

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
GYPSY & TRAVELLER  
ACCOMMODATION  
STUDY**

**FINAL REPORT**



[www.dcauk.co](http://www.dcauk.co)

**CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	Aims & Objectives .....	4
1.2	Methodology .....	5
1.3	Key Findings from the Survey.....	5
1.4	Current Accommodation Circumstances .....	5
1.5	Harassment .....	6
1.6	Future Accommodation Needs .....	6
1.7	Key Recommendations and Action Plan .....	6
<b>2</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1	Introduction .....	7
2.2	Objectives of the Study .....	9
2.3	Local Background and Context.....	9
2.4	Terms and Definitions .....	10
2.5	Definition of need .....	10
2.6	Definition of Gypsy and Traveller household.....	11
2.7	METHODOLOGY .....	11
2.8	Survey Questionnaires .....	12
2.9	Response Rate.....	12
2.10	Mill Field Services Quality Control .....	13
2.11	Study Outputs .....	13
<b>3</b>	<b>PERMANENT PROVISION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1	Findings for households living at Dyes Lane .....	14
3.2	Current Accommodation Circumstances .....	15
3.3	Length of time at current location .....	19
3.4	You and Your Family.....	19
3.5	Future Accommodation Needs .....	20
3.6	Needs of New Households Forming.....	21
3.7	Secondary Data .....	24
3.8	Health & Education .....	25
3.9	Review of the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Assessment 2006 .....	26
<b>4</b>	<b>TRANSIT PROVISION .....</b>	<b>27</b>
4.1	Introduction .....	27
4.2	Need Identified Through Local Data .....	27
<b>5</b>	<b>GYPSY &amp; TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS MODEL.....</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1	Introduction .....	29
5.2	Current Supply .....	30
5.3	Need .....	31
5.4	Newly Arising Need .....	32
5.5	Projected Supply 2013 – 2018.....	33
5.6	Summary of Needs Accommodation Model .....	34
5.7	Future forecasts beyond 2018 .....	34
5.8	Bricks and Mortar Accommodation .....	35
5.9	New Provision in Stevenage.....	35
5.10	Transit Need .....	35

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 36

6.1	New Permanent Pitch Provision.....	36
6.2	New Transit Pitch Provision .....	36
6.3	Planning Policy .....	36
6.4	Partnership Working .....	37
6.5	Future Accommodation Assessments.....	37
6.6	Site Management.....	37
6.7	Health, Education and Financial Support.....	37

## 7 REFERENCES ..... 38

### TABLES

TABLE 2-1	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS .....	12
TABLE 3-1	TYPE OF GYPSY / TRAVELLER HOUSEHOLD .....	14
TABLE 3-2	IS THIS YOUR MAIN ACCOMMODATION / HOME? .....	15
TABLE 3-3	WHAT TYPE/NO OF LIVING UNITS DO YOU HAVE? .....	15
TABLE 3-4	HOW MANY BEDROOMS DOES YOUR MAIN ACCOMMODATION HAVE? .....	16
TABLE 3-5	WHAT TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION DO YOU HAVE? .....	16
TABLE 3-6	DO YOU OWN OR RENT YOUR ACCOMMODATION? .....	16
TABLE 3-7	IS THIS CURRENT ACCOMMODATION ADEQUATE FOR YOUR NEEDS? .....	17
TABLE 3-8	HOUSEHOLDER COMMENTS .....	18
TABLE 3-9	HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SITE WHERE YOU CURRENTLY LIVE? .....	18
TABLE 3-10	HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE? .....	19
TABLE 3-11	DO YOU HAVE A BASE / SITE/ PITCH / REGULAR STOPPING PLACE / HOME ELSEWHERE? .....	19
TABLE 3-12	FAMILY COMPOSITION.....	19
TABLE 3-13	AGE OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.....	20
TABLE 3-14	ARE YOU INTENDING TO MOVE FROM YOUR CURRENT SITE? .....	20
TABLE 3-15	WHY ARE YOU INTENDING TO MOVE FROM YOUR CURRENT SITE? .....	21
TABLE 3-16	ARE YOU ON ANY SITE / HOUSE WAITING LISTS? .....	21
TABLE 3-17	IS THERE ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD LIKELY TO WANT THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION IN THE .....	22
TABLE 3-18	WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATION OR SITE WOULD THEY BE LOOKING FOR? .....	22
TABLE 3-19	IS THERE THE ABILITY FOR THEM TO SHARE A SITE WITH YOU? .....	23
TABLE 3-20	DO YOU KNOW WHAT AREA THEY WOULD PREFER TO LIVE IN? .....	23
TABLE 3-21	CARAVAN COUNT OF AUTHORISED SITES JAN 2008 – JAN 2013.....	24
TABLE 3-22	CARAVAN COUNT OF UNAUTHORISED SITES JAN 2008 – JAN 2013.....	25
TABLE 4-1	CARAVAN COUNT OF UN-AUTHORISED SITES JAN 2008 – JAN 2013.....	27
TABLE 4-2	UN-AUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS JAN 2008 – JAN 2013.....	27
TABLE 5-1	CURRENT RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY .....	30
TABLE 5-2	PITCHES ON AUTHORISED SITES.....	30
TABLE 5-3	CURRENT RESIDENTIAL BACKLOG OF NEED .....	31
TABLE 5-4	CURRENT PROJECTED SUPPLY .....	33
TABLE 5-5	SITE TURNOVER .....	33
TABLE 5-6	THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PERMANENT PITCHES 2013 - 2018.....	34

### APPENDICES

I	Questionnaire
II	Caravan Count
III	Glossary of Terms

# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 Aims & Objectives

1.1.1 In November 2012, Stevenage Council formally commissioned David Coultie Associates (DCA) to carry out a Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Subsequently DCA were commissioned to complete a study of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers who are housed or living on authorised or unauthorised sites within the study area.

1.1.2 The methodology developed for the study was based on the requirements of guidance for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, issued by Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in October 2007.

1.1.3 Guidance clearly recommends that Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments be carried in order to achieve the needs of:-

Caravan dwelling households:-

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

Bricks and mortar dwelling households:-

- Whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable ('unsuitable' in this context can include unsuitability by virtue of proven psychological aversion to bricks and mortar accommodation).

1.1.4 The aims of the study were:

- To identify current and projected accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who reside in the study area;
- To provide a robust evidence base for the development of Local Plans and Housing Strategies within the study area.

1.1.5 Recommendations are made on the level of need for new permanent and transit pitches over the next five years. DCLG recognise that once adequate provision is made for permanent stopping places, Local Authorities will be in a better position to enforce against inappropriate development and unauthorised encampments.

1.1.6 Recommendations are also made on planning policy issues raised through the research, partnership working, future Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, management of sites and access to services.

## 1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 Stevenage Borough Council took part in a joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment with North Hertfordshire, Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire County Council, which was completed in June 2006.
- 1.2.2 This study reviews the findings of the 2006 assessment and provides an up to date pitch requirement using primary and secondary data.
- 1.2.3 There are 18 households living on the 17 pitches at the Dyes Lane site. One pitch was vacant and two households were not present at the day of the interviews. **All 15 households available were interviewed, a response rate of 100%.**
- 1.2.4 **There are no unauthorised sites in the Borough and there were no unauthorised encampments.**
- 1.2.5 DCA consulted with the County Council and Stevenage Council personnel in housing and planning, and Health and Education relating to the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 1.2.6 Data was also collected for surrounding Local authorities.
- 1.2.7 This also included gathering existing secondary data to identify households living on permanent authorised and unauthorised sites, transit sites, and the flow of households using unauthorised encampments.
- 1.2.8 Additional secondary data including local reports, waiting lists and voids data and pitch turnover would also be gathered for analysis.

## 1.3 Key Findings from the Survey

- 1.3.9 There seven Romany Gypsies or English Travellers and seven Irish Travellers, with only one household identifying themselves as Scottish Gypsy or Traveller.
- 1.3.10 Over 95% of households had lived on the site for more than 5 years and the remainder between one and five years, suggesting a very stable community.

## 1.4 Current Accommodation Circumstances

- 1.4.11 Over three quarters, 11 households said they were living in their main home and that their accommodation was adequate for their needs. However only a third of households were happy with their site / pitch.
- 1.4.12 The comments received were the lack of a turning point, the condition of the sheds, lack of security and being unhappy about the mixing of Irish and English travellers.
- 1.4.13 The two households saying their accommodation was not adequate for their family, the main reason was that the accommodation was too small.
- 1.4.14 Nine households were identified as being overcrowded, i.e not having enough bedrooms to accommodate all household members. Of these households four also included potentially new forming households in the next five years.

## 1.5 Harassment

- 1.5.15 There were 2 households who said they had experience of harassment while living at their current site. Both had plans to move due to neighbours and harassment, only one of whom was on a waiting list.

## 1.6 Future Accommodation Needs

- 1.6.16 Based on responses, 12 households had no current intention of moving over the next five years.
- 1.6.17 Four households currently living on the site indicated that they had a family member who would be looking for independent accommodation in the next 5 years.
- 1.6.18 All potentially new forming households wanted to move to a local authority site and to live in East Hertfordshire but we have allowed for their needs to be met in Stevenage.
- 1.6.19 After allowing for an estimated average supply of one pitch a year there is a net potential need for **three** pitches in Stevenage to 2018.

## 1.7 Key Recommendations and Action Plan

Recommendation	Action Points	Targets
Review permanent pitch provision	Consider provision for 3 additional pitches	On going 2013 -2018
Review transit pitch provision	Continually monitor Gypsy & Traveller movements throughout the Local Authority and surrounding authorities with the County Council	On going 2013 -2018
Planning Policy	Put in place systems to monitor the number of Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation	On going 2013 -2018
Hertfordshire CC	Consider splitting the current site into two separate sites to separate Irish and English travellers and incorporate turning points	On going 2013 -2018
	Plan a programme of works to improve the existing sheds	On going 2013 -2018
	Consider improving security in and around the site	On going 2013 -2018

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 In early 2013 DCA conducted a Strategic Housing Market Assessment within which a desk top analysis of the housing requirements of Gypsy and Traveller households in Stevenage was conducted. Because of a sensitive incident relating to the site at that time, interviews with households were deferred.
- 2.1.2 Stevenage Council formally commissioned David Coultie Associates (DCA) in September 2013 to conduct interviews with Gypsy and Traveller households living on the single site in the Borough at Dyes Lane to identify their current and future accommodation needs.
- 2.1.3 The aims of the study were to:-
- Identify current and projected accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers who reside in the study area;
  - Provide a robust evidence base for the development of Local Plans.
- 2.1.4 The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs is a statutory requirement under Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004, which also requires local authorities to produce a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Strategy. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is required either as part of the housing market assessment for the general population or, as in this case, as a separate study.
- 2.1.5 The methodology developed for the study was based on the requirements of guidance for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, issued by Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in October 2007.
- 2.1.6 Guidance clearly recommends that Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments be carried out to achieve the needs of:-
- Caravan dwelling households:-
- Who have no authorised site anywhere on which to reside;
  - Whose existing site accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, but who are unable to obtain larger or more suitable accommodation;
  - Who contain suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units and who are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.
- Bricks and mortar dwelling households:-
- Whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable ('unsuitable' in this context can include unsuitability by virtue of proven psychological aversion to bricks and mortar accommodation).
- 2.1.7 Planning guidance contained within Circular 01/2006 indicated that the district level requirements identified in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments were to be submitted to the Regional Planning Body and a 'strategic view' of need taken. These figures, once agreed, would then be incorporated into the Regional Spatial Strategy and adopted by each local authority's Local Development Framework (LDF).

2.1.8 In July 2010 the Secretary of State proposed to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies, even though they remain part of the Development Plan. Local Authorities were advised to continue to develop LDF Core Strategies (now Local Plans).

2.1.9 In March 2012 a revised policy for the planning of Gypsy and Traveller sites was released by DCLG replacing any previous guidance in this area:

*“The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of Travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.*

*To help achieve this, Government’s aims in respect of Traveller sites are:-*

- *that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning*
- *to ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites*
- *to encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale*
- *that plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development*
- *to promote more private Traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those Travellers who cannot provide their own sites*
- *that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective*
- *for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies*
- *to increase the number of Traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply*
- *to reduce tensions between settled and Traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions*
- *to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which Travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure*
- *for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.”*

2.1.10 Policy B paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of this document sets out how planning for Traveller sites should be addressed:

*“Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the application of specific policies in the Framework and this planning policy for Traveller sites.*



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

*Local planning authorities should, in producing their Local Plan:-*

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

## **2.2 Objectives of the Study**

- 2.2.1 The objective of the study is to provide a robust evidence base for the development of Local Plans and to support the strategic choices for site provision for Gypsies and Travellers made in these documents.
- 2.2.2 Recommendations are made on the level of need for new permanent pitches over the next three years. DCLG recognise that once adequate provision is made for permanent stopping places, Local Authorities will be in a better position to enforce against inappropriate development and unauthorised encampments.
- 2.2.3 Recommendations are also made on the need for transit pitches, Planning policy, partnership working, future Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, management of sites and access to services.

## **2.3 Local Background and Context**

- 2.3.4 Stevenage Borough Council took part in a joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment with North Hertfordshire, Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire County Council, which was completed in June 2006.
- 2.3.5 The evidence base included primary data carried out in 2006 and is now out of date.
- 2.3.6 The following paragraphs give a brief introduction to the existing level of Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision in the study area, and the level of unauthorised camping. *Appendix II* provides a fuller analysis of the Caravan Count over the last 5 years.
- 2.3.7 Stevenage has one social housing site at Dyes Lane, managed by Hertfordshire County Council. Since the previous Assessment in 2006 two grants were secured to increase the number of pitches the site from 14 to 17 and it can now accommodate 34 caravans.

- 2.3.8 There was one unauthorised development site in 2008 but there have been none since and there has been a fall in the number of unauthorised encampments in Stevenage since 2008.

## 2.4 Terms and Definitions

- 2.4.1 A detailed glossary of terms and definitions used throughout the report is included at Appendix III.

## 2.5 Definition of need

- 2.5.1 The definition of need for Gypsy and Traveller households takes as its starting point the understanding of “housing needs” as defined in Strategic Housing Market Assessment guidance (August 2007):-

*‘the quantity of housing required for households who are unable to access suitable housing without financial assistance’.*

- 2.5.2 In conventional (bricks and mortar) housing need assessments “demand” is defined in market terms as the quantity of housing that households are willing or able to rent or buy. The conventional definition of need and demand relies heavily on an assessment of affordability and an understanding of the “market” for accommodation within the study area.

- 2.5.3 In terms of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, the standard definition of needs requires some adjustment to take account of those households:-

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

- 2.5.4 Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments also recognises that there may be no real “market” in sites as supply is generally very limited and low income and local hostility to the travelling community may effectively restrict the ability of Gypsy and Traveller households to exercise a free choice in the accommodation market.

- 2.5.5 Finally the standard definition of housing needs relies heavily on an assessment of affordability, which in turn depends on accurate data on household incomes related to market costs.

- 2.5.6 Experience of Gypsy and Traveller studies in other areas has shown that households are often reluctant to disclose financial information, making an assessment of affordability difficult.

## 2.6 Definition of Gypsy and Traveller household

2.6.1 Final guidance on the definition of Gypsy and Traveller households for the purposes of the 2004 Housing Act came into force in October 2007, and covers:-

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

2.6.2 The CLG Planning Policy for Traveller site March 2012 defines Gypsy and Travellers 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.*

2.6.3 And for "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 or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.*

2.6.4 This study is consistent with new guidance and includes Travelling Showpeople although none were identified within the study.

2.6.5 There are no Travelling Showpeople sites in Stevenage.

2.6.6 In the surrounding authorities Welwyn Hatfield has a small site of six private caravans.

## 2.7 METHODOLOGY

2.7.7 Stevenage Borough Council took part in a joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment with North Hertfordshire, Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire County Council, which was completed in June 2006.

2.7.8 This study reviews the findings of the 2006 assessment and provides an up to date housing need figure using both primary and secondary data.

2.7.9 The aim of the study was to conduct interviews in the study area using a "census" approach. In practice this meant that all families living on the Dyes Lane site were given the opportunity to take part in the study.

- 2.7.10 DCA also consulted with Council personnel in housing and planning, with the County Council and Health and Education personnel relating to the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 2.7.11 Caravan Count data was also collected for surrounding local authorities.
- 2.7.12 This also included gathering existing secondary data to identify households living on permanent authorised and unauthorised sites, transit sites, and the flow of households using unauthorised encampments.
- 2.7.13 Additional secondary data including local reports, waiting lists and voids data and pitch turnover was also gathered for analysis.

## 2.8 Survey Questionnaires

- 2.8.14 The survey questionnaires used had already been tried and tested in numerous Gypsy and Traveller studies. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix I.
- 2.8.15 Mill Field Services who have significant experience interviewing Gypsy and Traveller households were provided with the field ready questionnaires by DCA.

## 2.9 Response Rate

- 2.9.16 The fieldwork for this project was conducted on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013. **Interviews were completed with all 15 households present** and no particular problems were encountered during the fieldwork.
- 2.9.17 Issues encountered during the fieldwork are as follows:-
- Two households had not been seen for a number of months presuming that they are travelling and one pitch is vacant;
  - The success of the fieldwork was not only down to the energy and enthusiasm of the interview team, but also the invaluable contribution of the local site liaison officers in accompanying interviewers to the site and making initial introductions.
- 2.9.18 Table 2-1 below shows the number of site based interviews achieved against the estimated number of households.

**Table 2-1**                      **Number of Households**

	<b>Number of households</b>	<b>Vacant pitches</b>	<b>interviews achieved</b>	<b>Response rate %</b>
	<b>Nos.</b>		<b>Nos.</b>	
Dyes Lane	18	3	15	100

## **2.10 Mill Field Services Quality Control**

- 2.10.19 Mill Field Services have been working in partnership with DCA for more than a decade and have undertaken over 1,200 specialist Gypsy and Traveller interviews in previous Gypsy and Traveller accommodation studies undertaken by DCA.
- 2.10.20 All Mill Field interviewers working on this project have undergone cultural awareness training and have experience of carrying out Gypsy and Traveller interviews in other districts. The cultural awareness session was a full day event focusing on the specific cultural issues of the Irish Travellers and English and Romany Travellers.
- 2.10.21 The session was carried out by experts in the field and Travellers themselves.

## **2.11 Study Outputs**

- 2.11.1 Section 5 of this report sets out the model identifying the level of need for additional authorised private, socially rented and transit site pitches across the study area.
- 2.11.2 Decisions on the exact location of sites across the local authority area will ultimately be a matter for debate, supported by local plans and strategies and the Accommodation Needs Assessment.

### 3 PERMANENT PROVISION

#### 3.1 Findings for households living at Dyes Lane

- 3.1.1 18 households were identified as living on the Dyes Lane site. This figure was derived from the information received from the County Council.
- 3.1.2 15 site based interviews were completed, which was all of the households present on the day the interviews were conducted.
- 3.1.3 The table below shows the total number of household respondents. The survey results in subsequent tables may vary between questions depending on the number of respondents in each case.
- 3.1.4 There were seven Romany Gypsies or English Travellers and seven Irish Travellers with one household identifying themselves as Scottish Gypsy or Traveller.

**Table 3-1 Type of Gypsy / Traveller Household**  
**Question Q1**

	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
Romany Gypsy or English Traveller	46.7	7
Irish Traveller	46.7	7
Welsh Gypsy or Traveller	0	0
Scottish Gypsy or Traveller	6.6	1
New Traveller	0	0
Horse Drawn Traveller	0	0
Fairground Traveller	0	0
Van Dweller	0	0
None	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Other	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15</b>

### 3.2 Current Accommodation Circumstances

3.2.5 Respondents were asked what type of accommodation they had at their current site, 14 respondents had a mobile home and 1 had touring caravan / trailer.

3.2.6 Of the 14 households living in mobile homes, 5 of them also had 1 or 2 touring caravan / trailers.

3.2.7 All of the households living on the site said that they were living in their main accommodation.

**Table 3-2 Is This Your Main Accommodation / Home?**  
**Question Q2**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
Yes	100.0	15
No	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15</b>

3.2.8 They were then asked what type and number of living units they had at present either at Dyes Lane or elsewhere.

**Table 3-3 What Type/No of Living Units Do You Have?**  
**Question 3**

	This Site			Elsewhere		
	One	Two	Three or more	One	Two	Three or more
House/Bungalow/Flat/Maisonette	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supported Housing (including sheltered)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobile home- permanent site	14		0	0	0	0
Mobile home- transit sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
Touring caravan/ trailer- permanent site	6		0	0	0	0
Touring caravan/ trailer- transit sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vans	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additional vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Work Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0

- 3.2.9 Households were asked how many bedrooms were in their current accommodation and what type of accommodation.

**Table 3-4 How Many Bedrooms Does Your Main Accommodation Have?**

**Question 5**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
One	13.3	2
Two	66.7	10
Three	20.0	3
Four or more	0.0	0

**Table 3-5 What Type of Accommodation do you have?**

**Question 6**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
House / Bungalow / Flat / Maisonette	0.0	0
Supported Housing (including sheltered)	0.0	0
Mobile Home – permanent site	93.3	14
Mobile home – transit sites	0.0	0
Touring caravan / trailer permanent site	6.7	1
Touring caravan / trailer transit sites	0.0	0
Vans	0.0	0
Additional vehicles	0.0	0
Work vehicles	0.0	0

- 3.2.10 The majority of households had two bedrooms and lived in a mobile home on the permanent site.

- 3.2.11 All households were asked if they owned or rented their accommodation.

**Table 3-6 Do You Own or Rent Your Accommodation?**

**Question 7**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
Owner-occupier	53.3	8
Renting from private landlord	33.3	5
Council tenant	6.7	1
RSL / HA tenant	0.0	0
Rent from family / friend / employer	6.7	1

- 3.2.12 All households were also asked about the adequacy of their living accommodation, pitch and site. Residents could provide more than one choice.

- 3.2.13 There were 14 households who answered the question about their accommodation and all choose only one option.



- 3.2.14 All 14 households answered the question about their site or pitch making an average of 1.7 choices.

**Table 3-7 Is This Current Accommodation Adequate For Your Needs?  
Question 8**

	Accommodation		Site or Pitch	
	%	N <sup>os.</sup>	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
Adequate	78.6	11	33.3	5
Not adequate – accommodation is temporary	0.0	0	0.0	0
Not adequate – too small	14.3	2	0.0	0
Not adequate – too big	0.0	0	0.0	0
Not adequate – lack of basic amenities	0.0	0	6.7	1
Not adequate – lack of or poor facilities	0.0	0	13.3	2
Not adequate – neighbours	0.0	0	20.0	3
Not adequate – harassment	0.0	0	13.3	2
Not adequate – want to travel again	0.0	0	0.0	0
Not adequate – security	0.0	0	46.7	7
Not adequate – needs repair work	0.0	0	13.3	2
Not adequate - other	7.1	1	20.0	3
<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>25</b>

- 3.2.15 Overall, 11 households said their accommodation was adequate for their needs.
- 3.2.16 The main reason given by 2 households for inadequate accommodation, was that it was too small and one household said that it was not adequate due to health problems.
- 3.2.17 Only a third of households thought that the site / pitch was adequate with 7 stating that security was an issue. There were also issues with neighbours and harassment. This should be investigated further by the [County Council](#).
- 3.2.18 A basic overcrowding calculation was made on the basis of a cross tabulation comparing the number of bedrooms and the number of people in the household.
- 3.2.19 It was assumed that the householder and spouse would share a bedroom while all other household members would require their own bedroom. On this basis 9 households living on the site were identified as being overcrowded.
- 3.2.20 Four of these overcrowded households included children who would potentially form a new household over the next five years. This is the calculation used in section 5 to assess the need arising from overcrowded households in the study area.
- 3.2.21 Further analysis on reasons for inadequacy in Table 3-7 above found two households stated that their accommodation was inadequate because it was too small, suggesting that the 7 other households did not consider themselves as overcrowded.
- 3.2.22 Although only 3 households said not adequate for some other reason, and there were a number of comments made by the households, listed below.

**Table 3-8 Householder Comments**

	Site or Pitch	
	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
No turning point / place	26.6	4
No turning point for emergency vehicles	6.7	1
No outside lighting	6.7	1
Fly tipping on the site	6.7	1
Council overcharge for pitches	6.7	1
No privacy – better fencing needed	6.7	1
Should not mix English and Irish travellers	13.3	2
Poor access to the lane	6.7	1
No showers in the sheds	6.7	1
Shed too costly to heat	6.7	1
Shed cold and damp	6.7	1
Squatters can get on the site	6.7	1
<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>16</b>

- 3.2.23 The main issue was that there was no turning point and concern was raised about larger vehicles and emergency vehicles not being able to turn in the site.
- 3.2.24 Security was also an issue including lack of lighting, fencing, fly tipping and squatters. The County Council should investigate these issues further.
- 3.2.25 There were a few negative comments about the condition of the sheds and the County Council should give consideration to upgrading them.
- 3.2.26 Comments were received about mixing English and Irish travellers on the site. Information from the Council indicates that consideration is being given to split the site into two halves with separate entrances to accommodate each group.
- 3.2.27 All households were asked how satisfied they were with the County Council site.

**Table 3-9 How Would You Rate the Site Where You Currently Live? Question 10**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
Very satisfied	0.0	0
Satisfied	53.3	8
Neither	6.7	1
Dissatisfied	26.7	4
Very dissatisfied	13.3	2

- 3.2.28 The survey found that the majority of households who were satisfied were owner occupiers.

### 3.3 Length of time at current location

3.3.29 Households were asked how long they had lived in their current accommodation, and all 15 households living on the site responded to the question. Fourteen had lived in their current accommodation for more than 5 years and the remaining household had lived there for between one and five years. This suggests a very stable community.

**Table 3-10 How Long Have You Lived Here?**

Question 11

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
A day or two	0.0	0
Less than one week	0.0	0
Less than 1 month	0.0	0
Less than 3 months	0.0	0
Less than 6 months	0.0	0
Between 6 months and 1 year	0.0	0
Between 1 year and 5 years	6.7	1
5 years and over	93.3	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15</b>

3.3.30 None of the 15 households had a base elsewhere.

**Table 3-11 Do You Have a Base / Site/ Pitch / Regular Stopping Place / Home Elsewhere?**

Question 12

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
Yes	0.0	0
No	100.0	15

### 3.4 You and Your Family

3.4.31 Data was collected on the age and sex of individual household members to build a picture of the households on the site. The findings are summarised below.

**Table 3-12 Family Composition**

Question 13

Family structure	%	Group %	N <sup>OS.</sup>
1 adult over 65	0.0		0
1 adult under 65	21.4	21.4	3
1 adult and others	0.0		0
Couple no children	0.0		0
Couple with children	14.3	14.3	2
Couple and others	0.0		0
Single parent	64.3	64.3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>

- 3.4.32 Fourteen households responded to the question on family structure. One household living on the site did not answer this question. Three of those living on the site said that they were single person households.
- 3.4.33 Nine households said that they were single parents and a further two households said that they were couples with children.
- 3.4.34 In terms of the age of head of household and other household members, six heads of household living on sites are aged between 25 and 34. There were thirty under 16 year olds living on the site, 23 of whom were children under ten years of age.

**Table 3-13 Age Of Household Members**  
**Question 13**

Age of household members	Head of household		All household members	
	%	N <sup>os.</sup>	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
0 – 10	0.0	0	46.0	23
11 – 15	0.0	0	14.0	7
16 – 24	7.1	1	12.0	6
25 – 34	42.9	6	14.0	7
35 – 49	28.6	4	8.0	4
50 – 64	21.4	3	6.0	3
65 – 79	0.0	0	0.0	0
80+	0.0	0	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>50</b>

- 3.4.35 The average number of people per household was 3.6. This is higher than the UK average of 2.5 for general settled households as endorsed by the 2011 Census.

### 3.5 Future Accommodation Needs

- 3.5.36 The moving intentions and future accommodation requirements of those currently living on the site were considered through a set of questions to help identify the need for future planning provision.

**Table 3-14 Are You Intending To Move From Your Current Site?**  
**Question 14**

	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
No	86.6	13
Never	0.0	0
Don't Know	0.0	0
Yes within a month	0.0	0
Yes within 3 months	6.7	1
Yes within 6 months	0.0	0
Yes within a year	0.0	0
Yes within 3 years	6.7	1
Yes within 5 years	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15</b>

- 3.5.37 Based on responses from all 15 households, 13 had no intention of moving.
- 3.5.38 Two households said that they had plans to move from the site.

**Table 3-15 Why Are You Intending To Move From Your Current Site?**  
**Question 15**

	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
Accommodation	0.0	0
Neighbourhood	0.0	0
Neighbours / other people	6.7	1
Location	0.0	0
Far from shops	0.0	0
Far from doctors	0.0	0
Far from schools	0.0	0
Far from work	0.0	0
Far from family	0.0	0
Want to travel to a specific event	0.0	0
Always travel at this time of year	0.0	0
Harassment	6.7	1
Nearer friends and family	0.0	0
Eviction / Enforcement action	0.0	0
No security of tenure e.g. Private rented sector	0.0	0
Site not permanent i.e. threat of eviction	0.0	0
Don't want to be in a house	0.0	0
Do not like it here	0.0	0
Other	6.7	1
<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>3</b>

- 3.5.39 The two households planning to move were asked why they were intending to move. In response to the multiple choice question, households gave an average of 1.5 reasons. One stated that they were being harassed and it was because of the neighbours and the other wanted their independence.

**Table 3-16 Are You on Any Site / House Waiting Lists?**  
**Question 16**

	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
Yes – housing waiting list	0.0	0
Yes – site waiting list	50.0	1
No	50.0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2</b>

- 3.5.40 One out of the two moving households said they were on a waiting list.

### 3.6 Needs of New Households Forming

- 3.6.41 Four households currently living on a site indicated that they had a family member who would be looking for independent accommodation in the next 5 years.
- 3.6.42 In all 4 cases there was one family member looking for independent accommodation.

**Table 3-17** Is there anyone in your household likely to want their own accommodation in the next five years?  
Question 17

	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
No	73.3	11
One	26.7	4
Two	0.0	0
Three or more	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15</b>

- 3.6.43 It is not known how many of these individuals will form households together, they are therefore all counted individually and it is assumed they will all need separate pitches.
- 3.6.44 The level of future family formation is calculated in the model in section 5.
- 3.6.45 None of the future newly forming households wanted to live in bricks and mortar housing.
- 3.6.46 Those requiring independent site accommodation were asked what type of site accommodation they would be looking for and which area they wanted to move to. All four wanted to live on a local authority site.

**Table 3-18** What kind of accommodation or site would they be looking for?  
Question 18

	%	N <sup>os.</sup>
House/bungalow/flat	0.0	0
Supported Housing (including sheltered)	0.0	0
Local Authority site	100.0	4
Private site (e.g. caravan site)	0.0	0
Transit site	0.0	0
Roadside camp/car park	0.0	0
Unauthorised encampment – privately owned	0.0	0
Unauthorised encampment – Council owned	0.0	0
Site owned by yourself or your family with planning permission granted	0.0	0
Site owned by yourself or your family with planning permission not granted	0.0	0
Site owned by another Gypsy or Traveller with planning permission granted	0.0	0
Site owned by another Gypsy or Traveller with planning permission not granted	0.0	0
Other	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>

- 3.6.47 Households with a concealed household were asked if there was an opportunity for the concealed households to stay on the site with them. Two said yes and two said no.
- 3.6.48 The pitches on Dyes Lane can accommodate two caravans and it can be assumed that the two households that said they could accommodate the concealed households would put a second caravan on their existing pitch.

**Table 3-19** Is There The Ability For Them to Share a Site With You?  
**Question 19**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
Yes	50.0	2
No	50.0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>

**Table 3-20** Do you know what area they would prefer to live in?  
**Question 20**

	%	N <sup>OS.</sup>
Within Stevenage Borough	0.0	0
Letchworth/Hitchin/Baldock	0.0	0
East Herts	100.0	4
Elsewhere in North Herts	0.0	0
Welwyn Hatfield	0.0	0
St Albans	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Hertfordshire	0.0	0
Central Bedfordshire	0.0	0
Barnet/Enfield	0.0	0
Elsewhere in London South East	0.0	0
Within the UK but outside the South East	0.0	0
Outside the UK	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>

- 3.6.49 All four new forming households wished to move to East Hertfordshire. Two out of the four newly forming households can be accommodated on existing pitches on the Dyes Lane site.
- 3.6.50 The average number of new forming households over the five year period is less than one a year.

### 3.7 Secondary Data

3.7.51 Table 3-21 below gives a summary of the Caravan Count on authorised social and private sites since 2008. The data on the July 2013 count has not yet been released.

**Table 3-21 Caravan Count of Authorised Sites Jan 2008 – Jan 2013**

Date	Stevenage	Broxbourne	East Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire	Welwyn Hatfield
Jan 2013	33*	24*/12**	15**	18**	78*/33**
July 2012	29*	25*/12**	17**	18**	74*/39**
Jan 2012	27*	21*/12**	15**	10**	77*/23**
July 2011	38*	23*/12**	17**	30**	74*/30**
Jan 2011	29*	24*/12**	15**	27**	60*/18**
July 2010	17*	25*/12**	14**	16**	58*/15**
Jan 2010	24*	23*/12**	18**	24**	58*/15**
July 2009	35*	28*/0**	13**	16**	58*/15**
Jan 2009	32*	23*/13**	10**	23**	58*/15**
July 2008	27*	27*/12**	9**	23**	58*/15**
Jan 2008	34*	28*/12**	8**	18**	58*/15**

\*Social Rented Sites

\*\*Private Caravan Sites

- 3.7.52 Even though sites may be permanent the Caravan Count takes into account the number of caravans actually on the site at the time of the count. The fluctuation on social sites will either be due to households travelling or vacancies on the site.
- 3.7.53 Stevenage increased the capacity of their social site from 28 to 34 caravans in 2010.
- 3.7.54 Broxbourne has a mix of social and private sites with a total of 36 caravans recorded in January 2013.
- 3.7.55 East Hertfordshire has only private sites with a total of 15 caravans recorded in January 2013.
- 3.7.56 In January 2013 North Hertfordshire had only private sites with 15 caravans recorded on sites with planning permission and 3 with temporary planning permission.
- 3.7.57 Welwyn Hatfield has a mix of social and private sites with a total of 111 caravans recorded in January 2013. There were 2 caravans on a private site with temporary planning permission.



- 3.7.58 Table 3-22 gives a summary of the Caravan Count for unauthorised sites since the previous study.

**Table 3-22 Caravan Count of Unauthorised Sites Jan 2008 – Jan 2013**

Date	Stevenage	Broxbourne	East Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire	Welwyn Hatfield
Jan 2013	0	24**	0	5*/2**	7**
July 2012	0	33**	0	6**	2**
Jan 2012	0	40**	0	5*/2**	7**
July 2011	0	26**	0	0	5**
Jan 2011	0	35**	0	0	16**
July 2010	0	23**	0	0	0
Jan 2010	0	28**	0	0	0
July 2009	0	24**	0	0	0
Jan 2009	0	28**	0	0	0
July 2008	19**	20**	0	7*	0
Jan 2008	0	24**	0	0	0

\*Tolerated Sites

\*\*Not Tolerated

- 3.7.59 There has been only one unauthorised site Stevenage since the previous study and that was in 2008. The neighbouring LAs in particular Broxbourne had unauthorised sites the majority of them were not tolerated.
- 3.7.60 This appears to reflect a lack of demand in Stevenage, albeit it could also be a consequence of limited availability of vacant land or measures to prevent access to vacant land.
- 3.7.61 County Council data shows that there is currently one pitch vacancy at Dyes Lane.
- 3.7.62 Households have the ability to apply for a pitch on the site at Dyes Lane and the waiting list typically lies at 4 applicants who have chosen Dyes Lane as their first choice.
- 3.7.63 At present the 4 households on the waiting list will be addressed through the turnover on Dyes Lane but this could take 2 years to clear, providing no one else joins the waiting list.
- 3.7.64 Further pitches will be required and Stevenage should consider the information set out in the CLG's 'Planning for Traveller Sites March 2012' document that sets out the Government's planning policy for Traveller sites. This should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework.

### 3.8 Health & Education

- 3.8.1 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.
- 3.8.2 DCA consulted health and education officers to determine any issues regarding housing and education.
- 3.8.3 The information received was that all children were in full time education and that they had not identified any issues regarding housing requirements.

### **3.9 Review of the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Assessment 2006**

- 3.9.4 Stevenage Borough Council took part in a joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment with North Hertfordshire, Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire County Council, which was completed in June 2006.
- 3.9.5 No unauthorised developments were found during the study. A total of 8 interviews were achieved on Dyes Lane and there was no specific need identified.
- 3.9.6 In terms of demand to move to bricks and mortar there was little evidence that there was any need from this group.
- 3.9.7 At that time of the previous study there was one social rented site in Stevenage at Dyes Lane with 14 residential pitches. Since then this has been increased to 17 pitches.

## 4 TRANSIT PROVISION

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 In our experience transit provision is needed to accommodate families moving through districts, to accommodate families visiting the districts, and to accommodate vulnerable families who have been moved on from authorised or unauthorised sites locally.
- 4.1.2 There is currently no transit provision within Stevenage.
- 4.1.3 In line with current Guidance (October 2007) this report focuses on the need for permanent pitches. However, it is essential to maintain continuous monitoring of unauthorised encampment activity to help inform future planning for transit pitches across Stevenage.

### 4.2 Need Identified Through Local Data

- 4.2.1 DCA looked at the flow of unauthorised developments across the whole of Hertfordshire from 2008 – 2013.

**Table 4-1 Caravan Count of Un-Authorised Sites Jan 2008 – Jan 2013**

Date	Stevenage	Broxbourne	East Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire	Welwyn Hatfield
Jan 2013	0	24**	0	5*/2**	7**
July 2012	0	33**	0	6**	2**
Jan 2012	0	40**	0	5*/2**	7**
July 2011	0	26**	0	0	5**
Jan 2011	0	35**	0	0	16**
July 2010	0	23**	0	0	0
Jan 2010	0	28**	0	0	0
July 2009	0	24**	0	0	0
Jan 2009	0	28**	0	0	0
July 2008	19**	20**	0	7*	0
Jan 2008	0	24**	0	0	0

\*Tolerated Sites \*\*Not Tolerated

- 4.2.2 There has been only one unauthorised site Stevenage since the previous study and that was in 2008. The neighbouring LAs in particular Broxbourne had unauthorised sites the majority of them were not tolerated.
- 4.2.3 The data on unauthorised encampments in Stevenage between 2008 and 2013 was analysed. Figures are the number of caravans.

**Table 4-2 Un-Authorised Encampments Jan 2008 – Jan 2013**

Date	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Stevenage</b>	23	0	2	10	0	0
<b>Broxbourne</b>	0	3	10	0	0	0
<b>East Hertfordshire</b>	0	0	17	8	0	0
<b>North Hertfordshire</b>	58	0	35	0	3	0
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	18	2	3	9	10	3

Source: Stevenage Council

- 4.2.4 The number of unauthorised encampments in Stevenage has remained similar to the previous study. There are also recordings of unauthorised encampments throughout the neighbouring LAs. Welwyn Hatfield appears to have regular unauthorised encampments each year.
- 4.2.5 As seen in Table 4-2 unauthorised encampments in Stevenage have been minimal and have recorded only one instance involving 10 caravans in the last 3 years.
- 4.2.6 All of the unauthorised encampments in Stevenage between 2008 and 2011 moved on within days as a consequence of the issue of formal notices or they moved on by themselves.
- 4.2.7 With such low numbers of unauthorised encampments we would not consider this to be significant enough to warrant a designated transit site in Stevenage.
- 4.2.8 Transit provision can be a contentious issue. The impression of transit sites strongly suggests that transit provision can be problematic in management terms and contentious in political terms.
- 4.2.9 Our experience in other areas has suggested that transit sites are difficult and expensive to manage, with higher levels of damage to sites, and more likelihood of disturbances on transit sites. On the other hand, well managed and equipped transit sites may be difficult to move people on from, and were in danger of becoming unofficial permanent sites.
- 4.2.10 These issues should be addressed through strong management locally and in the planning system.
- 4.2.11 The cost of providing a transit site can vary dramatically depending on what amenities are provided. These costs could range from £50,000 to adapt a basic piece of ground, gravelled with fencing and water supply to over £500,000 which can provide a hard standing area with efficient drainage, lights, metal fencing and water supply.
- 4.2.12 More exploration would be needed to accurately cost a full transit site.
- 4.2.13 Based on information from other council's who have transit sites the average charge for a pitch range from £20.00 - £35.00 per caravan per week. This figure is just indicative.
- 4.2.14 The Caravan Count and local data from Stevenage provides an insight into unauthorised encampment activity over time; however, some care should be taken in assuming that encampments necessarily equate to a need for transit pitches.
- 4.2.15 The GTAA guidance assumes that households on unauthorised encampments should be assessed as having a need for a permanent pitch within the study area; in the district they are found.
- 4.2.16 **From secondary data there is no evidence for the need of a transit site in Stevenage.** A further GTAA in 2018 should assess the progress in meeting the need for permanent pitches and the residual demand for transit pitches to facilitate movement.

## 5 GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS MODEL

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Gypsy and Traveller needs model used in this report is based on latest Government Guidance (October 2007). Data used in the model is drawn from secondary data provided by the local authorities and local government data.
- 5.1.2 Projections of need are made for the next 5 years, and the study will need to be updated in 2018. This approach is consistent with guidance (recommending projections between 5 to 10 years). This update provides information for the development of plans and strategies to meet both the backlog of need and need arising from family formation over the next 5 years. Once the backlog of need is cleared local authorities will be in a very different position in terms of the need to plan for future family formation after 2018.
- 5.1.3 The sections below provide details of how the need for new permanent pitches in Stevenage over the next 5 years has been calculated.
- 5.1.4 The potential scale of future pitch requirements over the decade after 2018 are forecasts which are subject to major caveats bearing in mind the nature of a nomadic community and the data on which pitch requirements are based.
- 5.1.5 Section 5.2 outlines the supply of authorised pitches currently available in Stevenage. This is the total current “stock” of pitches available to accommodate Gypsy and Traveller families locally.
- 5.1.6 Section 5.3 outlines the need for permanent authorised pitches identified through the study. This includes both the backlog of need, and newly arising need from 2013 - 2018.
- 5.1.7 The backlog of need is made up from households currently living on unauthorised sites who do not have a base elsewhere; households who are overcrowded on local authorised sites within the study area; and concealed households with a need for their own accommodation.
- 5.1.8 Newly arising need from potential new household formation from family members between 2013 and 2018 comes from data based on the household interviews.
- 5.1.9 Section 5.3 examines the flow of pitches that are expected to become available through vacancies / pitch turnover on authorised local authority sites and through new planning approvals.
- 5.1.10 The supply from vacancies and new planning approvals will reduce the overall level of need identified, leaving a **net figure of 3 additional permanent pitches** needed in Stevenage 2013 – 2018. This is shown in section 5.6.
- 5.1.11 The position on transit pitches was addressed in section 4.

## 5.2 Current Supply

**Table 5-1 Current Residential Supply**

1	Current supply of occupied Local Authority residential site pitches in the Local Authority / partnership area (Caravan Count & Council Data)	17
2	Current supply of occupied authorised privately owned site pitches in the Local Authority / partnership area (Caravan Count & Survey Data)	0
3	<b>Total permanent supply</b>	<b>17</b>

5.2.1 The total residential supply of authorised site pitches in Table 5-1 is based on the Caravan Count of Pitches January 2013.

5.2.2 Table 5-2 below shows the calculation of the pitches for each local authority against the Caravan Count (2013).

**Table 5-2 Pitches on Authorised Sites**

	Council data Sept 2013	Caravan Count Jan 2013
Stevenage	17	17

5.2.3 The number of households (18, two of which share one pitch) on the site was taken from data provided by Stevenage Council and the interview team. There was one vacant pitch on the site.

5.2.4 On this basis 17 pitches were identified on Local Authority sites and none on private sites at lines 1 and 2 respectively in the current residential supply table above.

5.2.5 Line 2 of the supply table also includes pitches on private sites with temporary permission at the time of the study. Those where permission will expire by 2018 will also constitute a future arising need in line 14 below. **There were no pitches with temporary permission in Stevenage.**

5.2.6 Line 3 in Table 5-1 shows a total of 17 permanent site pitches were identified in Stevenage.

### 5.3 Need

- 5.3.1 Table 5-3 below examines the need for permanent site pitches within the study area. Lines 4 – 8 show the backlog of need and lines 12 - 14 show the newly arising need from 2013 – 2018.
- 5.3.2 The 2008 report did not highlight any particular need in Stevenage and this study will use the figure of zero backlog of permanent pitches needed.

**Table 5-3 Current Residential Backlog of Need**

4	Households on unauthorised encampments where planning permission is not expected (Caravan Count & Council Data)	0
5	Households on unauthorised developments where planning permission is not expected (Caravan Count & Council Data)	0
6	Households currently overcrowded on authorised sites	0
7	Current back log of concealed / new family formation within existing households on sites	0
<b>8</b>	<b>Total current residential demand backlog</b>	<b>0</b>
9	Less Number of unused local authority pitches, and vacancies on privately owned sites available in local authority/partnership area (Local Authority Data)	1
10	Less number of households on unauthorised development pitches likely to gain planning permission (Local Authority Data)	0
<b>11</b>	<b>Current shortfall/ (surplus)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Newly Arising Need</b>		
12	New household formation to 2013 - 2018	4
13	Waiting List need 2013 - 2018	4
<b>14</b>	<b>Total newly arising need</b>	<b>8</b>

- 5.3.3 The following paragraphs detail line by line the needs identified through the study.
- 5.3.4 Lines 4 and 5 show the need arising from households currently living on unauthorised sites. Based on an average of the last 3 years Caravan Counts the study identified no households living on unauthorised sites in Stevenage.
- 5.3.5 Line 6 shows the need arising from overcrowded households.
- 5.3.6 The definition of overcrowding given in the Guidance states that a pitch will be overcrowded where “family members have grown to the extent that there is now insufficient space for the family within its caravan accommodation and insufficient space on the pitch to site a further caravan”.
- 5.3.7 Council data showed capacity for two living units per household on local authority pitches in Stevenage. There is only one pitch accommodating two households, the site is therefore not at maximum capacity. The other 7 occupied pitches have room for another caravan. There is also a vacant pitch which will accommodate two caravans.

- 5.3.8 Survey data has shown nine overcrowded households on the existing site in Stevenage. However four have been identified as containing future new forming households over the next five years and the remaining five can be accommodated in a further caravan on the pitch and **zero is therefore used in the model**.
- 5.3.9 Line 7 covers the backlog of new family formation within existing households. This is identified as the number of concealed / new forming households currently living on an authorised or unauthorised site and looking for their own site accommodation within the next 12 months. There is **no backlog of concealed** households.
- 5.3.10 The total current residential demand backlog (**zero at line 8 of needs model**) is the current backlog of unmet need.
- 5.3.11 There is **one** unused Local Authority pitch likely to be brought back into use, reflected in line 9 and which is included within the supply total of 5 discussed in Para. 5.5.5.
- 5.3.12 There are no pitches on unauthorised encampments / developments that were expected to gain planning permission were identified, therefore **zero** was entered at line 10.

## 5.4 Newly Arising Need

- 5.4.13 Lines 12 – 14 of Table 5-3 address the newly arising need from 2013 to 2018, and covers both new family formation up to 2018, temporary planning consents due to expire by 2018, and waiting list data.

### New Forming Households

- 5.4.14 Household interviews confirmed that there are **four** potentially new forming households identified over the next five years. Respondents advised that two out of these four new forming households can be accommodated on existing pitches.
- 5.4.15 National experience of future household growth has been 4% to 5% per annum which if applied to a full site of 17 households, would be 4 to 5 pitches over five years, similar to the identified survey need.
- 5.4.16 Additionally, although all four potential new households would prefer to move to East Hertfordshire, we have maintained the **forecast of 4 pitches** required to be available in Stevenage over the period to 2018.

### Waiting List Need

- 5.4.17 Households have the ability to apply for a pitch on every one of the ten sites in the County and the waiting list of 98 does not represent the true number of households.
- 5.4.18 Some of these households are on the waiting lists of other authorities in the region and they may be housed on another site in the County.
- 5.4.19 The data from the waiting list shows that there are 4 households registered for the Dyes Lane site as their first choice.
- 5.4.20 **We have therefore used 4 pitches in line 13 as a forecast for future need to 2018.**
- 5.4.21 No households were identified living on sites with temporary permission due to expire before 2018.



## 5.5 Projected Supply 2013 – 2018

5.5.1 Table 5-4 below shows the projected flow of vacant pitches and new pitch approvals between 2013– 2018.

**Table 5-4 Current Projected Supply**

15	Vacancies arising on authorised sites	1
16	New Local Authority pitches already planned in year 1 (Local Authority data)	0
17	Existing applications for private site development / extension likely to gain planning permission during year 1 (number of pitches) (Local Authority data)	0
<b>18</b>	<b>Annual total pitches available</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Available over 5 years</b>	<b>5</b>

5.5.2 The turnover of plots at Dyes Lane is outlined in the table below.

**Table 5-5 Site Turnover**

Date	From	To	Type of Move
14/3/10	Plot 12	Plot 16	Internal Transfer
22/3/10	Unknown	Plot 12	New Tenant
11/4/10	Plot 9	Plot 17	Internal Transfer
11/4/10	Plot 11	Plot 9	Internal Transfer
19/4/10	Unknown	Plot 11	New Tenant
19/8/10	Plot 7	Unknown	Internal Transfer
27/9/10	Another Hertfordshire Site	Plot 7	Transfer from other site

5.5.3 Although there have been several moves within the Dyes Lane site, Stevenage Council data suggest that the majority have been internal pitch transfers.

5.5.4 There have effectively been only 3 vacancies in the last three years and they were all in 2010 when the site was extended.

5.5.5 However, County Council data shows that there is presently one vacancy on the site and the County Council is also in the process of re-possessing a pitch due the household abandoning the pitch, a total of **five** over the four years to 2013.

5.5.6 Although this is a stable community, survey data also identifies one household intending to leave the site in three months and another within in three years. It is reasonable therefore to assume a supply of **one** pitch a year in future. Line 15 of the model reflects local management data.

5.5.7 The actual number and location of vacancies arising in any year will depend on a number of factors, including the availability of alternative accommodation and personal family circumstances.

5.5.8 We recommend that the flow of vacancies should be monitored on an on-going basis as the level of need identified is very small. The supply of vacancies is a critical factor in determining the need for new pitches over the next 5 years and any increase or decrease in the projected supply from vacancies will impact on the overall level of need.

- 5.5.9 Practice Guidance “Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (Oct 2007) also encourages local authorities to consider how the flow of new public or private pitch development will impact on the level of need identified through the study.
- 5.5.10 There are a number of problems with predicting new site development. For example approvals depend on suitable sites being available for development, on resources being available to develop sites and on successful applications being made through the planning system.
- 5.5.11 There is a reluctance to predict future new approvals on the basis of either historic approvals or existing applications for site development. The flow of new applications over the next 5 years is simply not known and may vary significantly from the historic patterns of provision.
- 5.5.12 New provision will be planned on the basis of the need identified through the GTAA.
- 5.5.13 The level of new provision should be monitored on an on-going basis and used to inform future GTAAs.
- 5.5.14 There are **no applications in the pipeline for private site development**. This is reflected in line 17.
- 5.5.15 The model assumes that the level of supply identified at one per year, will be sustained in future years, giving a **total supply of 5** (line 19 in Table 5-4 over 5 years).

## 5.6 Summary of Needs Accommodation Model

- 5.6.1 The table below is a summary of the net need for additional pitches in Stevenage.

**Table 5-6 The Need for Additional Permanent Pitches 2013 - 2018**

Backlog of Need	0
Newly Arising need 2013 - 2018	4
Waiting List need to 2018	<u>4</u>
Total Need to 2018	8
Less supply from vacancies 2013 - 2018	5
<b>Net Need for New Permanent Pitches to 2018</b>	<b>3</b>

## 5.7 Future forecasts beyond 2018

- 5.7.2 Forecasting general housing requirements is subject to major changes in Government policy, the economy, house prices interest rates, affordability and by international migration.
- 5.7.3 Attempting to forecast the need for pitches for 15 years as required in Planning Guidance is even more difficult to predict and the caveats for a nomadic community with limited local connections are potentially more significant than the very small numbers involved in Stevenage.
- 5.7.4 There is no additional data to be able to specifically predict need over the ten years beyond 2018. It would however be reasonable to consider potential new pitch provision for 3 to 5 households in each 5 year period, 6 to 10 pitches in total by 2028. With numbers so small, pitch turnover and waiting list need must be annually monitored.

## 5.8 Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- 5.8.5 In addition to the needs arising from site based households within the study area there may also be a need from Gypsy and Traveller households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 5.8.6 The 2011 Census suggests that there are 67 White Gypsy or Irish Travellers living in Stevenage.
- 5.8.7 The survey data collected states that there are 50 residents on the site at Dyes Lane Stevenage accounting for 75% of the 2011 Census figures which are now two and a half years old. However not all households were interviewed so the number of the people on the site will be nearer to the Census figure.
- 5.8.8 We would therefore presume that there are few Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar. However, the needs of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation have not been included in the model because there was no available data.
- 5.8.9 Stevenage Council data suggested that there had been four Gypsy and Traveller applications to live in permanent housing in the last year.
- 5.8.10 Guidance encourages local authorities to collect this data, and it is recommended that systems are in place to enable future Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments to be weighted for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation, so that their needs can be more fully reflected in future GTAA studies.

## 5.9 New Provision in Stevenage

- 5.9.1 The County Council site at Dyes Lane, Stevenage has already been extended to 17 pitches, capable of housing 34 caravans.
- 5.9.2 On the basis of the waiting list data, there is a need for around 4 pitches in Stevenage from households who do not currently live in the Borough.
- 5.9.3 Need arising from new household formation within existing site households is estimated at five pitches over the period to 2018.
- 5.9.4 There is likely to be some supply from turnover of existing site pitches and based on past experience at an average of 1 vacancy occurs per year, so turnover would provide 5 pitch vacancies over the 5 year period.
- 5.9.5 This would leave a net need of 4 pitches between 2013 and 2018.

## 5.10 Transit Need

- 5.10.1 Transit pitches address the needs of households travelling through the area. The level of unauthorised encampments in Stevenage has not been significant averaging around three caravans a year over the last 3 years which suggests there is no need for Transit pitches.
- 5.10.2 If transit pitches are planned, it is important that they are developed and managed County-wide with local protocols to enable effective use of sites locally.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 New Permanent Pitch Provision

- 6.1.1 The key recommendation from this study is for a **potential additional 3 new authorised site pitches** to be made available between 2013 and 2018 to deal with the projected need likely to arise within the study area.
- 6.1.2 On the basis of County Council waiting list data, there is a waiting list need for around 4 pitches in Stevenage from households who do not currently live in the Borough.
- 6.1.3 Need arising from new household formation from households on the Dyes Lane site is also estimated at 4 pitches over the period to 2018.
- 6.1.4 There is likely to be some supply from turnover of existing site pitches and based on past experience at an average of 1 vacancy occurs per year, turnover would provide 5 vacancies over the 5 year period.
- 6.1.5 This would leave a net need of 3 pitches between 2013 and 2018.
- 6.1.6 More detailed analysis is required to be able to justify additional permanent pitches as this small level of need may be able to be addressed by transit site provision to cover the combined County area.
- 6.1.7 Pitches need to be large enough to accommodate a modern mobile home and additional vehicles to enable travelling and to accommodate visitors and future family growth.

### 6.2 New Transit Pitch Provision

- 6.2.1 There is **no current** identified need for a transit site to be provided in Stevenage.
- 6.2.2 However unauthorised encampments should be monitored and any significant increase in numbers should be addressed. The distribution of any future transit pitches should be discussed at regional level.
- 6.2.3 Transit pitches should be managed at County level with adjacent authorities and supported by an expanded Management Protocol for Unauthorised Encampments.

### 6.3 Planning Policy

- 6.3.1 Local planning authorities should make provision for identified needs through their Local Plans which should contain policies that set out site search criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites which will be used to guide the allocation of sites in relevant Development Plan documents.
- 6.3.2 Any new sites should be located in areas considered appropriate for general residential use, and with access to local services and facilities within existing communities.
- 6.3.3 Planning applications should be considered on their merits in the context of site size and location and the population density of the surrounding area.

6.3.4 To support the development of private sites support should be given to the community to help them through the planning system. Additionally, financial options should be developed to enable families to access finance for site development either independently or in a shared ownership capacity with a housing association partner.

6.3.5 New approvals and the flow of vacancies arising on existing authorised sites should be monitored against the recommendations of this report and used to inform future GTAAs.

## **6.4 Partnership Working**

6.4.1 NPPF states that local authorities have a Duty to Co-operate with adjacent local authorities on future delivery to meet ongoing housing requirements. The County Council have a robust information system on the need for pitches by location.

6.4.2 DCA would recommend that any provision for Gypsy & Travellers should be discussed with County Council and adjacent local authorities to ensure that the provision best meets the needs of the community. In view of the nature of this community and that need is not all locally generated this co-operation should be a continuous process.

## **6.5 Future Accommodation Assessments**

6.5.1 Future accommodation assessments should be carried out every 5 years, with the next study to be carried out in 2018. Future studies should provide an update on the level of need and growth in provision locally.

6.5.2 We recommend that the local authority put in place systems to monitor the number of Gypsies and Travellers accommodated in social housing. Discussions with DCLG have confirmed the intention that Local Authorities should, in future assessments, be able to estimate the level of need arising from households in bricks and mortar accommodation.

## **6.6 Site Management**

6.6.1 It is essential that a strong site management structure is maintained to ensure that authorised sites are well-managed and unauthorised encampments are responded to appropriately and effectively.

6.6.2 Stevenage should work with other Hertfordshire Authorities and the County Council to maintain a set of benchmarking standards to measure the performance of site management.

## **6.7 Health, Education and Financial Support**

6.7.1 New sites should be developed with access to local facilities in mind.

6.7.2 A local code of guidance should be developed by Occupational Therapy to enable Gypsy and Traveller families to gain equal access to adaptations compared to the settled community. Information and advice should be made available on access to benefits and financial support.

## 7 REFERENCES

- ODPM (2007) "Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments Guidance"
- ODPM (2012) "Planning policy for Traveller Sites"
- (2008) "Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment"

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Questionnaire**

**GYPSY / TRAVELLER STUDY**

**WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS** Please tick

**IF WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS NEED SITE ADDRESS ONLY**

**GRID/SITE NUMBER:**

**RESPONDENT DETAILS:**

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME: MR/MRS/MISS/MS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO: STD CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

***INTERVIEWER'S DECLARATION***

I certify that this interview was carried out according to Mill Field Services' instructions and within the MRS Code of Conduct.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NO: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## INTRODUCTION:

Good morning / afternoon / evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am from an independent research company called Mill Field Services (**SHOW MRS IDENTIFICATION**). We have been asked by Stevenage Borough Council to see what type and quantity of accommodation Gypsies and Travellers need locally, now and in the future. We want to be sure that we understand what Gypsies and Travellers need and want, so we would like to talk to a number of people on this site to get a range of views.

Would you be willing to talk to me? It will probably take approximately 15 minutes. If you agree, I will be writing down your answers but the interview will be completely confidential. We are completely independent of any local council. No-one will be identified in any report, and there is no way that anyone will be able to trace any particular answer back to you.

Is that ok with you? Are you willing to talk to me now? If it's awkward, I could call back later on today.

If, during the interview, a particular question comes up that you'd really rather not answer, then please just say so.

**MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE GYPSY / TRAVELLER STUDY**

**SECTION A: ARE YOU WILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SURROUNDING CURRENT ACCOMMODATION?  
YES/NO (IF NO GO TO SECTION B)**

Now I'd like to ask some questions around your current accommodation. (If asked explain that Councils need to have a picture of current need in order to plan site provision.

**Q1 DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS?**

- Romany Gypsy or English Traveller ..... 1
- Irish Traveller ..... 2
- Welsh Gypsy or Traveller ..... 3
- Scottish Gypsy or Traveller ..... 4
- New Traveller..... 5
- Horse Drawn Traveller ..... 6
- Fairground Traveller ..... 7
- Van Dweller ..... 8
- None ..... 9
- Don't know ..... 10
- Other (please specify)..... 11
- .....

**IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW WHAT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE IS?  
(please specify)**

---

**Q2 IS THIS YOUR MAIN ACCOMMODATION/HOME?**

Yes ..... 1

 **GO TO Q3**

No ..... 2

 **GO TO Q4**

**Q3 WHAT TYPE / NUMBER LIVING UNITS (MOBILE HOMES, HOUSES/ BUNGALOWS AND TRAILERS) DO YOU HAVE AT PRESENT?**

**PROBE TO DISTINGUISH MOBILE HOMES AND TOURING CARAVANS / TRAILERS. (Circle number)**

	This site			Elsewhere		
	One	Two	Three or more	One	Two	Three or more
House/Bungalow/ Flat/Maisonette	1	2	3	1	2	3
Supported Housing (including sheltered)	1	2	3	1	2	3
Mobile home- permanent site	1	2	3	1	2	3
Mobile home- transit sites	1	2	3	1	2	3
Touring caravan/ trailer- permanent site	1	2	3	1	2	3
Touring caravan/ trailer- transit sites	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vans	1	2	3	1	2	3
Additional vehicles	1	2	3	1	2	3
Work Vehicles	1	2	3	1	2	3

**Q4 IF THIS IS NOT YOUR MAIN ACCOMMODATION / HOME, WHERE IS IT LOCATED?**

- Within Stevenage Borough ..... 1
- Letchworth/Hitchin/Baldock ..... 2
- East Herts ..... 3
- Elsewhere in North Herts..... 4
- Welwyn Hatfield ..... 5
- St Albans..... 6
- Elsewhere in Hertfordshire ..... 7
- Central Bedfordshire..... 8
- Barnet/Enfield..... 9
- Elsewhere in London South East ..... 10
- Within the UK but outside the South East..... 11
- Outside the UK..... 12

**Q5 HOW MANY BEDROOMS DOES YOUR MAIN ACCOMMODATION HAVE?**

- One..... 1
- Two..... 2
- Three ..... 3
- Four or more ..... 4

**Q6 WHAT IS YOUR ACCOMMODATION TYPE?**

House / Bungalow / Flat / Maisonette ..... 1  
 Supported Housing (including sheltered) ..... 2  
 Mobile Home – permanent site..... 3  
 Mobile home – transit sites ..... 4  
 Touring caravan / trailer permanent site ..... 5  
 Touring caravan / trailer transit sites ..... 6  
 Vans..... 7  
 Additional vehicles ..... 8  
 Work vehicles..... 9

**Q7 DO YOU OWN THE ACCOMMODATION, OR RENT IT?**

Owner-occupier ..... 1  
 Renting from private landlord ..... 2  
 Council tenant..... 3  
 RSL / HA tenant ..... 4  
 Rent from family / friend / employer ..... 5

**Q8 IS THIS PLACE ADEQUATE FOR YOUR NEEDS?**

**CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY**

	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Site or pitch</b>
Adequate.....	1	1
Not adequate – accommodation is temporary .....	2	2
Not adequate – Do not want to be in a house .....	3	3
Not adequate - too small .....	2	2
Not adequate – too big.....	3	3
Not adequate – lack of basic amenities.....	4	4
Not adequate – lack of or poor facilities .....	4	4
Not adequate – neighbours .....	5	5
Not adequate – harassment .....	6	6
Not adequate – want to travel again.....	7	7
Not adequate – security .....	8	8
Not adequate – needs repair work.....	9	9
Not adequate – other please state .....	11	11

.....

If they are in permanent housing  GO TO Q13

**Q9 WHAT IS THE TENURE OF YOUR CURRENT SITE?**

Site owned by you and your family with planning permission granted ..... 1  
Site owned by you and your family with planning permission not granted ..... 2  
Site owned by another Gypsy/Traveller with planning permission granted..... 3  
Site owned by another Gypsy/Traveller with planning permission not granted ..... 4  
Site owned by Council..... 5  
Site owned by HA..... 6  
Site owned by private landlord..... 7  
Unauthorised encampment – privately owned..... 8  
Unauthorised encampment – Council owned ..... 9  
Other (please specify)..... 10  
.....

**Q10 HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SITE AT WHICH YOU ARE CURRENTLY LIVING?**

Very satisfied ..... 1  
Satisfied ..... 2  
Neither..... 3  
Dissatisfied..... 4  
Very dissatisfied..... 5

**Q11 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE?**

A day or two ..... 1  
Less than one week ..... 2  
Less than 1 month ..... 3  
Less than 3 months..... 4  
Less than 6 months..... 5  
Between 6 months and 1 year ..... 6  
Between 1 year and 5 years ..... 7  
5 years and over ..... 8

**Q12 DO YOU HAVE A BASE / SITE / PITCH / REGULAR STOPPING PLACE / HOME SOMEWHERE ELSE?**

Yes..... 1  
No..... 2

**SECTION B: YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SURROUNDING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY?**

**YES/NO (IF NO GO TO SECTION C)**

I'd like now to ask a few questions about yourself and your family who live with you. (If asked, explain that personal issues like schooling and access to health care are important in planning site provision).

**Q13 THINKING ABOUT EVERYONE WHO LIVES WITH YOU (IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY), CAN YOU TELL ME HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE, INCLUDING YOURSELF, IN EACH AGE RANGE?**

Relationship (tick all appropriate)	Age								Gender		Respondent tick box	
	0-10	11-15	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65-79	80+	M	F		
Head of Household	✓	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Spouse / partner		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Child 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Child 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Child 3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Child 4		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Child 5		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Child 6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 4		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 5		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 7		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grandchild 8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Parent 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Parent 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Other 1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Other 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Other 3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

**SECTION C – FUTURE ACCOMMODATION**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SURROUNDING YOUR FUTURE ACCOMMODATION?  
YES/NO (IF NO CLOSE)**

**Now I'd like to ask some questions about your views on accommodation options for Gypsies and Travellers. (If asked, explain that building up a picture of the future needs of Gypsies and Travellers is important for planning site provision)**

**Q14 ARE YOU INTENDING TO MOVE FROM YOUR CURRENT SITE?**

- |                       |   |   |                    |
|-----------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| No.....               | 1 | } | <b>☛ GO TO Q17</b> |
| Never .....           | 2 |   |                    |
| Don't know.....       | 3 |   |                    |
| Within a month .....  | 4 | } | <b>☛ GO TO Q15</b> |
| Within 3 months ..... | 5 |   |                    |
| Within 6 months ..... | 6 |   |                    |
| Within a year.....    | 7 |   |                    |
| Within 3 years .....  | 8 |   |                    |
| Within 5 years .....  | 9 |   |                    |


**Q15 WHY ARE YOU INTENDING TO LEAVE YOUR CURRENT SITE?  
(CODE ALL THAT APPLY) PROBE FOR MOST IMPORTANT**

- Accommodation ..... 1
- Neighbourhood ..... 2
- Neighbours / other people ..... 3
- Location..... 4
- Far from shops ..... 5
- Far from doctors ..... 6
- Far from schools..... 7
- Far from work ..... 8
- Far from family..... 9
- Want to travel to a specific event..... 10
- Always travel at this time of year ..... 11
- Harassment ..... 12
- Nearer friends and family ..... 13
- Eviction / Enforcement action ..... 14
- No security of tenure e.g. Private rented sector ..... 15
- Site not permanent i.e. threat of eviction ..... 16
- Don't want to be in a house..... 16
- Do not like it here ..... 17
- Other – please specify..... 18
- .....

**Q16 ARE YOU ON ANY SITE OR HOUSING WAITING LISTS? CODE ALL**

- Yes - Housing waiting list ..... 1
- Yes - Site waiting list ..... 2
- No..... 3

**Q17 IS THERE ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD (E.G. SONS, DAUGHTERS OR GRANDPARENTS) WHO IS LIKELY TO WANT THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?**

- No..... 1  Thank you and close
- One..... 2
- Two..... 3
- Three or more ..... 4

**Q18 DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATION OR SITE THEY WILL BE LOOKING FOR?**

- House/bungalow/flat.....1
- Supported Housing (including sheltered) .....2
- Local Authority site .....3
- Private site (e.g. caravan site).....4
- Transit site.....5
- Roadside camp/car park .....6
- Unauthorised encampment – privately owned.....7
- Unauthorised encampment – Council owned .....8
- Site owned by yourself or your family with planning permission granted .....9
- Site owned by yourself or your family with planning permission not granted .....10
- Site owned by another Gypsy or Traveller with planning permission granted .....11
- Site owned by another Gypsy or Traveller with planning permission not granted .....12
- Other site (please specify) .....13
- .....

**Q19 IS THERE THE ABILITY FOR THEM TO SHARE A SITE WITH YOU?**

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2



**Q20 DO YOU KNOW WHAT AREA THEY WOULD PREFER TO LIVE IN?**

Within Stevenage Borough ..... 1  
Letchworth/Hitchin/Baldock ..... 2  
East Herts ..... 3  
Elsewhere in North Herts..... 4  
Welwyn Hatfield ..... 5  
St Albans..... 6  
Elsewhere in Hertfordshire ..... 7  
Central Bedfordshire ..... 8  
Barnet/Enfield ..... 9  
Elsewhere in London South East ..... 10  
Within the UK but outside the South East ..... 11  
Outside the UK ..... 12

**THANK AND CLOSE**

## APPENDIX II

### Caravan Count

## Stevenage Caravan Count July 2007 - January 2013

**Table 1: Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans**

		Authorised sites (with planning permission)				Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				
		No. of Caravans	Private Caravans			No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		Total All Caravans
	Count		Socially Rented	Temporary Planning Permission	Permanent Planning Permission	All Private Caravans	"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	"Tolerated"	
Stevenage	Jan 2013	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
	Jul 2012	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Jan 2012	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
	Jul 2011	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
	Jan 2011	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Jul 2010	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Jan 2010	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
	Jul 2009	35	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	35
	Jan 2009	32	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	32
	Jul 2008	27	..	..	0	0	0	0	19	46
	Jan 2008	34	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	34
	Jul 2007	35	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	35
	Jan 2007	25	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	25

**Glossary of Terms**

## Glossary

It is noted that a number of these terms may be contested and debated. It is not DCA's intention to present these terms as absolute definitions but rather explanations provided are those DCA used in this assessment as their terms of reference.

Term	Explanation
<b>Amenity block</b>	On most residential Gypsy/Travellers sites these are buildings where basic plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC and sink) are provided at the rate of one building per pitch.
<b>Authorised local authority site/ Social site</b>	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Social Landlord.
<b>Authorised Private site</b>	An authorised site owned by a private individual (who may or may not be a Gypsy or a Traveller). These sites can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied and rented pitches.
<b>Bricks and mortar</b>	Permanent mainstream housing
<b>Caravan</b>	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.
<b>Concealed household</b>	A Concealed Household is someone living within a household wanting to move to their own accommodation and form a separate household (e.g. adult children living with their parents) and who are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.
<b>Green Belt</b>	A policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.
<b>Gypsy</b>	Members of Gypsy or Traveller communities. Usually used to describe Romany (English) Gypsies originating from India. This term is not acceptable to all Travellers
<b>Gypsies and Travellers</b> (as used in this assessment)	Consistent with the Housing Act 2004, inclusive of: all Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers, Show People, Circus People and Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. Can also include Roma and boat dwellers if there is evidence of a need, suppressed or otherwise, for pitch accommodation.
<b>Local Plan/Local Development Framework (LDF)</b>	A set of documents which a Local Planning Authority creates to describe their strategy for development and use of land in their area of authority.

<b>Over Crowding</b>	Overcrowding occurs when, using the bedroom standard, there are insufficient bedrooms in the property based on the number of residents and their age/sex/marital status composition. Over occupation is more common in the public sector than the private sector.
<b>Pitch/plot</b>	Area of land on a site/development generally home to one licensee household. Can be varying sizes and have varying caravan occupancy levels. Often also referred to as a plot, particularly in relation to Travelling Showpeople. There is no agreed definition as to the size of a pitch.
<b>Settled community</b>	Reference to non-Travellers (those that live in houses)
<b>Site</b>	An authorised area of land on which Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in trailers/chalets/vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches.
<b>Stopping place</b>	Locations frequented by Gypsies and Travellers, usually for short periods of time.
<b>Transit site</b>	Site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
<b>Travelling Showpeople</b>	Commonly referred to as Showmen, these are a group of occupational Travellers who work on travelling shows and fairs across the UK and abroad.
<b>Unauthorised Development</b>	This refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission.
<b>Unauthorised Encampment</b>	Stopping on private/public land without permission. (e.g. at the side of the road)

### List of Acronyms

<b>DCA</b>	David Couttie Associates
<b>DCLG</b>	Department of Communities and Local Government
<b>GTAA</b>	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
<b>LDF</b>	Local Development Framework
<b>ODPM</b>	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
<b>SHLAA</b>	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment