 5.40. The research team has previously made contact the residents in 2015, and reported that, there is access to water, mains drainage, and power from self-sourced renewable energy. At the time the residents considered minimal additional on-site amenity would be required to ensure the long term use of the site. Since the previous report there has been no changes made or further interventions made to either clear or improve the site.
- 5.41. The observed vehicles in long-term occupation on public land in Brighstone and Shalfleet do not have access to any services on site, for accessing water and sanitation, but observation shows some wind and solar power use as well as wood-burning. It is presumed that they use public facilities for their sanitary needs when required.
- 5.42. Of the long-term observed occupied caravans on farm premises. It is assumed that they either have been able to 'hook up' to electricity or they rely on wood-burning, gas bottles or other power generation.

6. Estimating New Household formation and pitches required

- 6.1. Because of the ongoing evidence of unauthorised sites remaining in the same places since the previous GTTSAA, and which was also highlighted in that last assessment, it is considered that the population in many cases have been living in the same areas of many years. There has also been no confirmed evidence of significant in or out migration which changes in the numbers travellers previously recorded.
- 6.2. Due to changes to the definition of travellers in the 2015 PPTS, it may now be appropriate to consider the occupants of these sites as 'no longer travelling'. However to determine if they still have an intention to travel in the future a formal consultations would need to be commissioned.
- 6.3. Currently, it is recommend that all caravans currently situated on unauthorised sites should be assessed as requiring a pitch on an authorised site, rather than being considered as 'no longer travelling, visiting or passing through.
- 6.4. However, despite the recommendation that a permanent site is located on the Ryde regeneration area; another consideration is that there are three long-term encampments that have previously been identified in former GTTS. These three sites are also thought to be most likely to contain people who would consider themselves as 'New Travellers' or 'Van Dwellers'. It is not within the scope of this report to survey the residents of the current site to ascertain if they would be willing to share a site at one location, but it is suggested that a consultation would need to be carried out before any new site was provided. To ascertain if the occupants would wish to be accommodated on the same site or if two separate sites should be planned for.
- 6.5. As determined in paragraph 4.21 above, 17% uplift has been applied to uprate the number of pitches required for Gypsy and Traveller Households to 2034.
- 6.6. Therefore it is estimated that the current pitch requirement 2018 would be the same as the current amount of vehicles observed of those considered most likely to be Van Dwellers or New Travellers. This would make 16 pitches.
- 6.7. Utilising the uplift of 17% would therefore mean that at 2034 there is a need to plan for an additional 3 households/pitch spaces making a requirement of 19 pitches in total over the plan period.

Site types required-Permanent sites

- 6.8. It is considered that currently the main need is for at least one authorised permanent site. The research has indicated that that this would be of greatest benefit in the Ryde Regeneration as it is in the area which has the largest and most settled population of travellers.
- 6.9. To meet identified need, this primary permanent site should comprise of at least 16 pitches and preferably have the capacity to provide two additional pitches anticipating predicted future need.

Transit site

- 6.10. It is also considered that one Transit site should also be provided. Doing this would enable the council to take any action required on unauthorised encampments, and also would provide 'stopping over' places for those that require them. It is considered that for ease of management the most suitable area for a Transit Site would be within either the Ryde or Newport regeneration areas.
- 6.11. Give the incidences of vans and caravans parking in unauthorised areas during the period since the last GTSAA and the actual number known at February 2018, it is considered that to facilitate enforcement action and planned move-on to permanent pitches where appropriate, the Transit site should consist of 2 pitches rising to 3 by 2034.

Provision for Travelling Showpeople

- 6.12. As there has been no identified Island residency or new household formation of Travelling Showpeople, it is not currently considered that there is need to provide any dedicated plots or 'yards' for this group.

Provision for Houseboat Dwellers

- 6.13. As the current known houseboats on the island are not moored on Inland waterways they are not subject to regulations which require them to move every 14 days. Therefore it is not considered that any of the houseboat dwellers currently observed are Bargees. This means that they do not fall under the Government guidance for inclusion in Traveller Counts. There has also been neither recent indication nor approaches to Housing Services received from any houseboat dweller to be rehoused in other accommodation. Evidence would indicate no emerging need from houseboat families and no recommendation to seek additional moorings based on evidence available.

Provision for Gypsy and Irish Travellers currently living in 'Bricks and Mortar'

- 6.14. It is also important to consider that some of the people identifying as White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller in the Census figures above, if currently living in 'Bricks and Mortar' could be doing so because of no other alternative; and that some of this group might prefer to return to living on a site if one was made available for them.
- 6.15. This is relevant because, as a protected group under the Equalities Act 2010, any site provided should be available to this group as well as to what is considered to be the main group currently occupying caravans and other vehicles on the island:- namely New Travellers and Van dwellers.
- 6.16. The only practical approach to ascertain if this is a correct assumption, would be to identify as many households in 'bricks and mortar' as possible and to carry out a specific Housing Needs Survey for this group to determine their future accommodation needs. This would need to include an option to express a wish to move to a permanent pitch on the Island.

- 6.17. In practice, it is considered that it would be very difficult to achieve a statistically reliable dataset for this group. Advice given by the Hampshire Gypsies and Travellers Liaison Unit is that they feel the only way to achieve any significant response at all would be to liaise with potential respondents through established Gypsies and Travellers newsletters and internet sites.
- 6.18. Therefore, whilst there is anecdotal evidence of 94 Gypsies or Irish Travellers that are most likely to be settled in 'bricks and mortar' housing shown in the most recent Census figure, it is not currently possible to determine an evidenced desire from them to return to living on a caravan site.