

8 Population and Gypsy and Traveller Needs

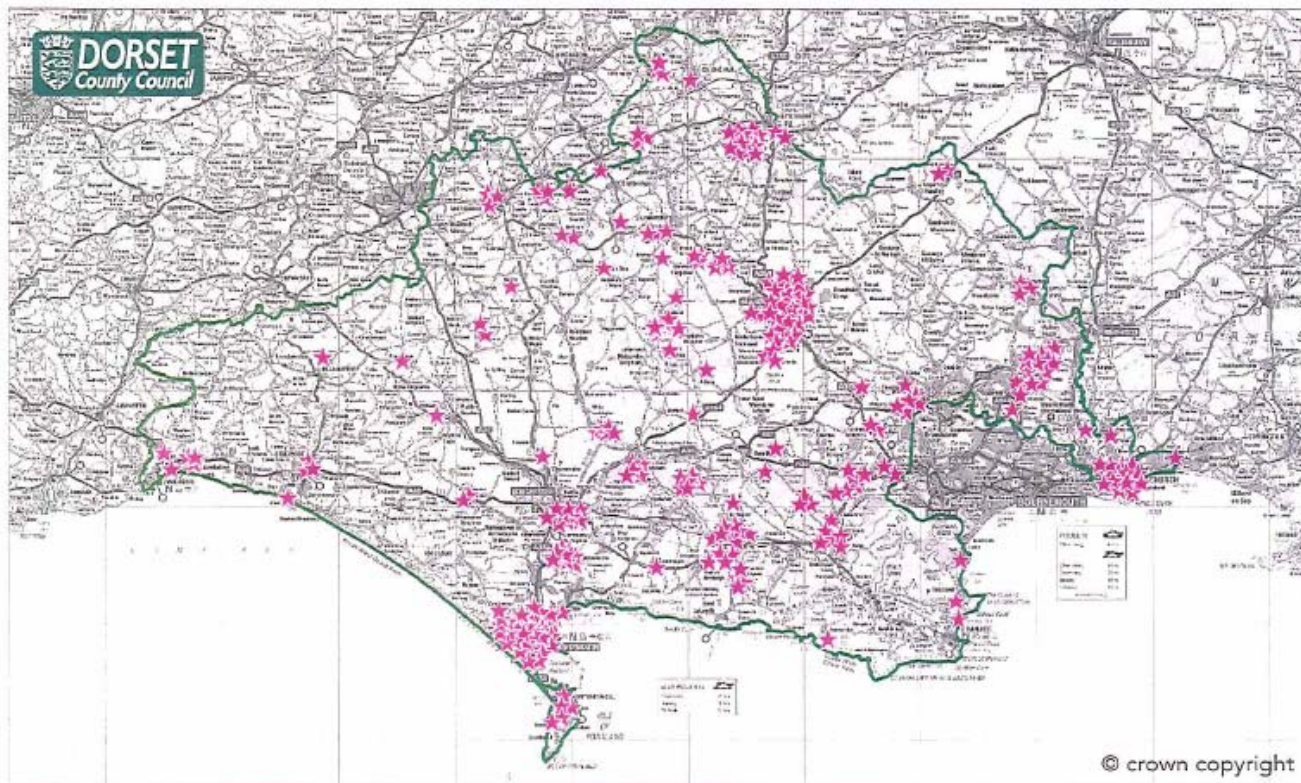
Gypsy and Traveller needs in Dorset

- 8.1 Gypsy and Traveller communities have long been subject to social exclusion with national statistics showing that education performance, life expectancy and general health is lower than the average for settled communities. In part, this is caused by lack of access to schools and health facilities. However, these impacts are exacerbated by lack of secure sites meaning communities often are under pressure from the threat of eviction and the need to move frequently, meaning communities can not put down roots and make connections with local schools and doctors. This can particularly impact on children's education.
- 8.2 A report looked specifically at the Dorset Gypsy and Traveller sites and the needs in the county¹. This found the varying needs across the county, for instance in North Dorset there is a need for temporary sites around the time of the Great Dorset Steam Fair.
- 8.3 Gypsy and Travellers are made up of a number of separate communities with very different needs and lifestyles. In the accommodation survey the respondents were asked to self-identify in one of six categories these were:
- English Gypsies/Romanies
 - Irish Travellers
 - New Travellers
 - Scottish/Traveller-Gypsy
 - Showmen (not included in the statutory definition of gypsy and covered by separate circulars due to distinct needs)
 - Other – the majority of which are assumed to actually be 'new travellers'.
- 8.4 However, only Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are legally recognised as ethnic groups and protected from discrimination by the Race Relations Act (1976, amended 2000) and the Human Rights Act (1998).
- 8.5 The UK census has not yet identified Gypsies and Travellers as a separate racial group, therefore there is no exact data available on the size of the population in the UK. However, official caravan counts currently record 14,000 gypsy caravans in England, estimated to represent about 10,000 families or 40,000 individuals. Estimates of the total Gypsy Population, including those in conventional housing, range between 120,000 and 300,000. School census data suggest a figure at the higher end. For the South West it is estimated there are 7000-9000 Gypsy and Travellers rising in the summer. In the number of Gypsy and Traveller school age children suggests a total population of 2400-3000.
- 8.6 The 2011 UK census is expected to include Gypsies and Travellers as a separate ethnic grouping.

¹ Anglia Ruskin University (2006) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment*

- 8.7 Evidence also indicates that the Dorset Gypsy and Traveller population is particularly transient in the summer months, creating the need for transit rather than long-stay accommodation. The survey found Gypsy and Irish Traveller population is the most seasonally transient, focusing in and around the eastern conurbation, events such as the Steam Fair, along the A31. New Traveller population was more stable with longer stay and generally larger encampments.
- 8.8 In 2005 there were five council owned Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole area. The sites are:
- Shaftsbury, North Dorset district, pitches 5
 - Thornicombe, Blandford, North Dorset district, pitches 12
 - Coldharbour, Wareham, Purbeck district, pitches 15
 - Piddlehinton, West Dorset district, pitches 14
 - Mannings Heath Road, Poole, Poole district, pitches 4 (increased to 10 in 2010).
- 8.9 There has been a continuing decline in council pitches, with sites that function less well having the number of available pitches reduced from their overall potential capacity. These sites operating at reduced capacity are at Mannings Heath where the site condition is poor and at Coldharbour. Sites with older residents or occupied by related families appear to function well, such as Thornicombe and Piddlehinton.
- 8.10 There are also private authorised sites in Dorset, mostly owner-occupied. These sites represent 19% of total caravan numbers, at about 15 caravans.
- 8.11 There are also unauthorised and roadside sites. From the official counts in Dorset these number space for around 76 caravans (2002-2004). Unauthorised encampments in the area are shown in Figure 8.1. The map clearly shows clusters of sites around Christchurch, Weymouth, Blandford Forum and Shaftsbury. There are two types of unauthorised site:
- Caravans on Gypsy or Traveller owned land that are occupied without planning permission, some sites are ‘tolerated’ even if enforcement action is being pursued
 - ‘unauthorised encampments’ on land owned by others, such as car parks or highway land. These may be subject to policy action under 1994 Criminal Justice Act. 44% of Dorset roadside respondents had been evicted more than five times in last five years.
- 8.12 Few Gypsy and Traveller would prefer to settle in bricks and mortar housing. The 2006 survey revealed that many residents who already live in housing experience a range of problems. This includes loss of identify; racism from neighbours; feelings of isolation; and feeling ‘closed-in’.

Figure 8.1: Unauthorised traveller encampments in Dorset



Source: Dorset Traveller Needs Accommodation Assessment, Anglia Ruskin, May 2006

Gypsy and Traveller employment

8.13 The survey of Dorset Gypsy and Travellers asked respondents about the work that they do. The survey found evidence that:

- Types of work had changed over the years, with a decline in traditional types of work, contributing to economic disadvantage and social exclusion
- Many prefer self-employment, in occupations such as land work, tree-logging, vehicle trading and external building work
- Travelling to carry out and sell traditional roadside crafts by single family groups e.g. woodworking, carving and wreath making, was continuing
- Difficulties in travelling, and being frequently moved, made it harder to get work.
- Family networks and informal reciprocal arrangement are important for encouraging and sustaining economic activity.
- Seasonal social security benefits can be important income sources, especially for those on council sites.

Social justice

8.14 Nationally, in terms of health and education Gypsy and Traveller communities are one the most deprived groups in Britain. Evidence suggests these groups are suffering from problems associated with social exclusion leading to inequities in health and education:

- Life expectancy for Gypsy and Traveller men and women 10 years lower than the national average

- Gypsy and Traveller mothers are 20 times more likely than the rest of the population to have experienced the death of a child
 - In 2003, less than a quarter of Gypsy and Traveller children obtained five GCSEs at A*-C grades, compared to a national average of over half.
- 8.15 Of those surveyed 62 (43%) said they were in poor health or with close family members in poor health. Consistent with national studies main health issues were asthma, depression and cardio-vascular.
- 8.16 A literature review was prepared by the University of Bristol; Buckinghamshire New University and Friends, Families and Travellers, titled *'Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: a review'*. This review found the main areas of discrimination and inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities as:
- economic inclusion and access to employment
 - access to and experience of the healthcare system
 - social care, education and other public services, policing and the criminal justice system
 - racism and discrimination
 - domestic violence
 - interaction with faith organisations, political participation, good relations and capacity building.
- 8.17 These effects are in part attributable to instability of sites, lack of physical access to healthcare and social inclusion. Accommodation problems are often key to social, health and education difficulties experienced by travelling communities. A Children's Society Report (1994) identified the impacts may be a result of repeated evictions, restricted access to healthcare and education, unsafe conditions on roadside sites, and a breakdown of social and community support networks through isolation. Un-sited Gypsies and Travellers experience particular problems registering with a GP, getting hospital appointments and contact with health services, as these need a permanent contact address.
- 8.18 Frequent site moves, particularly through eviction, also have an adverse impact on Gypsy and Traveller children's educational attainment. Literacy and educational take-up rates improve where site security exists. The Dorset 2006 survey reported 39% of respondents found statutory services unhelpful in such matters. Literacy of respondents was poor, with 62% saying they found it hard to complete forms, 55% with writing letters and 53% reading newspapers. The reasons for this were given as:
- 70% little or disrupted schooling because of moving around (and evictions)
 - 24% bullying or unable to settle at school
 - 6% because of dyslexia or difficulty learning.
- 8.19 The need for was evaluated in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2006) and shown in Table 8.1. The table indicates quite a large requirement, greater than is to be pursued through the DPD (at only 271 residential pitches and 154 transit pitches).

Table 8.1: Identified needs for Gypsy and Traveller pitches

Local authority	Supply	Demand (unauthorised families)	Demand (over-crowding)	Demand (housing transfer)	Total demand 2006	Family formation from 2006-2011 (and 2006-2026 @ 3 & 4%)	Total demand to 2011 (and 2026)
Christchurch	3	30	4	20	54	6-9 (32-47)	60-63 (86-101)
East Dorset	1	45	4	30	79	9-13 (44-64)	88-92 (123-143)
North Dorset	21	150	7	0	157	8-11* (40-57)	165-168 (197-214)
Purbeck	15	65	6	0	71	8-12 (40-57)	79-83 (111-128)
West Dorset	14	65	7	0	72	8-12 (40-57)	80-84 (112-129)
Weymouth	0	25	2	0	27	(40-57)	29-30 (38-41)
Bournemouth	0	17	1	25	43	5-8 (27-39)	48-51 (70-82)
Poole	4	10	1	30	41	7-9 (31-47)	48-50 (72-88)
Total	58	407	32	105	544	53-77 (265-382)	597-621 (809-926)

* 100 pitches are required in connection with the Great Dorset Steam Fair are excluded for this calculation

General population

8.20 The county of Dorset, including the unitary authorities of Poole and Bournemouth, cover 265,273 ha and has a population of 710,500 (ONS 2008 mid year estimates). The strategic centres of greatest population are:

- Bournemouth
- Poole
- Abbotsbury
- Beaminster
- Blandford Forum
- Bridport
- Cerne Abbas
- Christchurch

- Dorchester
- Ferndown
- Gillingham
- Lyme Regis
- Portland
- Shaftesbury
- Sherborne
- Sturminster Newton
- Swanage
- Wareham
- Weymouth
- Wimborne
- Wool
- Yetminster.

8.21 The area is characterised by an older population with the proportion of younger adults lower than the national average, and over a quarter older than retirement age (ONS, Dorset Data Book 2010). The population is predicted to increase by 8% to 2027, reaching 772,600 people (ONS 2006 sub-national population predictions).

8.22 There is the potential need to find space for 25,000 more homes by 2026 to accommodate the growing population and shrinking household size. This housing is likely to be predominantly in and adjacent to the main urban areas.

8.23 The Place Survey, which was carried out in 2008 for England has 9300 responses in Dorset. This showed that 89% of Dorset residents are satisfied with the area. The most important factors which residents think makes somewhere a good place to live are low levels of crime, health services and affordable good housing. The things that Dorset residents most want improved are better activities for teenagers, reduced traffic congestion and road and pavement repairs. Over two thirds of Dorset respondents feel they belong in their immediate neighbourhood, those least likely to feel belonging are non-white minorities, younger people (18-24 year olds) and private renters.

General health

8.24 The health and life expectancy in Dorset are generally good and above the national average, although there are certain areas and population groups who experience poorer health, such as Gypsy and Traveller communities.

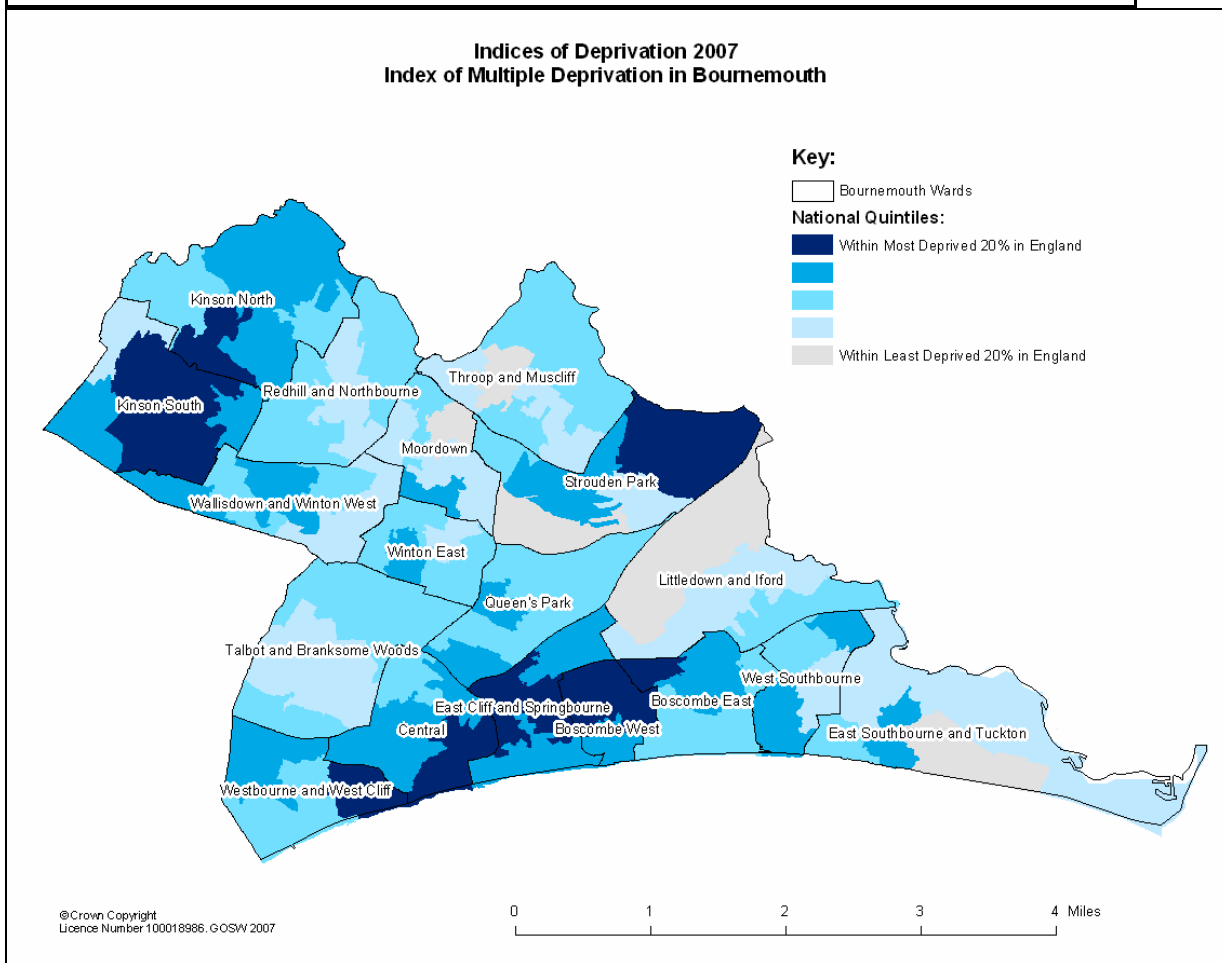
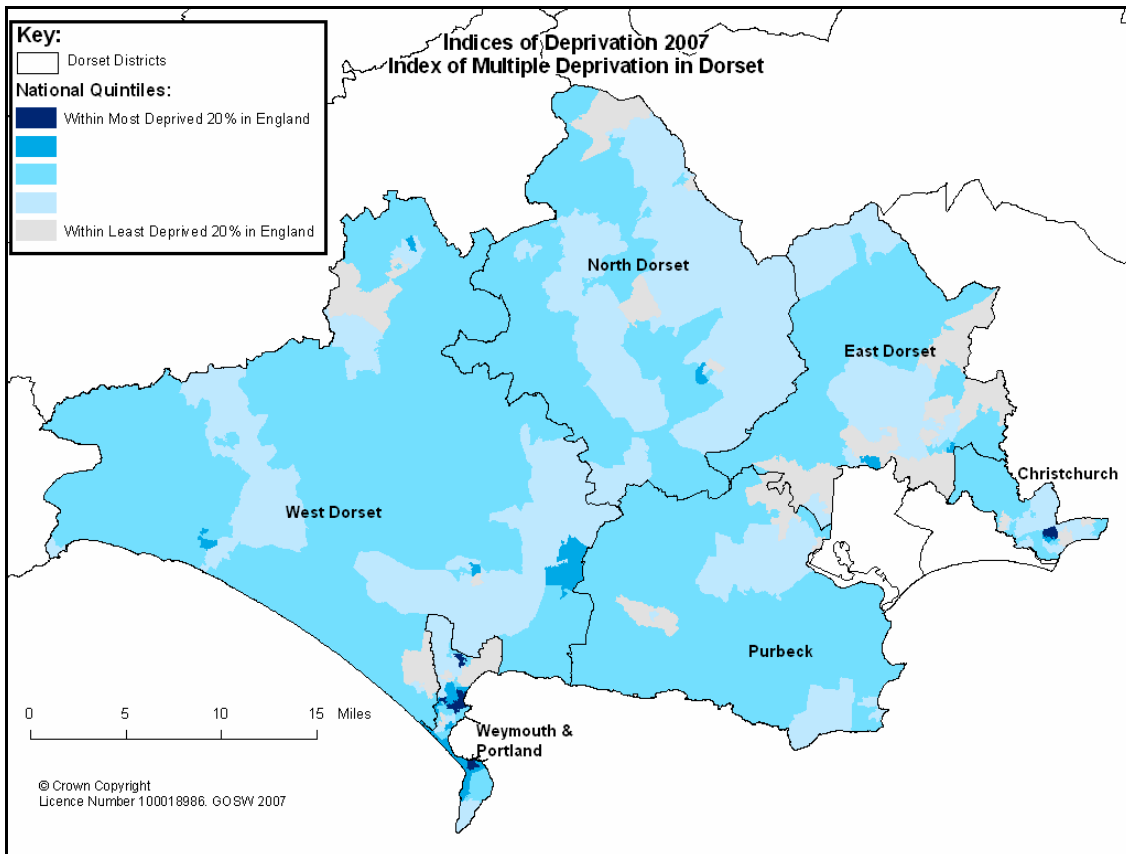
8.25 The national average life expectancy is 82 for women and 77.8 for men (born 2006-2008). Life expectancy for Dorset residents is on average 2 years longer in most of the districts. The longest female and male life expectancy is East Dorset at 85.1 and 81.2 years respectively. The lowest is Weymouth and Portland and Bournemouth for women and men at 82.2 and 78.1 years respectively.

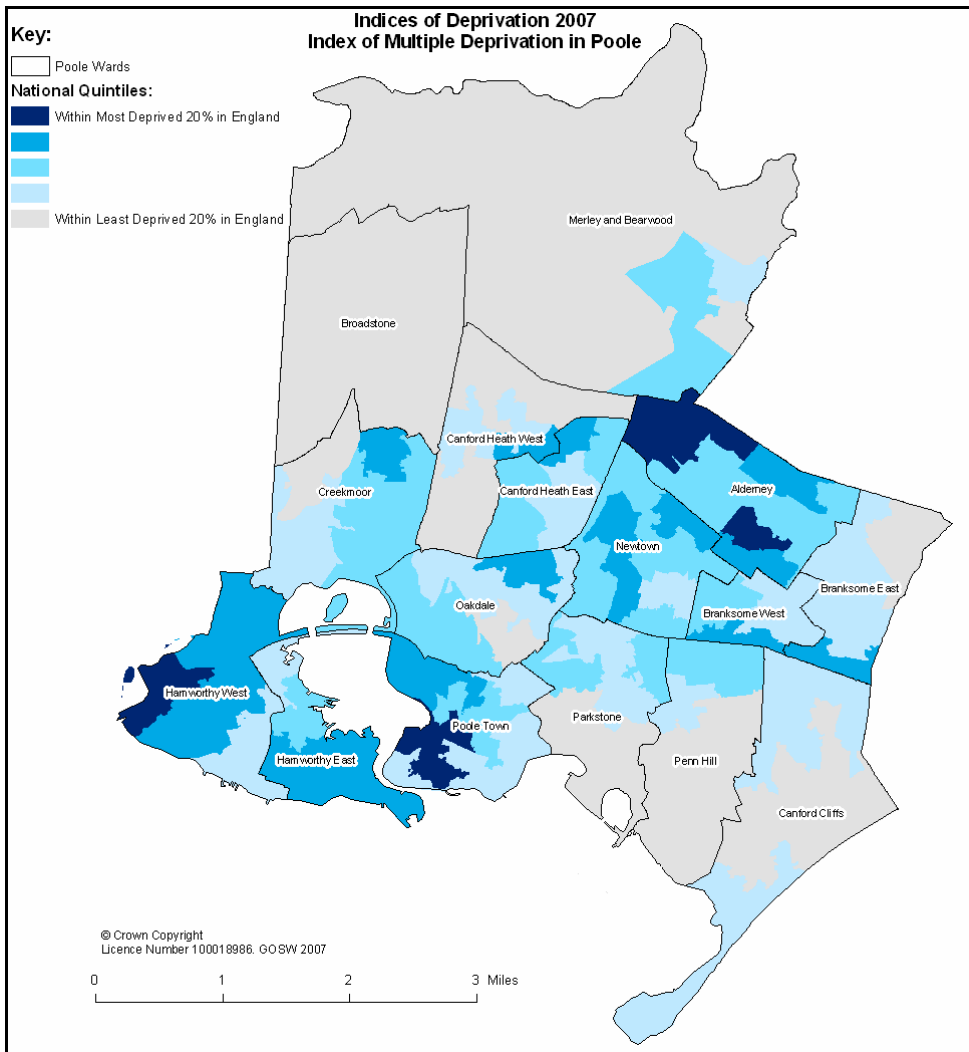
- 8.26 Maintaining and improving health is dependent on a range of factors. This includes creating opportunities to promote healthy lifestyle choices. Opportunities for healthy lifestyles includes giving people easy access healthy food choices, either by living near a range of food shops and making spaces for people to grow their own food. Giving people the opportunity to walk or cycle on a regular basis, for leisure or instead of driving, can also improve health.
- 8.27 Also, access to playing fields, playgrounds and open space for formal and informal recreation can also be instrumental in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, there is a need to ensure these public open spaces are protected from inappropriate development, and also that new Gypsy and Traveller sites have access to open space for recreation. On sites with multiple pitches there could be a requirement in policy to include on-site playspace for children.

Indices of Deprivation

- 8.28 The three maps in Figure 8.2 show the Indices of Deprivation for the Gypsy and Traveller plan area. This indicates those neighbourhoods that may be experiencing higher levels of deprivation including access to employment, health and housing. The maps show that deprivation levels are highest in some of the urban neighbourhoods, including much of Bournemouth and specific parts of Poole. Weymouth and Portland also experience relatively high levels of deprivation, with pockets throughout the other districts. The rural areas are characterised as relatively deprived and this will often be caused by poor access to services.
- 8.29 There are 31 wards that are within the top 20% most deprived nationally for multiple deprivation. All of these are within the urban boroughs, most in Bournemouth.

Figure 8.2: Indices of Deprivation 2007: Index of Multiple Deprivation for Dorset, Bournemouth and Plymouth





Summary of relevant policy documents – Population and Gypsy and Traveller needs

NB: Impacts of air quality, contamination, flood or noise is covered in other topic papers.

Policy documents	Relevance to Gypsy and Traveller DPD
<p>Key international Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites need to be identified to meet the needs of Dorset’s Gypsy and Traveller communities, including temporary and long-stay pitches • Member of Gypsy and Traveller communities have the same housing rights as every other citizen • Sites need to be found for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in line with the accommodation needs assessment • There is a requirement to provide sites to meet the needs of travelling showpeople that can differ from other Gypsy and Traveller communities • Help Gypsy and Traveller communities get better access to education and health facilities. • Open spaces for sport and recreation should
<p>Key National Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS1 – Delivering Sustainable Development • PPS3: Housing • PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation • Circular 01/06 – Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites • Circular 04/07 – Planning for Travelling Showpeople 	
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community strategy for Dorset 2007-2016 – Shaping Our Future (Dorset Strategic Partnership) • Local Plan, Local Development Framework 	

and Structure Plan policies of the Dorset authorities.	be protected or created to meet the needs of the population.
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Issues related to Gypsy and Traveller sites DPD

- 8.30 The baseline and review of plans and programmes identifies key issues for the Dorset population including Gypsy and Traveller communities. These issues are:
- Insufficient allocation of long-term sites for Gypsy and Travellers can have an adverse impact on health and wellbeing of these groups, this includes having an address to use when accessing services, disruption from frequent eviction and unauthorised sites being potentially unsafe
 - Gypsy and Traveller sites must have good access to health and education services
 - Unauthorised sites can have an adverse impacts on local communities and the wellbeing of nearby settled residents
 - Existing open space for sport and recreation needs to be protected for unsuitable development, new housing including Gypsy and Traveller sites should have access to open space.

Suggested Sustainability Objectives related to this topic

- 8.31 To aid with the assessment the following are suggested as objectives for population and Gypsy and Traveller communities. The objectives also integrate with a cross-cutting objective for addressing climate change, these are marked with an asterisk* and sub-objectives in italics.

Headline	Objective	Sub-objectives
Community	Support and promote the distinctive character of Gypsy and Traveller communities as well as fostering cohesion with settled communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow the settled and Gypsy and Traveller communities to be involved in the planning decisions that effect them • help support Gypsy and Traveller communities and retain family groups • help in creating development of the type and design that can help avoid adverse impact on the community, such as development that deters anti-social behaviour
Accessibility*	Allow equitable access for all to jobs, services and facilities they need, in a way that reduces reliance on car use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce disparities in access to services through a combined approach of suitable facility and service provision and public transport links • ensure that Gypsy and Traveller sites have good access to health and education services • ensure that all new • <i>reduce reliance on car use to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions</i>
A place to live	Provide a range of types and tenures of pitch sites that allows Gypsy and Traveller communities to meet their housing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure there are sufficient pitch sites to meet the needs of permanent and transient Gypsy and Traveller (and showpeople) communities • provide a range of pitch sites to meet the diverse needs different communities and family groups, • build new public permanent pitch sites following good practice guidelines with input from future resident groups
Health, safety and security*	To improve health and wellbeing by encouraging more healthy lifestyles, and protecting people from risk that may impact on their health and/or safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure equitable access to health services • enhance opportunities for healthy living and help support more healthy lifestyles through access to open space and prioritised cycling and walking routes

9 The Economy and Employment

Baseline

- 9.1 Dorset's economy is dominated by Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch, Ferndown and Wimborne in the south east of the county. Outside of these areas there is a network of towns that are principally focused on tourism, creative and agricultural-based industries.
- 9.2 Table 9.1 summarises the economic performance of the plan area, noting that many of the statistics are from 2007 therefore not reflecting the recent economic recession.

Table 9.1: Economic performance in the plan area, showing the county and two unitary authorities

Indicator	Dorset	Bournemouth	Poole	SW Region
Job density (local jobs to resident working age population) (2007)	0.83	0.88	1.00	0.96
Median gross weekly earnings of full-time employees (workplace based) (2009)	£434	£479	£464	£454
GVA (£ per resident head) 2007	£14,593	£20,014 (B&P combined)	£20,014 (B&P combined)	£18,235
Economic Activity Rate (% of all working age)	81.7%	79.0%	83.1%	81.9%

Source: Dorset Data Book 2010

- 9.3 Table 9.2 shows the employment sectors in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. The largest employment sector is public administration, education and health; and business services, this is in keeping with UK employment. However, Purbeck and East Dorset have above the regional and national averages employed in the manufacturing sector. Weymouth and Portland and Purbeck have the highest percentages of employees working in both accommodation and food service activities and in professional, scientific and technical activities (falling under 'business services').

Table 9.2: Employment by sector (2008)

Area	Manufct'	Other non-service activities	Constrc'	Wh'sale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and m'cycles	A'dation and food service activities	Business Services	Public Admin, edu, and health	Other servic es	Total
Christchurch	2,300	NA	1,000	3,400	1,600	4,900	4,200	800	18,300
East Dorset	4,700	800	2,100	6,200	1,800	6,200	7,500	1,400	30,600
North Dorset	2,800	1,300	1,500	4,200	1,300	3,800	7,600	1,400	23,900
Purbeck	2,700	1,000	900	1,500	2,200	2,800	4,700	1,300	17,100
West Dorset	4,600	1,600	2,100	7,300	3,300	7,100	18,000	1,800	45,800
Weymouth and Portland	700	200	800	3,500	3,100	3,400	7,300	800	19,800
Bournemouth	1,900	400	2,600	13,700	8,200	24,500	21,600	3,000	76,100

Poole	11,100	900	3,600	12,600	4,200	17,200	19,300	3,000	71,800
Dorset (DCC Area)	17,700	5,100	8,400	26,000	13,300	28,200	49,300	7,500	155,500
Dorset sub-region	30,800	6,400	14,600	52,400	25,600	70,000	90,100	13,500	303,400

Source: Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis 2008, ONS

Employment – Gypsy and Traveller Communities

9.4 The Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment included a survey of the employment and job needs of the communities in Dorset. This study revealed that most Gypsy and Travellers prefer self-employment, in such occupations as land work, tree-logging, vehicle trading, laying tarmac and external building work. The survey found evidence that:

- Types of work had changed over the years, with a decline in traditional types of work, this has led to economic disadvantage and social exclusion
- Travelling to carry out and sell traditional roadside crafts by single family groups e.g. woodworking, carving and wreath making was continuing
- Difficulties in travelling, and being frequently moved, makes it harder to get work.
- Family networks and informal reciprocal arrangements are important for encouraging and sustaining economic activity.
- Seasonal social security benefits can be important income sources, especially for those on council owned sites.

9.5 Gypsy and Travellers often feel excluded from mainstream job opportunities that require formal education. This can be due to lower than average literacy resulting from difficulties in accessing education and frequent moves. Literacy and educational take-up increase where site security exists.

9.6 Some travellers state they would be motivated to pursue adult education if it helps their business. Respondents to the needs assessment survey indicated they would be interested in more formal training if it were available. Questions about what might improved their employment prospects varied. Few had undertaken any post-school training, but were slightly more likely to have if they lived in a house than on a site. Popular courses included: “*hairdressing, beauty therapy, boxing, plumbing, literacy, teaching assistant, care work, and business/computing*”. There is an unmet training need, with little outreach on getting people involved.

Summary of relevant policy documents – economic development and employment

Policy Documents	Relevance to Gypsy and Traveller
Key international policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to support and strengthen local economies • Help ensure everyone has access to a range of jobs to match skills • Help improve the skills base of the workforce.
Key National Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Area • Regional Economic Strategy for the South West England 2006-2015 	
Key local policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plans, Local Development Framework 	

and Structure Plan Policies	
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Impacts related to the Gypsy and Traveller DPD

9.7 The baseline and review of plans and programmes identifies key issues for the economy and employment in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole related to the DPD. This is to:

- Support a high level of employment in Gypsy and Traveller communities by helping make sure sites have access to employment areas
- Support physical access to skills training for adults in the Gypsy and Traveller communities through the location of new sites
- Consider how employment needs for Gypsy and Traveller communities can be met at or near the place where they live
- Help make sure locations of Gypsy and Traveller pitches do not adversely impact on businesses and economic growth.

Suggested Sustainability Objectives related to this topic

9.8 To aid with the assessment the following are suggested as objectives for employment.

Headline	Objective	Sub-objectives
Employment	Help residents of new Gypsy and Traveller sites get access to suitable jobs and skills training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote local employment to reduce people’s need to travel to find work • help provide accessible skills training to aid access to work