

## **GYPSY & TRAVELLER TASK GROUP**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### **APPENDIX B**

#### **GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENTS (GTAA)**

##### **1. Background**

- 1.1. Local authorities are expected to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the same way as the housing needs of the rest of the community. Gypsies and Irish travellers are minority ethnic groups against whom discrimination is unlawful; they are protected under the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations Act 2000. Local authorities have a duty under the Equality Act to actively seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good race relations.
- 1.2. The Housing Act 2004 introduced an obligation on local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers in their areas and to develop a strategy to address these needs. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, or GTAA, assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers including the need to provide sites for gypsies and travellers to reside (residential pitches) or stop over (transit pitches). In line with the good practice guidance they should also assess the need for accommodation for Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.3. We also need to understand the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers to ensure we fulfil our planning responsibilities; the Local plan is required to set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. Specifically they should identify five years' worth of deliverable sites and at minimum broad locations for growth for a further 5-10 years. Criteria based policies are also required to guide land allocations and planning applications.

##### **2. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2006**

- 2.1. In 2006 an extensive GTAA was undertaken across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This study involved extensive qualitative survey work with 206 gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople as well as data analysis to understand gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople's accommodation needs. The GTAA identified a total need to provide 203 residential pitches and 100 caravan transit spaces for gypsies and traveller and a further 65 plots for travelling showpeople by 2016. This was distributed across the local authorities on a 'need as it arises' basis. Policy decisions may need to be made regarding the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities particularly in areas surrounding the principal urban area of Leicester where land constraints may make finding suitable sites more difficult.

##### **Residential Pitch Recommendations**

- 2.2. The findings of this study suggested a need for a total of 203 residential pitches to 2016 across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, however only 4% (8) of these residential pitches were required in Melton. This reflects the relatively low numbers of gypsies and travellers who live in through Melton.

**Table 1: Residential Pitch Requirements 2006 – 2016 (GTAA 2006)**

	2006-2011	2011-2016
Blaby	13	13
Charnwood	9	2
Harborough	19	11
Hinckley & Bosworth	26	16
<b>Melton</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
North West Leicestershire	32	11
Oadby & Wigston	1	0
Leicester City	24	15
Rutland	2	1
<b>Study Area</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>71</b>

**Transit Pitch Recommendations**

- 2.3. The GTAA (2006) recommended the provision of a network of transit sites across the study area including one in Melton with capacity to accommodate 10 caravans (approximately 5 pitches in size), this was recommended to provide a legal stopping option for groups who were passing through the area, to reduce illegal encampments and make eviction actions easier when groups stopped on unsuitable sites. The GTAA recommended that these transit sites should be provided by 2011 and did not find a need to provide any additional transit sites in the future.

**Travelling Showpeople Recommendations**

- 2.4. The 2006 GTAA recognised that Travelling Showpeople did not tend to live in Melton and did not recommend providing any sites for this group. Across the study area a total of 65 additional pitches were required to 2016.

**Table 2: Travelling Showpeople Pitch Requirements (GTAA 2006)**

LPA	2006-2011	2011-2016
Blaby	1	2
Charnwood	4	5
Harborough	24	5
Hinckley & Bosworth	2	1
<b>Melton</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
NW Leicestershire	8	2
Oadby & Wigston	0	0
Leicester	3	2
Rutland	3	3
<b>Study Area</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>

**3. The GTAA Refresh 2012**

- 3.1. The 2006 GTAA did not estimate need beyond 2016. A refresh of the GTAA was undertaken in 2012, primarily to assist in the development of local plans. The GTAA refresh did not replicate the original study in terms of its qualitative data, rather it refreshed the findings of the original GTAA to estimate accommodation need to 2031, taking into consideration sites provided since 2006 and predicted future household change and population growth. The GTAA refresh did not include Rutland or Hinckley and Bosworth, who both commissioned separate update projects.

3.2. Taking into account supply in Melton since 2006 (one small site with 2 residential and 3 transit pitches) the GTAA refresh found a net need to provide 8 residential and at least a further 2 transit pitches by 2017. Between 2017 and 2031 household change and population growth suggested a need to provide a further 7 residential pitches as shown in the table below. These 15 additional pitches equate to just 4% of the net overall need identified to 2031 across the study area.

### **Travelling Showpeople**

3.3. The GTAA refresh updated the findings of the original GTAA to estimate the need for additional plots to 2031. Taking into consideration the 38 plots approved since 2006 and predicted future household change and population growth the GTAA refresh found a net need to provide an additional 67 showpeople plots across the study area to 2031. Melton did not have any travelling showpeople need identified in the 2006 GTAA and the refresh did not identify any travelling showpeople need between to 2031.

**Table 1: GTAA Refresh (2012) Melton Pitch Requirements to 2031**

	<b>2012-17</b>	<b>2017-22</b>	<b>2022-27</b>	<b>2027-31</b>	<b>Total</b>
Melton Residential Pitches	8	1	3	3	15
<i>Total Residential Pitches</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>354</i>
Melton Transit Pitches	2	0	0	0	2
<i>Total Transit Pitches</i>					
Melton Travelling Showpeople Plots	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Travelling Showpeople Plots</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>67</i>