



# **Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment**



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# 1. Introduction

## The Survey

- 1.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) were commissioned by the Local Authorities in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment.
- 1.2 The study seeks to provide an evidence base to enable the authorities to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004, the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012. The main objective of this study is to provide the Councils with robust, defensible and up-to-date evidence about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole during the period until 2028 in five year sections covering 2013-2018, 2018-2023 and 2023-2028. It also required the identification of whether or not any of the local authorities need to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.3 The authorities involved in this study are:
- » Bournemouth Borough Council;
  - » Christchurch Borough Council;
  - » Dorset County Council;
  - » East Dorset District Council;
  - » North Dorset District Council;
  - » Poole Borough Council;
  - » Purbeck District Council;
  - » West Dorset District Council; and
  - » Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.
- 1.4 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment.
- 1.5 This document is the main report and summarises the key findings of the study, in particular, where they relate to existing policies or have implications for future policy decisions across the study area.

## Definitions

- 1.6 For the purposes of the planning system, Gypsies and Travellers means:

*Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependents' 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. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012)*

1.7 Within the main definition of Gypsies and Travellers, there are a number of main cultural groups which include:

- » Romany Gypsies;
- » Irish Travellers; and
- » New Travellers.

1.8 Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised in law as distinct ethnic groups and are legally protected from discrimination under the Equalities Act 2010.

1.9 Alongside Gypsies and Travellers, a further group to be considered are Travelling Showpeople. They are defined as:

*Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their family's or dependent's more localized 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. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012)*

## Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

1.10 Decision-making for policy concerning Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation and guidance. For example, the following pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when constructing policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:

- » Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012;
- » National Planning Policy Framework 2012;
- » Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments Guidance October 2007;
- » Environmental Protection Act 1990 for statutory nuisance provisions;
- » The Human Rights Act 1998, when making decisions and welfare assessments;
- » The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended);
- » Homelessness Legislation and Allocation Policies;
- » Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (sections 61, 62);
- » Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (both as victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour);
- » Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- » Housing Act 2004 which requires local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers and Showpeople as part of their housing needs assessments. This study complies with the this element of government guidance;

» Housing Act 1996 in respect of homelessness.

<sup>1.11</sup> To focus on Gypsies and Travellers, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Sections 77, 78) is particularly important with regard to the issue of planning for Gypsy and Traveller site provision. This repealed the duty of local authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. However, Circular 1/94 did support maintaining existing sites and stated that appropriate future site provision should be considered.

<sup>1.12</sup> For site provision, the previous Labour Government guidance focused on increasing site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and encouraging local authorities to have a more inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within their Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing Act 2004 required local authorities to identify the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites, alongside the need for other types of housing, when conducting Housing Needs Surveys. Therefore, all local authorities were required to undertake accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople either as a separate study such as this one, or as part of their main Housing Needs Assessment.

<sup>1.13</sup> Local authorities were encouraged rather than compelled to provide new Gypsy and Traveller sites by central government. Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites', released by the CLG in January 2006, replaced Circular 1/94 and suggested that the provision of authorised sites should be encouraged so that the number of unauthorised sites would be reduced.

<sup>1.14</sup> The Coalition Government announced that Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (Circular 01/06) was to be repealed, along with the Regional Spatial Strategies which were used to allocate pitch provision to local authorities. The CLG published 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' in March 2012 which set out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework.

## Planning Policy for Traveller Sites

<sup>1.15</sup> The document 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' sets out the direction of government policy. Among other objectives the new policies' aims in respect of Traveller sites are (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Page 1-2):

- » 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.

<sup>1.16</sup> In practice the document states that (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Page 3):

*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.*

<sup>1.17</sup> 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 6 to 10 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.

<sup>1.18</sup> A key element to the new policies is a continuation of previous government policies. Local authorities now have a duty to ensure a 5 year land supply to meet the identified needs for Traveller sites. However, 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' also notes on Page 3-4 that:

*Where there is no identified need, criteria-based policies should be included to provide a basis for decisions in case applications nevertheless come forward. Criteria based policies should be fair and should facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.*

<sup>1.19</sup> Therefore, criteria based planning policies sit at the heart of the new guidance, irrespective of whether need is identified or not.

## Tackling Inequalities for Gypsy and Traveller Communities

- <sup>1.20</sup> In April 2012 the government issued a further document relating to Gypsies and Travellers in the form of 'Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers (CLG April 2012)'.
- <sup>1.21</sup> The report contains 28 commitments to help improve the circumstances and outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers across a range of areas including:
- » Identifying ways of raising educational aspirations and attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children;
  - » Identifying ways to improve health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers within the proposed new structures of the NHS;
  - » Encouraging appropriate site provision; building on £60m Traveller Pitch Funding and New Homes Bonus incentives;
  - » Tackling hate crime against Gypsies and Travellers and improving their interaction with the criminal justice system;
  - » Improving knowledge of how Gypsies and Travellers engage with services that provide a gateway to work opportunities and working with the financial services industry to improve access to financial products and services;
  - » Sharing good practice in engagement between Gypsies and Travellers and public service providers.

## Funding for New Sites

- <sup>1.22</sup> The Coalition Government policies also involve financial incentives for new affordable pitch provision in the form of the New Homes Bonus. For all new annual supply of pitches on local authority or Registered Social Landlord owned and managed sites, local councils receive a New Homes Bonus equivalent to council tax (based on the national average for a Band A property), plus an additional £350 per annum for six years. This equates to around £8,000 pounds per pitch.
- <sup>1.23</sup> Direct grant funding is also available for Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) took over delivery of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant programme from CLG in April 2009. Since then, they have invested £16.3m in 26 schemes across the country to provide 88 new or additional pitches and 179 improved pitches. The HCA welcomes bids from local authorities, housing associations and traveller community groups working with Registered Providers.
- <sup>1.24</sup> 'Dorset's Councils have successfully bid for funding from these programmes which have financed the refurbishment of the 4 existing public sites and the new site at Shaftsbury which is under construction.
- <sup>1.25</sup> The HCA has now confirmed allocations for all of its £60m of future funding which will support 96 projects around the country for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and new pitches on existing sites, as well as the improvement of existing pitches.

- <sup>1.26</sup> While all HCA funds for Gypsy and Traveller pitches have now been allocated, further funding may become available as a result of slippage over the course of the programme. Providers are advised to continue to work closely with HCA area teams to develop their proposals should any funding become available.

## Methodology

- <sup>1.27</sup> This section sets out the methodology we have followed to deliver the outputs for this study. Over the past 10 years ORS have developed a methodology which provides the required outputs from a Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment and this has been updated in light of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites.
- <sup>1.28</sup> The stages below provide a summary of the process undertaken by ORS, with more information on each stage provided in the appropriate section of the report.

### Stage 1: Background

- <sup>1.29</sup> At the outset of the project we sought to understand the background to Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. The study sought to identify the location of all known sites in the study area and the number of pitches or plots on each one. The study also gathered information from recent caravan counts in each local authority and information held by the local authorities in each area on unauthorised encampments in each area and also waiting lists for public sites which are managed by the County Council and Poole.

### Stage 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- <sup>1.30</sup> This study includes extensive stakeholder engagement with council officers from the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole councils, neighbouring councils and other stakeholders such as representatives from Gypsy and Traveller interest groups and local service providers. The aim of this engagement was to help understand the current situation in the study area, in particular to identify households not on known existing sites and also to discuss Duty to Cooperate issues with neighbouring councils. A separate consultation was also carried out with Parish and Town Councils and community groups in the study area.

### Stage 3: Household Survey

- <sup>1.31</sup> The research methodology for identifying the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers adopted in this report was largely based upon face to face interviews with Gypsies and Travellers across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. The survey questionnaire has been developed over the past 10 years, with significant input from Gypsy and Traveller representative groups, most notably the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group. We sought to undertake a census of Gypsy and Traveller households in April and May 2013. Interviews were attempted with every known Gypsy and Traveller household present during this time period and 77 interviews were achieved with Gypsies and Travellers on-site, 7 with Travelling Showpeople, with a further 31 interviews with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in bricks and mortar accommodation.

#### **Stage 4: Future Pitch and Plot Requirements**

- <sup>1.32</sup> The methodology used by ORS to calculate future pitch and plot requirements has been developed over the past 10 years and has drawn on lessons from both traditional housing needs assessments and also best and worst practice for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessments conducted across the country.
- <sup>1.33</sup> The overall principles behind assessing future needs are relatively simple and were set out in a consultation document sent to stakeholders at the outset of the project. The residential and transit pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers are identified separately from those for Travelling Showpeople and for each group the requirements are identified in 5 year periods to 2028 in line with the requirements of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites.

#### **Stage 5: Conclusions**

- <sup>1.34</sup> This stage draws together the evidence from Stages 1 to 4 to provide an overall summary of the requirements for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

## 2. Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Population

### Background

- 2.1 A Strategic Housing Market Assessment focuses upon the number of dwellings required in an area, and how many of these should be affordable. The central aim of this study was to follow a similar format for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation requirements.
- 2.2 One of the main considerations of this study is the provision of pitches and sites for Gypsies and Travellers. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople. However, Travelling Showpeople sites are also sometimes referred to as yards, while the space occupied by one household is commonly referred to as a plot. Throughout this study, the main focus is upon how many extra pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople are required in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole study area.
- 2.3 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of Gypsy and Traveller sites is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided by the local authority or by a registered provider (usually a housing association). Places on public sites can be obtained through a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees (similar to social housing). There are currently four operational public sites in the study area (a fifth site in Shaftesbury is currently under construction).
- 2.4 The alternative to public residential sites is private residential sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing.
- 2.5 The Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population may also utilise other forms of sites due to their mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few weeks to a period of months. An alternative is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities than a transit site. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel.
- 2.6 Also to be considered are unauthorised developments and encampments. An unauthorised development refers to the occupation of land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers themselves but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. An unauthorised encampment refers to the unauthorised occupation of land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers.

## UK Census of Population 2011

- 2.7 The UK Census of Population 2011 included Gypsy and Travellers as a distinct ethnic category for the first time. Across the whole of England, around 55,000 people identified themselves as being Gypsies and Travellers, with a population of 987 Gypsy and Traveller persons in the whole of Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. The figure of 987 persons is likely to be an under-estimate of the total population due to some Gypsies and Travellers not declaring their ethnic status or completing the Census at all.
- 2.8 It is possible to analyse the results in more detail at sub-local authority level. An analysis for Bournemouth and Poole, who have the largest population, shows that the population is relatively evenly distributed across wards with very little concentration in any one area. This makes finding households in bricks and mortar harder because the population is more dispersed.

**Figure 1**

**Number of Gypsy and Travellers Persons by Local Authority** (Source: UK Census of Population 2011)

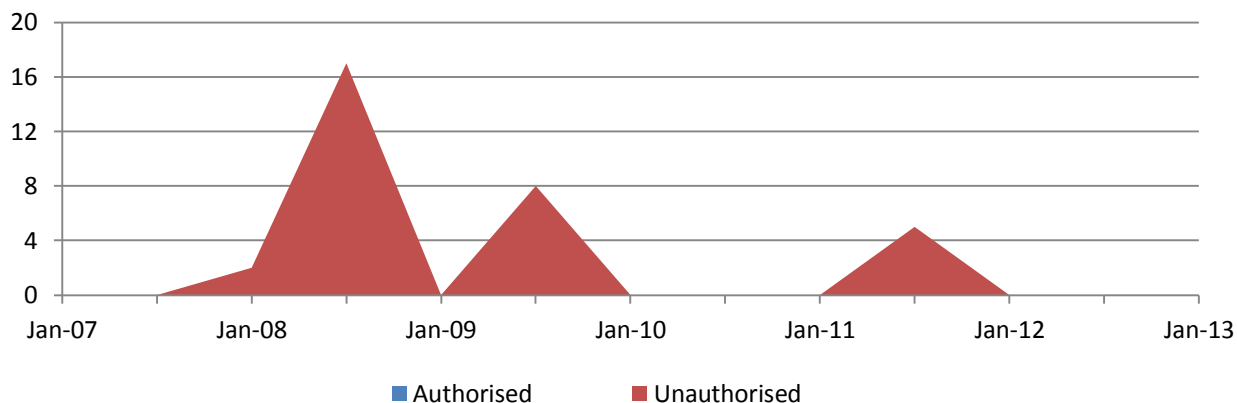
Local Authority	Number of Persons
Bournemouth Borough	218
Christchurch Borough	48
East Dorset District	171
North Dorset District	95
Poole Borough	214
Purbeck District	89
West Dorset District	104
Weymouth and Portland Borough	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>987</b>

## Caravan Count

- 2.9 One source of information available on the Gypsy and Traveller caravan numbers is the bi-annual survey of Gypsy and Traveller caravans which is conducted by each local authority in England on a specific date in January and July of each year. This count is of caravans and not households which makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. It must also be remembered that the count is conducted by the local authority on a specific day and that any unauthorised encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded.
- 2.10 The charts below show the numbers of caravans counted on authorised and unauthorised sites in each of the study authorities for the last five years. These counts do not include any Showpeople caravans in the area. The caravan count figures are provided for illustrative purposes to demonstrate the relative size of the populations and are not used in any modelling of future pitch requirements in this study.

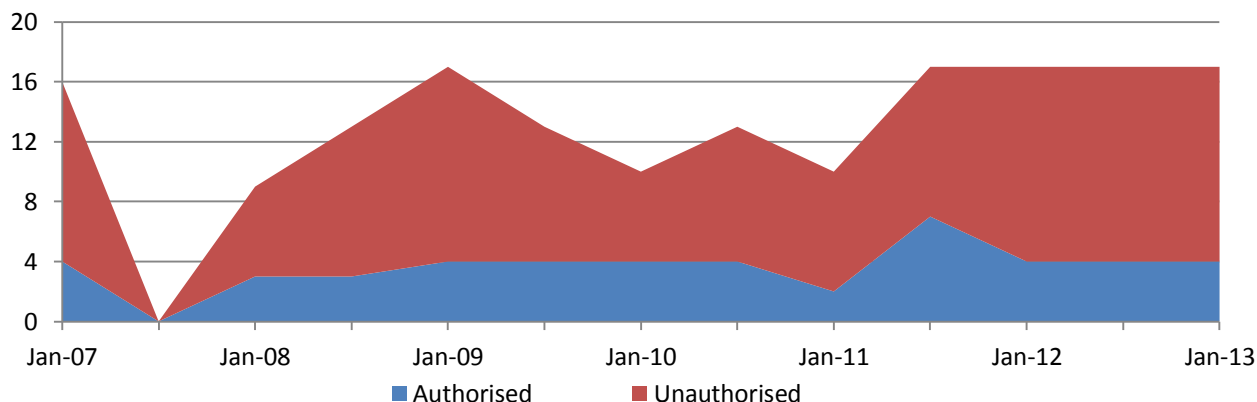
**Bournemouth Borough**

**Figure 2**  
**Gypsy Caravan Count for Bournemouth Borough: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)**



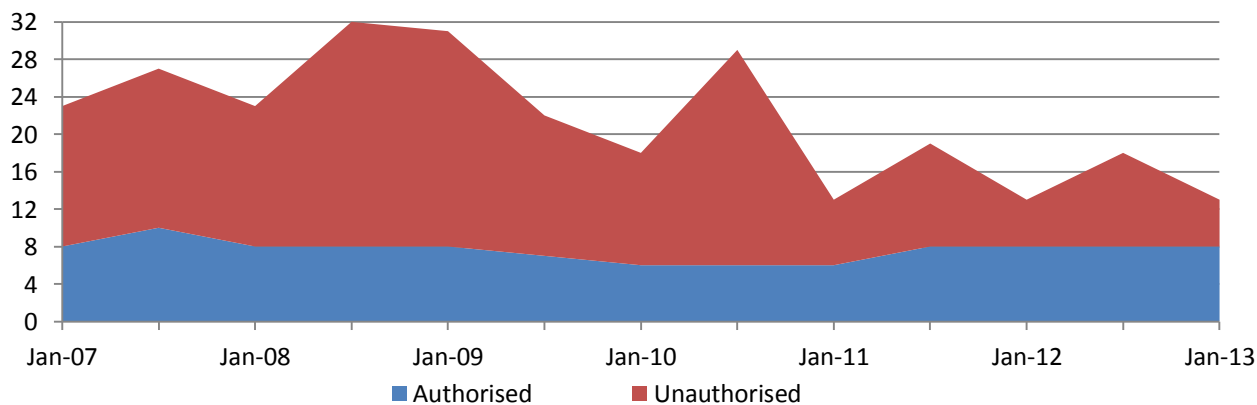
**Christchurch Borough**

**Figure 3**  
**Gypsy Caravan Count for Christchurch Borough: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)**



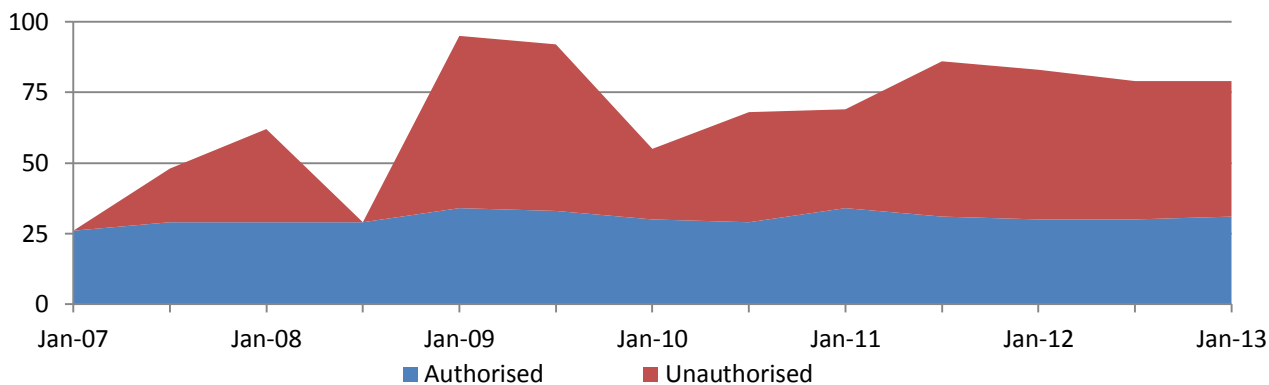
**East Dorset District**

**Figure 4**  
**Gypsy Caravan Count for East Dorset District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)**



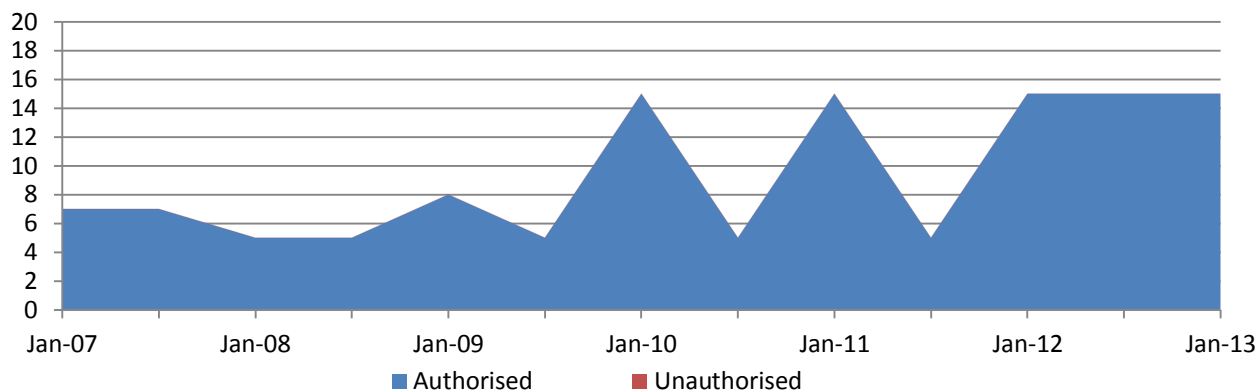
**North Dorset District**

**Figure 5**  
**Gypsy Caravan Count for North Dorset District: January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)**



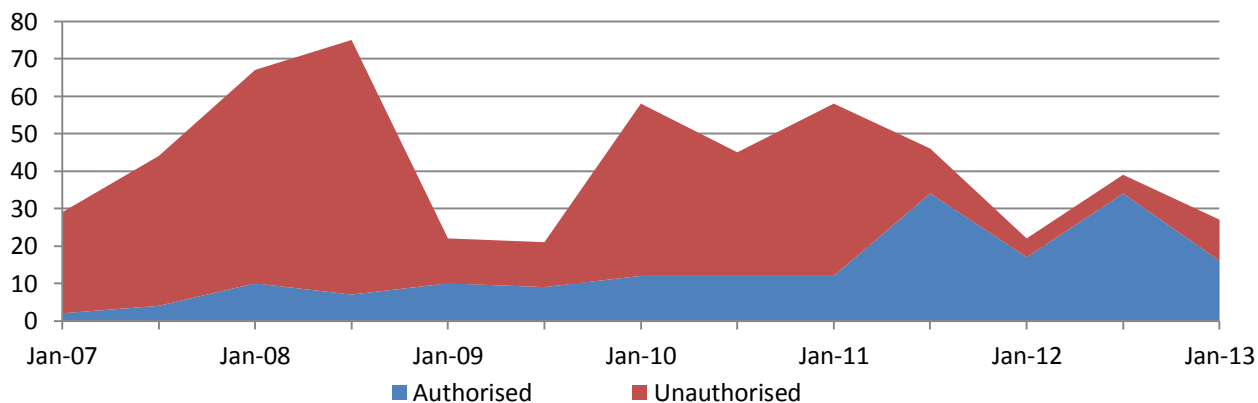
**Poole Borough**

**Figure 6**  
**Gypsy Caravan Count for Poole Borough January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)**



**Purbeck District**

**Figure 7**  
**Gypsy Caravan Count for Purbeck District January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)**

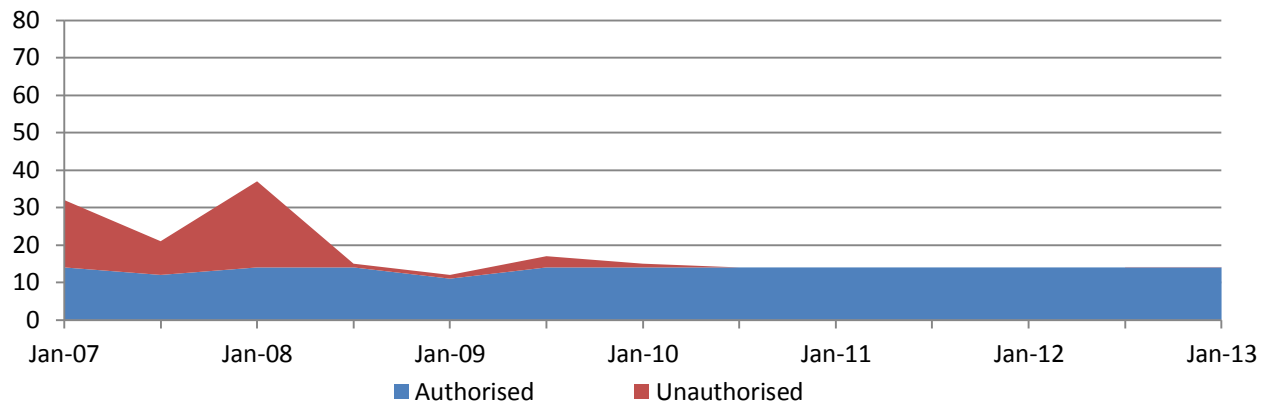




## West Dorset District

Figure 8

Gypsy Caravan Count for West Dorset District January 2007– January 2013 (Source: CLG Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)



## Weymouth and Portland Borough

- <sup>2.11</sup> Weymouth and Portland Borough's caravan counts indicate very little Gypsy and Traveller activity, with most counts recording no caravans, and so has not been represented graphically. However, the July 2011 and July 2012 counts each recorded 8 caravans on unauthorised sites.

## Transit Movements

- <sup>2.12</sup> The caravan count and the data collected by the local authorities on unauthorised camping indicate a number of trends. In the rural districts of North Dorset, Purbeck District and West Dorset District there are relatively constant populations of New Traveller communities. They tend to seek out more unobtrusive rural locations and prefer longer stays as several of them have regular work in the area and children in on-going education. The other clear trend is seasonal peaks in unauthorised camping by Gypsies and Irish Travellers in the south-east Dorset conurbation and Dorchester and Weymouth areas. There is also a trend towards increased levels of unauthorised camping in the build-up to the Great Dorset Steam Fair.
- <sup>2.13</sup> Figure 9, overleaf shows a summary of records held on unauthorised encampments in the past 6 years across the whole of Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. This shows the total number of encampments, the average size and also the largest encampments. In many cases the same households travelling across Dorset will have been counted in multiple locations, but the number of encampments each year do indicate that there is a significant transitory population through the study area.

**Figure 9**  
**Unauthorised Encampments by Local Authority 2007-2012 (Source: Local Authority and County Council Records)**

		Bournemouth Borough	Christchurch Borough	East Dorset District	North Dorset District	Poole Borough	Purbeck District	West Dorset District	Weymouth and Portland District
2007	No. of Encampments	10	2	4	20	10	10	14	3
	Average Size (Caravans)	7.3	3.5	5	5.2	7.8	9.7	2.2	2.7
	Largest Encampment (Caravans)	17	6	17	25	22	40	18	4
2008	No. of Encampments	12	7	9	10	5	8	8	7
	Average Size (Caravans)	10.2	3.8	4.4	7.1	4.8	4	3.4	4.1
	Largest Encampment (Caravans)	25	5	9	20	13	12	7	6
2009	No. of Encampments	9	4	2	5	13	6	6	2
	Average Size (Caravans)	5.2	4.8	3.5	7.8	5.1	11	4.2	8
	Largest Encampment (Caravans)	10	6	6	15	16	25	12	10
2010	No. of Encampments	7	1	3	3	6	8	4	4
	Average Size (Caravans)	6.1	2	5.7	1.7	7.6	3.6	3.8	6
	Largest Encampment (Caravans)	10	2	9	3	19	12	8	9
2011	No. of Encampments	5	2	8	3	4	3	15	6
	Average Size (Caravans)	4.4	12.3	7.1	9.7	10.3	9	3.5	8
	Largest Encampment (Caravans)	8	20	11	12	21	17	14	10
2012	No. of Encampments	34	3	6	3	11	3	8	6
	Average Size (Caravans)	9.2	10	6	3.3	12.7	1.7	6	5.5
	Largest Encampment (Caravans)	34	15	15	5	28	3	10	12

## 3. Consultation Findings

### Introduction

- 3.1 In order to set the context of the research and ensure that the study is based on a sound understanding of the relevant issues, a list of 115 contacts was provided to ORS by the local planning authorities with the aim of carrying out telephone interviews. The councils also contacted their members to ask whether they would take part in the consultation. The Consultation Section is based on information provided during the interview process and may not have a direct correlation to the factual information provided to ORS from the local authorities as part of the desktop exercise.
- 3.2 75 interviews were undertaken and the following is a breakdown of each consultation group:
- » 17 Members;
  - » 25 Officers;
  - » 10 Officers from surrounding areas;
  - » 23 Stakeholders.
- 3.3 ORS conducted 75 semi-structured in-depth telephone interviews during April and May 2013. The interviews typically lasted between 30- 40 minutes.
- 3.4 Reasons for not being able to conduct interviews were:
- » Those requested by e-mail to provide telephone contact details did not do so;
  - » Colleagues within the same organisation had already been interviewed and nothing further could be added;
  - » The person contacted felt they did not have any information that would be of help to the study;
  - » Those contacted did not respond.
- 3.5 The interviews were carried out with officers representing the six Dorset authorities, Dorset County Council and Bournemouth and Poole Councils and also nearby authorities, namely Hampshire County Council, Wiltshire Council, Somerset County Council, Devon County Council, New Forest District Council, East Devon District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and South Somerset District Council.
- 3.6 The aim of interviewing nearby authorities was to identify any migration between districts, what routes may be travelled, background information on the framework within which the authorities operate and any perceptions they may have regarding Gypsy and Traveller and Showpeople communities within their operational areas.
- 3.7 The officers interviewed worked in the following departments: Planning with Policy/Transport/Enforcement and/or Regeneration, Economy/Sustainable or Spatial and Community

Development, Strategy and Commissioning, Environmental Services, Health and Housing/Housing Options/Private Sector Housing/Parks, Landlords & Bereavement Services and Equalities.

- 3.8 ORS also interviewed wider stakeholders and these included interviews undertaken with individuals who had knowledge and experience of working with and/or who were Gypsies or Travellers themselves. These interviews included representatives from supporting organisations such as Kushti Bok, Dorset Community Action, the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMTAS), Drug EDP and Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), South West Alliance of Nomads (SWAN), Dorset Health Care University Foundation Trust (DHUFT), HMP Portland Youth Offenders Institution and Dorset Fire and Rescue Services.
- 3.9 With the aim of obtaining bricks and mortar contacts ORS also interviewed representatives from the following housing associations:
- » Bournemouth Churches Housing Association;
  - » Magna Housing Association;
  - » Poole Housing Partnership;
  - » Raglan Housing Association;
  - » Spectrum Housing Group.
- 3.10 The Dorset Home Choice partnership manages and monitors the operation of the housing allocations system across Dorset. It consists of six local authorities: Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council..
- 3.11 All 75 of those interviewed were asked whether they could identify or knew any Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation and if so, could they give a letter from ORS to them, which asked whether they would like to be involved in the Accommodation Needs Assessment consultation; to the same effect several drop in sessions were organised inviting those along to see whether they would be prepared to undertake a short confidential interview.
- 3.12 Registered Providers (RPs) were also asked how well they are able to identify these households within their current monitoring mechanisms and whether there are specific issues in relation to housing people from the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities.
- 3.13 RPs together with other organisations found they were able to provide very little data through their monitoring system. The majority of officers confirmed they knew of people from the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople living in their areas or in their properties because of officer experience/knowledge, not because of the analysis of statistical data.
- 3.14 The reasons given for not being able to accurately provide information were that people did not self-declare their ethnicity during the housing application process or that it was not possible to extrapolate this information from data sets/computer systems and/or tended generally not to be included in monitoring.
- 3.15 As a result of the consultation exercise, 19 organisations and ward members confirmed they were able to identify individuals or households living in bricks and mortar accommodation in the Dorset area. A copy of a letter from ORS was given to the 19 organisations/ward members in order that they could pass it on to

those they had identified and let ORS know how many letters had been sent in order that ORS could calculate a response rate. 9 responded and confirmed they had passed on 82 letters to either individuals or households who were known to be Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople living in bricks and mortar within the Dorset area.

<sup>3.16</sup> The Consultation section has been split into two distinct sections:

- » Council Officers and members working and operating within Dorset and officers in the surrounding/neighbouring areas;
- » Wider Stakeholders – including Registered Providers and support agencies.

<sup>3.17</sup> Due to issues surrounding data protection and in order to protect the confidentiality of those who took part, this section does not include verbatim comments and it aims to present a summary of the views and responses expressed by council officers, members and stakeholders during the consultation interview process.

<sup>3.18</sup> As mentioned above, the Consultation Section is based on information provided during the interview process and may not have a direct correlation to the factual information provided to ORS from the local authorities as part of the desktop exercise, for example the number and names of sites. Statistical information is provided elsewhere in this report.

## Council Officers and Members working and operating within Dorset and officers employed in neighbouring areas

### Main Policy Tools

<sup>3.19</sup> Legislation highlighted by some of those interviewed included the Human Rights Act 1998, Equalities Act 2010, Race Relations Act (Amendment) 2000, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012 and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. References were also made to various Housing, Child Protection and Children's Acts, the National Planning Policy Framework and national guidance..

<sup>3.20</sup> Respondents stated that they had some policies relating specifically to Gypsies and Travellers in relation to allocations, licensing, site management and protocols in relation to enforcement. With regard to planning, various policies were mentioned including Bournemouth Borough Council's adopted policy CS25, the New Forest District Council's criteria based policy CS16, Borough of Poole Council's PCS9 Core Strategy Policy and Dorset County Council's Gypsy and Traveller Policy 2003. In addition to these planning officers also mentioned draft and emerging policies such as Christchurch and East Dorset councils' who are drafting a criteria based policy for the location of site allocations in their areas.

<sup>3.21</sup> It was generally agreed that the policies that were available to officers were in the main effective, but concerns were raised about the effectiveness of enforcement and Government guidance. These concerns were in relation to where a need or wish to move Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople on by the Police occurred, but where no available site provision was provided within that local authority area. There were concerns raised by Bournemouth Borough Council that as a unitary authority with a limited amount of land available it was difficult to provide a site if needed, but if they did not provide a site the Police would be

unable to use their powers to move any Gypsies or Travellers on. Some of those interviewed believed a more sensible approach would be to have a shared transit facility within a wider geographic area.

#### Accommodation and Management: Current Site Provision and Bricks and Mortar

- 3.22 Officers mentioned 4 sites in Dorset that were owned and managed by Dorset County Council:
- » Ashoaks, Wareham - 16 pitches;
  - » Piddlehinton, Dorchester - 14 pitches;
  - » Salisbury Road, Shaftsbury – new site under construction
  - » Thornicombe, Blandford – 12 pitches.
- 3.23 Officers and members believed that these sites are well run and managed. It was also believed that there was a need to extend these sites where possible because of the numbers waiting for plots on the waiting lists.
- 3.24 The Borough Council of Poole has one site at Yarrow Close in Poole. The site has recently been refurbished and provides 15 plots. This site also has a waiting list which, officers believed, could indicate a need for further public site provision in the town.
- 3.25 Bournemouth, Christchurch and East Dorset council officers did not refer to any public sites in their areas.
- 3.26 North Dorset District Council has been working with Dorset County Council in the opening of a new site in Shaftsbury that will be for New Travellers; this facility is due to open in September 2013 and will provide 8 plots.
- 3.27 The majority of publicly owned sites, apart from the new site currently being developed in Shaftsbury for New Travellers, are providing accommodation for Gypsies and/or Irish Travellers.
- 3.28 Officers interviewed from neighbouring local authority areas identified the following sites in their areas:
- » Marchwood Road, Totton, New Forest District Council – 22 plots managed by Hampshire County Council);
  - » Wickham, Winchester District Council – 22 plots managed by Hampshire County Council);
  - » Hartley, Wintney, Hart District Council – 20 plots/pitches managed by Hampshire County Council;
  - » Penny Hill, Yateley, Hart District Council - 20 plots/pitches managed by Hampshire County Council;
  - » Pitney Park, Langport, South Somerset District Council – 3 plots/pitches may be privately owned;
  - » Chubbards Cross, Ilton, South Somerset Borough Council – 13 pitches/plots owned, managed by South Somerset District Council (transferred from Somerset County Council in 2002);
  - » Marsh Lane, Tintinhull, South Somerset –10 pitches/plots, owned and managed by South Somerset District Council (transferred from Somerset County Council in 2002);

- » Farringdon Hill, Bridgwater, West Somerset – 6 pitches/plots, previously owned by Somerset County Council, sold and now owned and managed by Somerset Travellers Ltd;
- » Westonzoyland, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset – 5 pitches/plots, previously owned by Somerset County Council, sold and now owned and managed by Somerset Travellers Ltd;
- » Berkley (Frome), Mendip District Council – 12 pitches/plots, previously owned by Somerset County Council, sold and now owned and managed by Somerset Travellers Ltd;
- » Otterford, Taunton Deane Borough Council – 8 pitches/plots, previously owned by Somerset County Council, sold and now owned and managed by Somerset Travellers Ltd;
- » Broadclyst, East Devon District Council – 8 pitches/plots owned by the National Trust and leased and managed by Devon County Council;
- » Sowton, Exeter City Council – 12 pitches/plots managed by Devon County Council;
- » Salisbury, Wiltshire County Council – 2 others sites (40 pitches/plots) owned and managed by Wiltshire Council;
- » Downtown, Wiltshire County Council – 10 plots/pitches owned and managed by Wiltshire Council;
- » 3 other sites in Wiltshire = 90 plots provided in Wiltshire.

<sup>3.29</sup> Officers in neighbouring areas, who identified public sites, confirmed they believed that residents living on these sites had their needs being met. However, the majority of officers believed the sites did not generally meet the needs of either the wider Traveller community or the local authorities' needs because of the numbers on the waiting lists.

<sup>3.30</sup> South Somerset District Council believed they were meeting the needs as a local authority in terms of permanent provision as they had met the shortfall identified in their last Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) albeit they would shortly be starting a new GTAA countywide that will forecast any possible future need until 2032.

<sup>3.31</sup> Officers and members in Dorset believed most of the sites in Dorset are privately owned and as a result of retrospective planning permission. The majority of planning permissions granted were believed to be in East and North Dorset and to a lesser extent Christchurch and West Dorset. Officers believed there to be a few privately owned sites in Purbeck, Weymouth and Poole but no privately owned sites in Bournemouth.

<sup>3.32</sup> The majority of the privately owned sites were believed to be family owned and managed and likely to be small in size; less than 7 pitches. Some officers mentioned a privately owned site at Conygar Coppice at Okeford Fitzpaine which provides accommodation for 15 individuals or households. It was suggested that residents living on this site could both rent a pitch and pull on their own trailer/live-in vehicle or rent a pitch and trailer from the owner.

<sup>3.33</sup> Officers in neighbouring areas confirmed that they also had private sites in their areas such as East Devon District Council (13 sites).

<sup>3.34</sup> Respondents confirmed there is no transit provision within the Dorset area. Officers in neighbouring areas highlighted a transit site in Totton that has space for 23 transit caravans and a transit site in Somerset

(currently closed). Wiltshire County Council provides a transit site for 12 plots. Any Traveller using the transit site pays a fee of £20.52 per week per pitch, the maximum stay is 28 days; the officer confirmed they had few instances of non-payment of fees.

- 3.35 Little reference was made by officers and members as to what sites are available for Showpeople in Dorset other than officers from East Dorset District Council who mentioned one site at Three Legged Cross near Verwood in East Dorset. Across the County boundary, East Devon District Council confirmed they have 2 Showpeople sites; all of these sites are privately owned.
- 3.36 7 officers and members interviewed in Dorset confirmed they knew of Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople living in affordable housing within their areas. ORS provided officers or members with a letter that could be sent to these contacts asking whether they would like to be involved in the consultation. Two members also confirmed that they would be able to pass on ORS's details to members of the Travelling community living in their wards or nearby wards.
- 3.37 Some officers in neighbouring areas confirmed that their knowledge of how many Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople living in bricks and mortar had been difficult to determine. However a number of interesting points were reported:
- » One council confirmed that their Assessment had highlighted the aspiration by some from the Traveller communities living in bricks and mortar who wished to move back on to sites. The local authority's perception of this was a wish to move back to a travelling life and therefore they would be looking to meet this need through the provision of transit sites rather than permanent site provision;
  - » One council highlighted that they had an extended family where two generations had moved into affordable housing as there had not been enough site provision over a number of years, together with a history of poor site management. The council highlighted that it would take one small new site to be developed in the area to release 9, much needed, affordable houses;
  - » One council interviewed said that because of the lack of affordable housing young local people were renting trailers on a caravan site that had planning permission based on it being used for Gypsies and/or Travellers; this contravenes planning permission and therefore planning enforcement is taking place;
  - » There was a concern raised by one local authority officer regarding older people, victims of domestic violence and/or the disabled from the Gypsy, Travellers or Showpeople communities. This is because there are no housing options for them other than to move them into bricks and mortar accommodation. This is often not an ideal option because of a lack of support for filling in forms, paying bills and culturally in terms of sharing cooking and bathing facilities in relation to hostel accommodation. It was suggested that there was the probability of separating these clients from their own communities. One solution put forward was to purchase a few park homes on caravan sites that may be culturally acceptable and offer an alternative solution other than bricks and mortar accommodation; this solution may also have less impact for clients with regard to their health and well-being.



## Accommodation and Management: Unauthorised Encampments and Development

- 3.38 Officers and Members in Dorset believed there were small groups of Gypsies, Irish Travellers and New Travellers who had been moving around the area for a number of years. It was believed that the reasons were because of work opportunities, historical connections to the area and family. It was thought that there were some New Travellers moving around the Dorchester area because of family connections.
- 3.39 Officers and Members in Dorset mentioned various well known places that are intermittently or always occupied illegally. The majority of those interviewed were able to identify unauthorised encampments either in their own or in other districts within Dorset and the majority of those interviewed believed that there had been fewer encampments in recent years. The exceptions to this were in Poole and Bournemouth where it was believed by some there had been a slight increase.
- 3.40 Encampments mentioned included St James' Common Shaftsbury, Conygar Coppice Okeford Fitzpaine, Woodhouse Cross, Gillingham, Came Down Golf Course and Five Bridges on the A30.
- 3.41 Although it was agreed by most of those interviewed that the occurrences of unauthorised encampments had decreased over the last 10 years, there had been an increase last year which was thought to be due to employment opportunities in relation to building and infrastructure work required for the Olympics site in the Weymouth area.
- 3.42 Officers and Members in Dorset also agreed that there are more encampments during the summer months and this was generally because of the Dorset Steam Fair held in Blandford at the end of August/beginning of September. This Fair was known to be on the Gypsy or Traveller calendar as a place to visit on an annual basis to trade and meet up with friends and family. In order to deal with the issue of encampments before and during the event, a temporary transit site is provided for 2 weeks and this had been used over the last 2-3 years successfully.
- 3.43 One of the issues raised by some officers and members within Dorset was one of Gypsies and Travellers holidaying in the area during the summer months and illegally encamping in areas generally used by the public. These included car parks, park and ride facilities and picnic areas. One Park and Ride facility at Creekmoor Poole was often used by Gypsies or Travellers and whether this was because of it being an open space, being under-utilised by the public or close to a main road was not known.
- 3.44 Officers working in neighbouring authorities did not raise any significant concerns over the number of unauthorised encampments in their areas. General comments were that there are one or two long term encampments that tended to be tolerated and a number of unauthorised encampments mainly during the summer months. The short term encampments were likely to be New Travellers during the festival season and Irish Travellers who are more likely to stay for up to 2 weeks for work/holiday and some believed that the numbers of Irish Travellers passing through or staying in seaside towns in the area had decreased because of the economic climate in Ireland.
- 3.45 In terms of encampments or groups moving through to Dorset from neighbouring local authority areas, it was mentioned that because of a significant number of Gypsies living in bricks and mortar in Calshot and Bransgore, that this may have an impact within Dorset. This is because, it was believed, that relatives coming to those areas may travel through Dorset and possibly encamp on the border, but this information was anecdotal.

- 3.46 Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople - Trends, Favoured Locations and Stopping Points
- 3.47 When asked to consider trends in relation to these communities, Officers and members in Dorset believed there had been no significant change over the last 10-20 years and the majority could not highlight any specific trends.
- 3.48 It was believed there had been an overall decrease in the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers coming into Dorset and those that did come to the area were more likely to be Gypsies or Irish Travellers staying for short periods of time and on an ad hoc basis..
- 3.49 It was generally agreed that the Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople in the area had settled permanently in Dorset and in the main did not travel other than for short periods during the summer and it was thought likely that they had lived or had a connection to Dorset or surrounding areas for several generations.
- 3.50 Officers and members working in Dorset commented that there appeared to be fewer encampments and less New Travellers over the last 10 years.
- 3.51 Some officers in Dorset reported a slight rise in Gypsies and New Travellers moving into bricks and mortar accommodation. A reason given for this was because those with children are likely to want to settle whilst their children attend primary school.
- 3.52 It was acknowledged that any potential increases in numbers relating to these communities are likely to be from natural population growth, rather than more Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople coming into the area. Other than an increase in numbers during the summer months from those coming into the area for events like the Dorset Steam Fair, officers and members did not predict any significant change in terms of numbers.
- 3.53 It was noted that there had been a significant decrease in the numbers of Gypsies or Travellers attending the Dorset Steam Fair. This is based on the fact that in the first one to two years of establishing the temporary site, Dorset County Council saw large numbers of caravans staying on the site, possibly up to 100; in recent years this had decreased to about 30-40 caravans. Reasons put forward for this decline in attendance were that Gypsies or Travellers did not want to be told to stay on the temporary site, poor weather over recent years and the economy.
- 3.54 The majority responded that they had seen a small increase in the amount of privately owned sites, usually following a retrospective and lengthy appeals process. Planning permission was likely to be given for a temporary, three year period possibly resulting in permanent permission.
- 3.55 Favoured locations were reported to be on access routes such as the A31, Dorchester, Three Legged Cross, Upwey, Shaftsbury and Wareham. Various reasons put forward as to why these areas are attractive to Gypsies and Travellers were suggested as being because of family, traditional travelling patterns and work. Some believed that it was also because Dorset is a beautiful part of the country to live and work.
- 3.56 Officers in surrounding areas believed that there are fewer Gypsies or Travellers travelling around and the ones that do are more likely to be Irish and New Travellers. However, one officer believed that the amount of travelling by the Gypsy or Traveller community would slowly decline due to increased legislation with regard to scrap dealing such as no cash transactions, the costs relating to learning to drive, including difficulties with literacy and the passing of the theory test, and the costs relating to car insurance for young

people and the cost of diesel; all of these factors will reportedly have an impact on the future prospects and economy of the Gypsy or Traveller way of life.

- <sup>3.57</sup> Favoured locations in surrounding local authority areas included Glastonbury, Yeovil, Exeter, Salisbury, Broadclyst, Ringwood and Kingsbridge. It was believed that Gypsies and Travellers were living in surrounding areas to Dorset because of family connections, work opportunities or were visiting the area during the summer for work especially relating to the festivals such as Glastonbury and fairs such as at Bridgwater or were visiting relatives living in bricks and mortar accommodation or on sites.
- <sup>3.58</sup> Officers in surrounding areas did not perceive there had been any specific trends in relation to activities such as planning applications. Only one officer commented that since their needs assessment expired they had seen a sharp upturn in applications to expand some authorised sites or unauthorised sites and submit applications to seek permanent/temporary planning permission.

#### Accommodation Needs: Permanent provision

- <sup>3.59</sup> Although it was stated that there had been a decline in unauthorised encampments in the Dorset area the majority of those interviewed believed there was a lack of permanent site provision. Most believed that this should be provided both through the public purse and privately in order to meet the needs of those that could afford to provide for themselves and those that could not. The majority of officers in Dorset and in surrounding areas believed that more advice should be given to those that are seeking planning permission.
- <sup>3.60</sup> It was mentioned that there could be a small increase in the need for permanent sites from New Travellers because they wished to move out of bricks and mortar or from those who could not afford bricks and mortar accommodation. One officer in a neighbouring area highlighted that there was evidence that people were resorting to living in caravans or in some cases tents, because of the inability to afford to live in rented bricks and mortar accommodation. This was mentioned in relation to finding students and migrant workers living in this way and it not being a choice in terms of choosing a “lifestyle” but a solution to homelessness.
- <sup>3.61</sup> Most respondents who believed there was a need for further site provision based their opinion on the fact that the public owned and managed sites in both Dorset and the surrounding areas are full and most had waiting lists. In addition to this there are illegal encampments in Dorset and the surrounding areas especially in relation to New Travellers who appear to be moving around the areas interviewed..
- <sup>3.62</sup> One respondent mentioned the need for Gypsies in Dorset to have winter accommodation that could be for 6 months and provided through caravan parks or holiday lets. It was felt by the respondent that this would be a good use of empty accommodation during the winter months and could be a cheaper solution than providing permanent or transit site provision or bricks and mortar affordable housing.
- <sup>3.63</sup> Few respondents mentioned Showpeople in terms of what their site needs may be. This was due to the fact that Showpeople appear to resolve their own accommodation needs. One officer in a surrounding area confirmed that they knew of a Showpeople family that were looking for an additional site in their area and another officer in another surrounding area confirmed that their Needs Assessment had identified a small need for a site for Showpeople.

- 3.64 A minority of respondents believed that there was sufficient site accommodation provided within Dorset and because of the cost and lack of land, any suitable sites should be prioritised for affordable housing for local people. In addition to this one respondent believed that it was not within a council's remit to provide for these communities.
- 3.65 A few of those interviewed commented that their areas seem to be providing the majority of provision because other districts were stating that they had no need for provision in their areas or that because of the nature of being a unitary area with little land available, if need was identified then provision should be provided in nearby local authority areas and therefore be a shared resource.
- 3.66 A minority of respondents believed that should more sites be provided numbers of Gypsies and Travellers moving to Dorset would increase.
- 3.67 Some officers in surrounding areas confirmed that they had met or were looking to meet their identified need by authorising private sites.
- 3.68 An officer in a surrounding authority highlighted Mendip District Council which has created a Community Land Trust run by and for the Traveller community. They are currently looking for a site in order to take the scheme forward.

#### Accommodation Needs: Transit and Temporary Site Provision

- 3.69 The majority of officers and members believed the need for Transit sites was a priority as there were no such sites available in Dorset. This meant that unless the public sites had vacancies, Police would not have the power to move Gypsies or Travellers on under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act because they would have nowhere to send them to within each local authority area.
- 3.70 Officers and members in Dorset and officers in surrounding areas generally agreed that working together in relation to transit sites and/or temporary roadside stopping places on the main travelling routes during the summer could be the way forward and there was a need to progress this work; the aim would be to provide a network of stopping sites across the South West that could be available from Easter to September/October. However, it was believed that there could be some constraints as there appeared to be some ambiguity as to whether transit sites could be a shared resource between local authority areas and still enable the Police to use legislation to move Gypsies or Travellers between local authority areas. Some also raised other constraints such as some local authorities having less political will than others and also there being generally a lack of resources both in terms of money and staff.
- 3.71 Some officers and members in Dorset believed that the temporary sites opened during the Olympics and for the Dorset Steam Fair worked well and that during the summer months further temporary transit provision with minimum facilities should be made available and a fee should apply for the use of such provision.
- 3.72 An officer in a neighbouring authority confirmed that they were looking to lease a field/site from April to October and provide minimum facilities that would be charged for.

## Site Location and Management

- 3.73 One respondent put forward the view that the methodology in terms of identifying sites was perhaps not the best approach as it would always result in opposition by local residents. The idea put forward would be to ask all parish councils to identify 2 sites, otherwise sites would be designated by the local authority on their behalf. At the same time, the local authorities would approach local Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople to ask them where they need to live and what routes they travel. This would result in a match up of sites that would best meet the needs of the Gypsy, Travellers or Showpeople communities whilst also giving the settled community the opportunity to have an input into the process. This way the result would be potential agreement in principal between those likely to use such facilities and nearby residents.
- 3.74 Some respondents in Dorset put forward the idea of using sites currently occupied, but as yet unauthorised. This was specifically in relation to sites where occupants appeared not to have caused any significant difficulties, such as Dudmoor and St James' Common Shaftsbury; it is believed by some of those interviewed that they should be given permission, perhaps on a temporary basis.
- 3.75 Other locations put forward by officers and members in Dorset included:
- » The Enterprise Site at Piddlehinton (used as a temporary site during the Olympics);
  - » A site at Little Acre (Purbeck) next to a site that is currently authorised;
  - » A County Council owned depot on the edge of Wool;
  - » An extension to the Coombe Keynes site;
  - » A site currently unauthorised at Matchams;
  - » Creekmoor Park and Ride, Poole;
  - » County Council chippings depot at Woodhouse Cross, Gillingham;
  - » Council owned land at Merley (Poole BC);
  - » The site in Shaftsbury (which appears to be closed);
  - » Anywhere around Littlemoor, Lodmoor and Chickerell;
  - » Legalising a site at Wincanton Road, Gillingham;
  - » A site at Plantworld Nursery, Milton on Stour.
- 3.76 The majority of officers interviewed from surrounding areas did not have a view as to where permanent sites should be located in Dorset, although general ideas for suitable locations included unused car parks, football pitches and unused chipping depots that had the potential to be used on a temporary basis.
- 3.77 Officers in surrounding areas put forward the idea of developing a network of transit sites near strategic road networks, such east to west along the A303. This could be helpful to those wishing to use the sites and to local authorities.
- 3.78 It was generally agreed by officers and members in Dorset that any new permanent sites, whether private or public, should be close to amenities such as schools, GPs, public transport and road networks. A few respondents in Dorset did not feel that this was particularly necessary as most members of the Gypsy,

Traveller and Showpeople communities had access to transport. Some officers referred to their specific criteria based policies such as Poole Council's PCS9 Core Strategy Policy.

- 3.79 Some officers and members in Dorset put forward the view that any site provision should be in consultation not only with the settled community, but also with the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople themselves. It was believed that there would be no point in providing sites that were not in the right locations, were not specific to the cultural requirements of the different Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities' needs or designed without the input of the final customer; the concern being that the sites would end up not being used.
- 3.80 Taking this point further in terms of site locations being in consultation with the end user, there was no majority view in terms of whether sites should be in urban or rural areas. Some officers and members in Dorset put forward the view that Irish Travellers were more likely to want to live near to industrial locations on the edges of urban areas, whilst Gypsies or New Travellers were more likely to want to live in rural locations.
- 3.81 It was generally believed that any unmet need that may be identified should be met through both public and private provision. This would ensure that those that could afford it could meet their own needs, whilst those that could not afford to purchase land would have their needs met through the Welfare State and in the same way as those that required affordable housing. One respondent believed that any sites provided should have local connection criteria in perpetuity in the same way as affordable housing is developed through rural exception sites.
- 3.82 The majority of respondents believed that any new transit provision should be close to the main road networks running east to west and from the north to the south west; those that put forward an opinion stated that transit sites should provide minimum site facilities such as water, rubbish collection and electricity and that these services should be paid for.
- 3.83 Locations for transit sites put forward by some officers and members within Dorset included along the A31 and A35 trunk roads, a site used on an ad hoc basis at Upwey and at an intersection of bridleways to the north of Dorchester skirting Broadmayne which is already used intermittently by New Travellers.
- 3.84 The majority of officers and members were not able to put forward suggestions with regard to where any new sites should be located; most highlighted the challenges local authorities faced such as local opposition, lack of land and/or suitable sites.
- 3.85 The majority of officers and members did not have a view on the management of sites, although, because of their experiences within Dorset, they generally believed that publicly owned and managed sites were preferable to privately managed sites. Some respondents put forward the view that as long as the sites were well managed, had allocation policies and management procedures it did not matter what type of management structure was in place.
- 3.86 Some respondents put forward the view that with transit sites and private sites where caravans or plots could be privately rented out they are less controllable in terms of who uses the sites and whether they were paying a fair fee; it was believed that such a structure could be open to abuse.

## Community, Health and Education Issues

- 3.87 Examples were given where community cohesion worked well, specifically where sites had been established for a number of years. Examples put forward included the site at Piddle Hinton and the temporary site established during the Dorset Steam Fair. Some officers and members believed that the reasons why issues between the communities had improved were because local residents saw a decrease in the number of unauthorised encampments in those areas.
- 3.88 Most officers and members highlighted community cohesion as an issue that arose when there is an unauthorised encampment, fly-tipping, unauthorised development or when consultation with regard to the search for sites took place.
- 3.89 Some officers and members within Dorset mentioned that when consultation and public debate took place the usual uninformed prejudices in relation to Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities arose. However, one officer did mention that there appeared to be more confidence on behalf of Gypsies or Travellers in particular to report hate crime.
- 3.90 It was raised that sometimes opposition to new sites is not always due to prejudice or racism but because of specific issues with regard to location. For example, there had been many objections raised against locating the new site in Shaftsbury because it was on the line of a proposed town bypass. Local residents believed that by developing the site on this line, even temporarily, would mean that the bypass would never be developed despite the lack of finance.
- 3.91 Concerns were raised about the update of the Needs Assessment and whether it would deliver tangible information that would be robust enough to support any future site provision and in which locations. Any weakness in terms of the methodologies, analysis and conclusion could result in local residents and indeed members of the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities being opposed to any future proposals and the authorities having to defend the findings.
- 3.92 In order to resolve some of the issues that had arisen in relation to community cohesion, some training for members and officers had taken place in the majority of local authority areas. For example Christchurch and East Dorset councils had seen improvements in relations between officers and Gypsy and Traveller communities because of their involvement in the Development Plan Document (DPD) and also with regard to elected members who had become knowledgeable of the issues surrounding the possible need for sites. Officers believed that their members now acknowledged the need to resolve the issues relating to identifying need and potential site provision.
- 3.93 However, the majority of officers and members believed that further training and seminars were needed so that greater understanding of the cultural differences between Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople and the issues that often arose in relation to these groups and the wider communities could be better understood. It was put forward that any future events should be organised countywide rather than each local authority organising its own schedule of training; this would ensure a uniform approach and ability to share cost.
- 3.94 West Dorset District Council has also been involved with local Gypsy and Traveller support groups by assisting them to hold a multicultural programme of activities that involved bringing together local residents and members of the Gypsy and Traveller and Showpeople communities in a non-threatening environment.

- <sup>3.95</sup> It was highlighted by a few of those interviewed that it was recognised that Gypsies and Travellers also needed to be more open and forthcoming not only about their genuine needs but also their commitment to the local community in which they wished to reside.
- <sup>3.96</sup> There is little evidence to highlight any concerns that officers, members or officers in surrounding areas may have in relation to health and education for Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople. Some did highlight that there may be challenges for these communities if they are transient in relation to accessing such services and in particular for children to regularly attend schools.
- <sup>3.97</sup> In the main officers and members in Dorset were unaware that the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) is being withdrawn in September.
- <sup>3.98</sup> It was believed by some officers in neighbouring areas that Gypsies in particular appreciate that opportunities for their children will be through improved education. It was perceived that the Gypsies were travelling less often and looking to base themselves near schools which already had children from these communities as pupils.
- <sup>3.99</sup> The majority of respondents were, however, unaware of the organisations that are able to support the Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities in Dorset. A few respondents highlighted the work of the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Service, Kushti Bok and the SW Alliance of Nomads as being organisations that were respected and valued in the area.

### Cross Boundary Issues

- <sup>3.100</sup> The main routes thought to be used by Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople in Dorset are the A303, A338, A35, and A31.
- <sup>3.101</sup> When asked to consider cross boundary issues, there was little evidence to suggest that the same Gypsies and/or Travellers were being moved on because of enforcement between district council areas. Officers and members within Dorset and officers in neighbouring areas believe that some families travel through their area on a seasonal basis, year on year. They also believe there are Gypsies or Travellers living on unauthorised encampments but moving within a local area, such as around Dorchester.
- <sup>3.102</sup> Other than the work being undertaken for the Needs Assessment there were few examples of cross boundary working other than the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison officers sharing intelligence with regard to different Gypsy and/or Travellers passing through their areas or whether there were vacancies on specific sites where people could be moved to; this was not only between local authority areas within Dorset, but also between Dorset County Council and other areas such as Wiltshire. It was highlighted that there was a need to work together and this could be improved.
- <sup>3.103</sup> Bournemouth and potentially Poole Councils are keen to work with other local authorities to see whether any provision required in their areas can be met in other local authority areas because of the issues already highlighted around Police powers and their lack of available land.
- <sup>3.104</sup> Officers working in neighbouring areas also confirmed that they were in the main working countywide with regard to their Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment such as Somerset. Some areas, such as Hampshire, noted there had sometimes been difficulties in getting all areas working together.



## Consultation Activities

- <sup>3.105</sup> There were few examples of regular consultation with Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople within Dorset. There appeared to be a Dorset Gypsy and Traveller meeting held once a quarter but it was unclear from the interviews conducted whether this was still being held and whether it did or did not include Bournemouth and Poole areas as there was conflicting information.
- <sup>3.106</sup> Officers confirmed that consultation on specific issues does take place such as when sites are due to be refurbished. Consultation also took place with those that will be living on the new site being developed at Shaftsbury in relation to design.
- <sup>3.107</sup> The majority of officers in surrounding areas confirmed that when they were undertaking their Needs Assessments, Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople were consulted but that no regular consultation was carried out with these communities.
- <sup>3.108</sup> South Somerset District Council confirmed they have a countywide Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Group held every 3 months. This Group is attended by the statutory authorities such as health, education and the local authorities and also includes members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities; they use these meetings as a conduit to undertake regular feedback in order to improve their services to these communities.
- <sup>3.109</sup> Officers highlighted during the interviews that Registered Providers did not generally attend Gypsy and Traveller Liaison meetings in all areas. In order to ensure that those Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation could be involved in future consultation events, invitations to RPs should be extended. This would help when it comes to any Accommodation Needs Assessments in the future because local authorities will have developed a regular network of engagement with Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople living in RP accommodation; this would resolve some of the current difficulties in finding out what their needs are.
- <sup>3.110</sup> One example of good practice was highlighted by Devon County Council. They hold regular residents' meetings on their publicly owned sites in order to undertake consultation on anything from the new universal credit to health issues. In addition to this, they work closely with Teign Housing which has recently bid to manage one of the County Council's sites.

## The Future and Any Additional Issues

- <sup>3.111</sup> There was a general frustration raised by some of those interviewed regarding the amount of Needs Assessments that had already been undertaken and that few sites had materialised, even though need had been identified (in most cases). It was hoped that if any need was identified through these updates that sites would be developed where they were needed and that any provision was designed in consultation with the end user.
- <sup>3.112</sup> It was generally felt though that this information was already available in the form of the number of unauthorised encampments that arise, those waiting for pitches on public sites and the bi-annual caravan counts.

- <sup>3.113</sup> It was generally believed that there had been few changes over the last 20 years with regard to the number of Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople in the areas that were interviewed and it was generally believed that there was only likely to be a small increase in the future.
- <sup>3.114</sup> Most of those interviewed working within Dorset hoped that more sites would be provided especially in relation to transit sites. However issues such as the robustness of the Needs Assessment, political will and land constraints may make any progression of sites protracted.
- <sup>3.115</sup> It was generally agreed that more support should be provided to Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople living on the sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- <sup>3.116</sup> Most of those interviewed within Dorset hoped that Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople currently living in the area would become part of the “community” as a whole rather than a separated group living on the outside, looking in; it was acknowledged that not all Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople would want to be associated or integrated into the settled community and may prefer “living under the radar”.
- <sup>3.117</sup> There was some doubt as to whether any sites, if needed, would materialise in Bournemouth. Some officers believed that this would be because of the issues regarding a lack of available land or a lack of political will. Concerns were raised by officers not working within Bournemouth that there appeared to be an expectation by Bournemouth Borough Council that any need could, potentially, be met by other nearby local authorities which are struggling to meet their own needs.
- <sup>3.118</sup> Some officers and members within Dorset hoped that greater powers would be given to the Police to move people on who are encamped illegally, regardless of whether there are safe places for them to go to in the area and/or hoped that they would become settled, preferably in bricks and mortar.
- <sup>3.119</sup> There was a view put forward that Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople should be seeking their own solutions to their accommodation difficulties rather than relying on it being resolved through the welfare system.
- <sup>3.120</sup> Officers working in neighbouring areas put forward similar views in that they did not anticipate any significant changes in relation to the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities. Although it was mentioned that they could become more settled because of changes relating to driving tests, towing licenses, benefits and scrap dealing; whether they would be settled on sites or in bricks and mortar accommodation was not stated.

## Wider Stakeholders

### Main Policy Tools

- <sup>3.121</sup> Stakeholders confirmed they used legislation and guidance specific to their area of expertise for example working within the Equality and Diversity Framework (EDF) including the Human Rights Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments) and Equalities Act 2010.
- <sup>3.122</sup> Organisations did not have any policies specific to Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople but used overarching policies and constitutional documents, examples were given as Equality and Diversity, lettings and allocations especially in relation to Choice Based Lettings, caravan site licensing and enforcement and lone working. Although not specifically used in relation to Gypsies and Travellers there was usually an equality and diversity statement included in any policy documentation.
- <sup>3.123</sup> Respondents generally agreed that both national legislation and guidance was generally effective. However, one respondent raised the fact that sometimes organisational policies had to be flexible and organisations culturally aware; an example was given whereby at a children's centre it was the policy only to release a child to a named guardian/parent but with the Travellers living on a nearby site, it was their culture to provide support for each other and they were happy for anyone from their site to pick up their child. In order to ensure that this was taken into account the policies were amended and made flexible enough to ensure they, as an organisation, were culturally aware of their clients' needs but still ensuring that a child would be safe.
- <sup>3.124</sup> Although respondents generally agreed that legislation, guidance and policies are effective one interviewee did comment that they were perhaps not provided in the best format because most were leaflets and that sometimes there were issues for Gypsies and Travellers in relation to illiteracy.

### Accommodation and Management: Current Site Provision and Bricks and Mortar

- <sup>3.125</sup> Most stakeholders were able to name authorised private and/or public sites in the Dorset area in relation to Gypsies and/or Travellers but there was scant mention of what provision is available for Showpeople in the area.
- <sup>3.126</sup> Most stakeholders believed that the current public sites provided good facilities and in the majority of cases were in the right locations. This was based on their experiences of either visiting sites, what they had heard anecdotally or because there is an assumption that as there are waiting lists, people must want to live there. It was mentioned, however, that ideally additional support over and above that which a site manager could/should provide, such as support and advice relating to health, housing and/or education, should be considered.
- <sup>3.127</sup> In some cases however, the waiting lists or applications for vacant pitches, which did not arise that often, were low and this was thought to be due to the need for those moving on to a site to be accepted by existing residents. A point was made that although there may be Gypsies and/or Travellers wishing for accommodation on a site, they may not apply to go on a waiting list because there was little chance of them being "chosen" through the selection process, and that was the reason waiting lists in some cases were low or the volume of applications for vacant pitches not high.

- <sup>3.128</sup> It was acknowledged by some of those interviewed that not all private unauthorised or authorised sites meet the needs of those living on them in terms of how the settled community would perceive people to live; this was with regard to the standard of accommodation and the overall “look” of the sites. It was acknowledged that there are plenty of homeowners that do not maintain their homes and they are not judged in the same way as Gypsies or Travellers appear to be.
- <sup>3.129</sup> In order to ensure that Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation were included in the needs assessment, all stakeholders were asked whether they were able to pass on a letter to any Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople whom that they may have as tenants and/or who they support. A copy of a letter from ORS was sent to 12 stakeholders who said they would copy the letter and pass it on to those they house/support.
- <sup>3.130</sup> Registered Providers (RPs) were asked specific questions relating to their ability to monitor Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople who may live in their properties. The majority of those interviewed confirmed that the current application systems had an Equality and Diversity section which was mandatory to complete. The Equality and Diversity section includes a question relating to an applicant/s ethnicity and Roma Gypsy and Irish Traveller are included as distinct ethnic groups under current legislation. Organisations can choose whether or not to include a section for other groups such as New Travellers but there was no evidence to suggest that any RPs were including any other Traveller related groups other than Gypsies and Irish Travellers.
- <sup>3.131</sup> It was generally agreed by RPs that they believed there were far more members of the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities living in their properties than their monitoring systems identified. They believed this was because those who completed an application form had either not completed the section relating to Equality and Diversity or had completed it but ticked white British as their ethnicity.
- <sup>3.132</sup> RPs believed there were more members of the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople living in their properties than the monitoring systems evidenced because of comments their customers had made to them during the signing up process or on subsequent house visits, or through officer knowledge of specific family names that were often synonymous with Gypsy or Traveller families within Dorset.

#### Accommodation and Management: Unauthorised Encampments and Development

- <sup>3.133</sup> Stakeholders were able to identify a number of unauthorised encampments in the Dorset area that were either long standing or short term. Long standing sites included those at Shaftsbury, Wool and Dorchester, and short term encampments mentioned included Avon Heath Country Park and Bishops Caundle.
- <sup>3.134</sup> It was generally acknowledged by those interviewed that more Gypsies and Travellers were visible on the roadside during the summer, from Easter through to September, than in the winter months. The majority of those interviewed believed they had seen fewer encampments over recent years. However it was mentioned by one stakeholder that they believed there had been more encampments but that Police action had been sharp and swift to move Travellers on.
- <sup>3.135</sup> It was believed by some and known by others interviewed that the reasons members of the Gypsy or Traveller communities visit Dorset is because of traditional horse fair routes, the Dorset Steam Fair, family connections, work and good schools.

- <sup>3.136</sup> Some of those interviewed raised issues in relation to the amount of single pitch sites that are considered unauthorised developments and where lengthy planning applications/appeals had been pursued. It was considered by some that the lack of advice by planning officers, lack of support for applicants and the costs that were incurred during this process by all parties, made the whole system of applying for legalising a site through planning permission prohibitive.
- <sup>3.137</sup> It was also considered by some stakeholders that gaining temporary planning permission only prolonged the stress for those living on private sites and this had a considerable effect on residents in terms of mental health and wellbeing, especially where children were involved. This is because there is no certainty as to whether permanent permission would be achieved or temporary permission extended.
- <sup>3.138</sup> Some stakeholders raised the question as to whether the cost of providing public authorised sites, at considerable cost to the tax payer, was the best way to resolve the lack of accommodation provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople. It was put forward that having alternative solutions, such as providing land, rather than hard-standing and amenity blocks may be the preference for some members of the Gypsy or Traveller or Showpeople communities.

#### Trends, Favoured Locations and Stopping Points

- <sup>3.139</sup> Stakeholders believed there had been a trend for more Gypsies and New Travellers to move into bricks and mortar accommodation. This is understood to be because of the difficulties in obtaining planning permission for privately owned sites, stability in relation to children attending school, general harassment by enforcement officers/Police nationally for those who are transient, and it becoming harder to earn a living when transient.
- <sup>3.140</sup> It was also acknowledged by some of those interviewed that there was a level of animosity between those living on sites and/or who were transient towards those from the Gypsy or Traveller communities whom had moved into bricks and mortar accommodation.
- <sup>3.141</sup> A minority of those interviewed believed there is a small trend for Gypsies or Travellers to travel abroad to countries such as America, Australia, during the winter months and to Europe during the summer months in order to seek work.
- <sup>3.142</sup> It was generally agreed that there was a trend for more Gypsies and Travellers to remain static and only travel during the school holidays, especially during the summer and the festival season.
- <sup>3.143</sup> The majority of those interviewed believed that Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople were actively seeking their own sites, but it could not be established as to whether this was reality or an aspiration.
- <sup>3.144</sup> Some stakeholders acknowledged that there appeared to be a trend towards better attendance at school for Gypsies and Travellers and that many more Gypsies or Travellers were seeing the benefits of education. The perception was that children would now be able to compete on the same level as others for higher education or opportunities for employment.
- <sup>3.145</sup> There was an indication that some New Travellers are assisting Gypsies with providing advice and support in relation to submitting and progressing planning applications in relation to private sites.

<sup>3.146</sup> In terms of places that Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople may favour in Dorset, respondents mentioned Shaftsbury and the Dorset Steam Fair held near Blandford in relation to Romany Gypsies, Bournemouth was mentioned in relation to Irish Travellers, Dorchester and Wool in relation to New Travellers and Bridport in relation to Showpeople.

<sup>3.147</sup> In terms of stopping places along the main roads through Dorset roads such as the A303, A354 and A338 were highlighted. Respondents also mentioned that Irish Travellers were likely to travel from the North to the South West along the M5 and Gypsies and Travellers could be moving across from the East to the West along the M4.

### Accommodation Needs: Site Provision and Bricks and Mortar

<sup>3.148</sup> Respondents believed that there was in the main a lack of all types of sites in order to meet the different communities' perceived need. It was generally believed that a mixture of small privately owned sites, larger publicly owned sites and transit sites available from Easter to late September/early October would be likely to meet whatever need was identified.

<sup>3.149</sup> It was generally acknowledged that the more site provision was available the more likely it was that some of the families that had moved into bricks and mortar accommodation may take the opportunity to move back to sites.

<sup>3.150</sup> One respondent raised the issue of older Gypsies or Travellers who may wish to remain on sites rather than move into bricks and mortar accommodation; the suggestion put forward is that a minimal amount of park homes/bricks and mortar accommodation should be provided on sites in order to meet these particular needs.

### Site Criteria, Location and Management of Sites

<sup>3.151</sup> Respondents stated the following as important criteria to consider with regard to site location and design:

- » Where Gypsies and Travellers had a historical connection with an area and had identified a local authorities where they wanted to live; this would ensure the sustainability of any sites that are developed;
- » Facilities and space to meet their cultural needs such as space for horses, vehicles etc.;
- » Access to amenities and facilities such as GPs, schools, shops, public transport etc.;
- » Access to facilities on site such as water, electric, drainage and rubbish disposal;
- » Support on site with regard to health, education and housing;
- » Away from health and environmental hazards such as tips, busy roads, pylons;
- » Making sure the needs and impact on the settled community were taken into consideration, whilst ensuring privacy for those living on the site.

<sup>3.152</sup> Very little information was gathered in relation to specific locations where new sites could be developed and some respondents believed that current planning policy within the Dorset area was too stringent. Suggestions included:

- » Refer back to the Baker Report<sup>1</sup>;
- » Transit sites should be located off the A31/A35;
- » The site at Piddlehinton could be expanded to provide additional permanent provision;
- » Transit provision could be provided near the Sunrise Business Park/Ambulance Station in Blandford;
- » Wintergreen Barn, Beaminster;
- » Authorising the site at St James' Common Shaftsbury;
- » A transit or stopping place could be provided in the lay by between Shaftsbury and Henstridge;
- » A site in Wool for New Travellers;
- » Bournemouth and Throop;
- » Somewhere in the west of Dorset;
- » A transit site should be provided in Verwood.

<sup>3.153</sup> It was recognised by all the stakeholders that providing additional sites in locations that would be acceptable to Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople and the settled community was going to be a challenge.

<sup>3.154</sup> Respondents had differing views on the management of sites, some believed that the current balance of County run sites and privately managed sites was about right, whilst others raised specific issues. These issues included that sites should be managed by those living on them, although others believed it was better to have publicly owned sites managed by local authorities or the County Council or a third party such as an RP.

### Community, Health and Education Issues

<sup>3.155</sup> Stakeholders were unable to give specific examples of issues in relation to community cohesion within Dorset. However, respondents believed that when issues did arise it was likely to be because of encampments in public areas, private site applications or consultation for Gypsy and Traveller sites and was generally in relation to the settled communities' perception of these communities in relation to crime, rubbish and not paying for services they receive. It was also acknowledged that there was a certain amount of racial discrimination and hate crime targeted towards the Gypsy and Traveller communities in particular and this was not helped by the media.

<sup>3.156</sup> Stakeholders highlighted that there could be tension between Gypsies, Irish Travellers and New Travellers and they were separate communities. This issue was raised by one stakeholder who highlighted the challenges that could arise when young people from these different communities mix, especially with regard to young men and women from different backgrounds entering into relationships, which was not generally accepted by Gypsies in particular.

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<sup>1</sup> The 'Baker report' is the 'Dorset Wide Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show People Site Allocations Joint DPD – Site Options Report, April 2011. produced by Baker Associates obo the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Local Authorities.

- <sup>3.157</sup> One stakeholder highlighted that Showpeople did not appear to elicit a negative response in the same way as Gypsies and Travellers did from the settled community.
- <sup>3.158</sup> Some respondents put forward examples of good practice that help alleviate the challenges of community cohesion such as Manorside School, Poole where Cultural Awareness Days are held.
- <sup>3.159</sup> It was generally felt that there were not enough networks or support for Gypsies and Travellers in particular, and it was believed that further training and information should be provided to those working for public authorities and support agencies in order to combat some of the gaps in current services. There was also believed to be a need for Members in particular to have training or further training with regard to Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities in order that they were better able to understand the issues relating to the possible need for sites, why their needs may be different from the settled community, current legislation/local authority policies and about cultural identity in particular.
- <sup>3.160</sup> Most respondents were not able to take a view on whether there were specific issues in relation to health for Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople living in Dorset. The majority of respondents knew that these communities had the worst health outcomes nationally, lower life expectancy and some mentioned specific health concerns such as mental health, Arthritis, Diabetes, smoking awareness, lack of regular eye and dental checks and screening tests. Some believed the reason the health of these communities is sometimes poor is related to their living in trailers and the stress of being moved around or seeking planning permission.
- <sup>3.161</sup> Some respondents highlighted difficulties with accessing services such as registering with a GP if you were visiting the area and the challenges those that are transient have in keeping appointments, immunisations checks and boosters (mainly for children), difficulties in finding transport to get to surgeries and some reluctance or reservation by health visitors to attend those living on permanent sites. In addition to these constraints an issue was also raised that some Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople don't have National Insurance Numbers and that this could translate in them not receiving a National Health Service number.
- <sup>3.162</sup> Some respondents noted that there appeared to be more use of drink and/or drugs by some of these communities living in the Dorset area; however no research had been undertaken as to evidence whether more are addicted to drink and/or drugs or engagement with these communities has improved, trust has been built up and more are seeking help and/or support that would elicit an increase in caseload. There also appeared to be an understanding that some issues such as drugs and alcohol misuse, domestic violence and sexual health are ones that are kept inside of these communities perhaps because of their concern of "authorities" becoming involved or a "black mark" against their family.
- <sup>3.163</sup> Some stakeholders interviewed believed they did not have enough evidence to suggest that in Dorset the health needs or accessibility to health services were any worse for Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople over other disadvantaged groups or indeed tourists visiting the area.
- <sup>3.164</sup> Some of those interviewed highlighted positive action being undertaken in Dorset to address some of these health issues such as the work being undertaken by the Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust (DHUFT) regarding mental health and cultural awareness training for their staff, healthy cookery courses at the Piddlehinton site and the work being undertaken for cancer prevention by Dorset Cancer Network. Some respondents also gave examples of good practice relating to safety such as the Red Cross holding first



aid training sessions and the Fire Service giving Home Fire Service checks relating to the use and maintenance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on sites.

- <sup>3.165</sup> It was generally believed that further improvements could be introduced such as additional help in terms of community health workers that are able to give help, support and advice in a range of formats for those living on both authorised and unauthorised sites; this would improve signposting and ensure accessibility to the healthcare and advice services within Dorset. There was also a need for the new Clinical Commissioning Groups to learn what had already been achieved in terms of research and current service provision, before starting from scratch.
- <sup>3.166</sup> Many believed that the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Service was extremely good and fair: however it was felt or perceived by some respondents that the first point of contact for many Gypsies and Travellers, and maybe for Showpeople in Dorset was in relation to enforcement or to do with Anti Social Behaviour and not about what services or support could be given to them should they need it. In other words there was a negative rather than a positive response to any Gypsies and Travellers and it was believed by some that this was in order to deter these communities coming into Dorset rather than to treat them as human beings, visitors or members of the Dorset community.
- <sup>3.167</sup> With regard to education it was reported that there had been vast improvements with regard to accessibility and attendance for children from these communities mainly as a result of changes in government policy. This could improve the future prospects of these young people. However, there were some respondents who highlighted difficulties in accessing regular schooling, bullying and lack of transport.
- <sup>3.168</sup> A few of those interviewed did mention that there were still challenges relating to older children, especially girls, attending secondary and higher education. It was reported that there is generally a lack of aspiration within some Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities and it was practical skills such as plastering and bricklaying, that would enable them to earn a living, that were sought after. One example of good practice is Gosport Educational Improvement Partnership who are developing ways to make learning more meaningful for young people from the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities.
- <sup>3.169</sup> Few stakeholders were able to identify specific projects or support groups that look to improve or support Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople regarding health or education (or housing) and there was a lot of concern around the cutting of services such as EMTAS. Some raised the point that schools may not know who to turn to if they had issues relating to Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople as what little supports services there currently are would not exist in the future and the knowledge and trust built up by those officers with these communities would be lost.
- <sup>3.170</sup> Concerns were also raised in relation to the changes in the law relating to the introduction of dual registration. One respondent highlighted their concerns over the need to be registered if a family were away longer than 2 weeks from their main school. This would mean those that took their children out of school to go travelling would be expected to keep registering at different schools along their travelling route which was impractical. Other respondents raised concerns over this change resulting in more home education which sometimes meant children did not receive education to an acceptable standard, although others put forward the argument that there was a lot to be learnt through travelling and working in different areas or for events such as festivals.

- 3.171 There were few examples of good practice other than Kingston Maurward College which had started to offer courses such as rural and marine skills.
- 3.172 It was believed by some respondents that more needed to be achieved and that issues relating to changes in the law affecting Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople should be designed with an input from these communities, rather than involving them in consultation once draft policies or legislation had taken place. This would ensure right from the start if changes were workable and effective.
- 3.173 Some RPs mentioned the low levels of literacy within these communities and highlighted the difficulties this can present for those living in bricks and mortar and their ability to sustain their tenancy. Some commented that they looked to ensure that all information was provided in accessible formats and where literacy issues were identified, face to face visits would be undertaken if requested.

### Cross Boundary Issues and Consultation Activities

- 3.174 Stakeholders believed that the main travelling routes through the area were A31, A35, A303, A37, A338 and A352. Road networks also used along the south coast were mentioned such as the A27 and A259.
- 3.175 Respondents did not believe there had been a trend for Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople to move from Dorset to other neighbouring districts other than those you would expect such as Showpeople or those that attended the Dorset Steam Fair each year.
- 3.176 The majority of respondents believed that Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople were settled in the area or were travelling through Dorset from Kent, Cornwall or Leeds. A small number of respondents mentioned that there may be some members from these communities that moved between Bournemouth and Poole, but there was little evidence to suggest that many groups were being moved between local authority areas in Dorset because of enforcement action.
- 3.177 There were few examples of cross border working other than the work being undertaken for the 'Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment' and by the Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Group<sup>2</sup> meetings. Some respondents highlighted the differences in the way local authorities work. For instance some authorities like East and West Dorset District Councils appear to be more tolerant in relation to these communities when compared to others such as Bournemouth Borough Council. These differences sometimes made working together a challenge.
- 3.178 Examples of cross border working were given as the Equality and Diversity Action Group Forum of NHS Dorset/Dorset community Health Services who are responsible for the updating of the Dorset Diversity Action Plan, an annual seminar held by the Equality and Diversity Action Group in Dorset which is organised by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team that investigates ways of engaging with Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople and finding ways to improve and sustained engagement where it already exists. EMTAS in Dorset currently works cross border with other EMTAS services in order to share good practice and information. The Forest Bus based in Southampton and Kushti Bok are also highlighted as organisations that looked to be involved in forums being held within the South West.

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<sup>2</sup> The 'Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Group' is a group of Dorset wide service providers and representative groups who work with the Gypsy and Traveller community and meet regularly to discuss issues and agree actions relating to the community.

- 3.179 There was mention of the good cross border networks built up by the Gypsy community as their family ties appear to be strong. Some respondents also believed that Police and Gypsy and Traveller Liaison officers shared intelligence regarding Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople who are transient.
- 3.180 It was generally agreed, however, that cross boundary working could and should be improved especially in relation to health, housing and education.
- 3.181 There were very few examples of regular consultation other than for specific issues regarding the call for land for sites and new policies or strategies and there were no examples other than this study that were put forward. Some respondents mentioned the Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Group but the understanding is that there are no individual members of the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities who attend. One example of a seminar held in 2009 at the Hub which involved the Police, Children's Society, Fire and Rescue Service and young people from Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople was highlighted as an example of good practice. The seminar looked to exchange experiences and create a better insight into the way policy and field work had an effect on these communities and this event helped shape some of the future working plans of these organisations. Another example opening up opportunities for consultation to take place are at the health forums undertaken at the Dorset Steam Fair where Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople communities are encouraged to attend.
- 3.182 Organisations such as DHUFT, Kushti Bok, SWANomads and HMP Portland did regularly consult with those they engage with. Some of these organisations were being used as conduits within Dorset to undertake consultation on specific issues for public authorities, for which they highlighted they were not paid for and some of the organisations are only running due to volunteers.
- 3.183 Where consultation did take place it was usually undertaken via face to face interviews or orally because of difficulties with illiteracy in relation to the Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities; the idea of putting up a poster inviting these communities to attend a meeting is not an acceptable way of working. One respondent from an organisation who had undertaken consultation with the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople in the past had given £10 vouchers as incentives to take part in consultation with the aim of improving services and future strategies/action plans.
- 3.184 The RPs interviewed confirmed that they consulted with all tenants and in a variety of formats that would enable anyone to be consulted with who wanted to be involved. This included residents' days, house visits, telephone, written surveys, internet surveys and seminars.
- 3.185 There was an acknowledgement by the majority of stakeholders that consultation tended to be ad hoc and needed to be improved. Where it does take place it is not often effective as there are some members of the Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities that are not known about. There was also a danger of members from these communities being over consulted with once they are known to have been consulted before.

### The Future and Additional Issues

- 3.186 Most respondents believed that the situation would not change for Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople within Dorset and this was based on the fact they had seen little change in the last 15-20 years. Although they hoped more sites would be provided they believed that any progress would be slow.

- <sup>3.187</sup> There was mention of previous research work on accommodation need and also on health and education whereby even though need and gaps were evidenced, recommendations had not been acted upon. This, it was acknowledged, may mean that many of those from the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities involved in the process and who had expressed their views may feel frustrated and disappointed at the lack of progress and in some cases, may feel reluctant to be involved in future.
- <sup>3.188</sup> Some respondents believed that because cutbacks in local services often impact more severely on those most vulnerable in society, this would result in increased gaps in relation to equality, health, education, and land availability for sites and housing for Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople. Some respondents predicted that this could result in an increase in the numbers of Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople dependent on drugs and/or alcohol and/or being sent to prison.
- <sup>3.189</sup> Some respondents believed government legislation, the lack of available suitable land, political will and the views of the settled community would mean that further site provision would be unlikely. However, some believed that if the difficulties especially with regard to the lack of site provision could be resolved, fewer encampments would result, thus improving the relationships between local authorities, Police and the settled communities with the Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities.
- <sup>3.190</sup> Some respondents believed that no site provision was needed and that Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople should move into bricks and mortar accommodation. One respondent put forward the view that getting rid of the Human Rights Act and replacing it with a Bill of Rights would mean that Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities would need to provide for themselves and where there is current site provision it will be integrated into the wider, settled community.
- <sup>3.191</sup> Some respondents believed that the number of “traditional” Gypsies or Travellers would decrease for a number of reasons including children aspiring to a materialistic lifestyle, changes to education, cost of diesel, lack of transit and permanent sites, changes to the driving test and towing license, planning constraints and economic conditions. Most respondents believed because of these challenges that more from the Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities would resort to bricks and mortar accommodation. Some raised concerns because there is currently no floating support available for these communities should they require additional support to sustain their tenancies.
- <sup>3.192</sup> A few respondents believed that the number of Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople may increase because a return to a transient way of life may be seen as a solution to homelessness and due to newly forming households.
- <sup>3.193</sup> Some respondents raised further issues such as improved consultation with Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople within Dorset and the need for a cross authority working group that involved education, housing authorities and RPs, health and safety, housing, Police, Ambulance, Fire and general floating support agencies including inviting those who represent or are from the Gypsy, Traveller or Showpeople communities. However, some respondents believed that because of the lack of trust this would make consultation prohibitive.
- <sup>3.194</sup> Some respondents also wanted to widen the geographic area of working to cover the whole of the South West to include other authorities such as Hampshire, Devon, Somerset and Cornwall for example.

<sup>3.195</sup> Respondents hoped that monitoring systems would be improved in order that there was a clearer picture of the housing, education and health requirements of Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople within Dorset.

## Conclusions

<sup>3.196</sup> The 77 interviews with Council officers, members and wider stakeholders highlight some issues that the Authorities may wish to address in the future.

<sup>3.197</sup> First, some comments from both Council officers and members indicate a limited awareness of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeoples' presence in the area and ambiguity as to the powers available to Local Authorities in managing the movement of travellers through the County. There is also evidence of a lack of understanding of the history and traditions of the travelling community among both the Local Authorities and wider stakeholders.

<sup>3.198</sup> The majority of officers and members interviewed believed that further training and seminars were needed. This would enable a greater understanding of the cultural differences between Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople and raise awareness of the issues that often arose in relation to these groups and the wider community. It is suggested that any future events should be organised countywide rather than by individual authorities which would ensure a uniform approach and ability to share costs. It is understood that Kushti Bok – a Gypsy and Traveller representative group would be interested in assisting with any future training.

<sup>3.199</sup> The need to improve the level of understanding of issues affecting Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople among those involved in providing services to address their needs is particularly pertinent now in view of the imminent withdrawal of the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS). The loss of this service is likely to put more pressure on individual local authorities and other service providers. There is therefore an even greater need for good inter-authority liaison. The Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Group already provides a forum for local authorities and other agencies such as the Police, Health Service, Registered Providers of housing and charities to regularly meet to address issues of mutual concern related to the travelling community. While traveller representative groups, such as SWAN nomads already attend, the group may benefit from more involvement by individual Gypsies and Travellers. It would also assist understanding across the wider study area if local authority representatives from Bournemouth and Poole were involved with the group.

<sup>3.200</sup> Another issue that was identified through the study and was confirmed by discussion with Registered Providers was the difficulty of identifying Gypsies and Travellers through their monitoring systems. Although the current housing application systems have an Equality and Diversity section that is mandatory to complete and contains questions related to the applicant's ethnicity, the range of different ethnic groups identified is generally limited to Roma Gypsy and Irish Travellers. It was also believed that those completing an application form may not have completed the section relating to ethnicity or had not identified their true ethnic origins.

<sup>3.201</sup> It is understandable that some people may not wish to reveal their ethnicity through fear of discrimination. However the lack of information has made it more difficult in this study to identify the Gypsy and Traveller population living in bricks and mortar housing and so gauge their views on their existing accommodation and future needs. It would assist in monitoring needs in the future if all housing agencies could address

their information on ethnicity to ensure it includes as broad a range of groups as possible. Gypsies and Travellers should also be advised of the positive advantages of supplying the correct information.

<sup>3.202</sup> A final point that the interviews have highlighted is the issue of education for Gypsies and Travellers. It was reported that there had been vast improvements in respect of accessibility and attendance for children from these communities, although some concerns still about transport to school and bullying. However it was noted that there are still challenges relating to older children especially girls attending secondary and higher education. It was also noted that it is practical skills that are sought (such as bricklaying and plastering) that will assist the young people to earn a living. Gosport Educational Improvement Partnership was highlighted as a group who are developing ways of making learning more meaningful for young people. It was also noted that Kingston Maurward College had introduced courses on rural and marine skills. However the withdrawal of EMTAS will leave a void that the other authorities will need to fill to ensure that educational provision continues to address the needs of the travelling community.

## 4. Parish/Town Council and Community Group Consultation

### Introduction

4.1 To supplement the findings of this study, a consultation was carried out with Parish/Town Councils and community groups in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset during April and May 2013. This asked about the groups' views and experiences of Gypsies and Travellers in the area. A short open-ended questionnaire was distributed by Dorset County Council to 219 Parish/Town Councils and community groups. Of those sent, 66 completed questionnaires were returned, representing just over 30% of Parish/Town Councils and community groups invited to take part. The response rates for the various areas are given in more below:

- » Bournemouth Borough – 10 surveys sent, 2 responses;
- » Poole Borough – 2 surveys sent, 0 responses;
- » Christchurch Borough – 2 surveys sent, 1 response;
- » East Dorset District – 18 surveys sent, 9 responses;
- » North Dorset District – 59 surveys sent, 14 responses;
- » Purbeck District – 26 surveys sent, 10 responses;
- » West Dorset District – 86 surveys sent, 28 responses;
- » Weymouth & Portland Borough – 16 surveys sent, 1 response.
- » One response was also received from an unspecified Parish/Town Council.

4.2 It should be noted that as only 66 responses were received the summary below cannot be assumed to be a full and representative overview of Parish and Town Councils' and community groups' opinions in the study area. It is also not uncommon for consultations such as these to attract a biased response, with those experiencing problems being more likely to respond. We therefore cannot assume that the views of non-responding Parish and Town Councils and community groups are the same or otherwise. This is especially true of Poole's Parish Councils, from which no responses were received. Therefore, the information below is purely a summary of the comments received.

4.3 Caution should therefore be exercised when reviewing the summary and it should be borne in mind that while these are the opinions and experiences of some Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings, ORS makes no claims as to the validity or truth of their comments and as such, we have not tried to present evidence for or against statements made.

4.4 This section should not be read in isolation but rather as part of a range of evidence which has been used to draw conclusions later in the report.

## Sites

- 4.5 Only 14 parishes reported having sites within their boundaries at the time of the survey (April-May 2013). Many more referred to occasional encampments of Travellers passing through on their way elsewhere, especially the Great Dorset Steam Fair. A few parishes reported that these temporary encampments resulted in problems with littering and had caused damage to land. Amongst those with permanent sites, some had complaints about breaches of planning rules – either because the sites were unauthorised in the first instance, or because authorised sites were being used in ways not covered by their permissions (such as by having too many caravans on site or being used for providing transit stops for others passing through).
- 4.6 A number of respondents noted that the establishment of transit sites (at Piddlehinton and Tarrant Hinton) had reduced the incidence of unauthorised encampments and associated issues such as littering and disputes with the settled community.

## Dealings and Relationships with Travellers

- 4.7 More than half (35 respondents) of those who responded reported few dealings with Travellers in recent years and had very little to say on the subject. A further 4 respondents reported that their only experience of Travellers related to small, unproblematic groups passing through their area periodically. The comments below therefore reflect the views of the remaining 27 respondents that had more substantial experiences of dealing with the travelling community.
- 4.8 Most of those who had some dealings reported poor relations between themselves and the travelling community. Nonetheless, a small number of respondents reported amicable or good relationships with Travellers in their area.
- 4.9 A number of respondents referred to Gypsies and Traveller residing in bricks and mortar accommodation in their area. These households were reported to be well integrated into their communities and no issues were mentioned.

## Issues

- 4.10 As noted above, 4 respondents reported unproblematic instances of Travellers passing through their areas. However, in most cases, respondents reported numerous issues in relation to those Travellers groups who stopped in their areas before moving on elsewhere. As noted below, these movements were felt to be largely due to events and fairs in the area. The most common issues reported were:
- » Waste and litter being left by Traveller groups moving on;
  - » Increases in petty crime around the times of large events, when more Travellers are passing through;
  - » Hare coursing/poaching;
  - » Grazing animals on public or private land without permission;
  - » Occupation of public or private land without permission.



- 4.11 Interestingly, as already mentioned, the transit sites at Piddlehinton and Tarrant Hinton did seem to reduce the frequency of unauthorised encampments and alleviate some of the resultant issues.

## Attractions

- 4.12 In terms of what attracted Travellers to their area, most respondents referred to seasonal changes, with more Travellers moving through their areas and unauthorised encampments during the summer. Annual events, such as the Dorset Steam Fair, Purbeck Rally and Autojumble and Sherborne Pack Monday Fair were thought to draw most of these seasonal Travellers. Other attractions noted include:

- » Lack of effective enforcement/policing;
- » Availability of space, such as common land or unsecured areas;
- » Holiday areas (especially Portland and Bournemouth).

## Other Comments

- 4.13 A few respondents expressed frustration at the perceived inability of authorities to evict Travellers from unauthorised sites. One respondent stressed that there was a need to provide adequate provision so that those Travellers encamped on unsuitable land could be moved on quickly.
- 4.14 A number of the responses explicitly stated that they did not want any new sites in their areas.
- 4.15 One respondent suggested that a previously considered area at Gallows Hill, Owermoigne could be a suitable location for any future provision.

# 5. Gypsy and Traveller Population

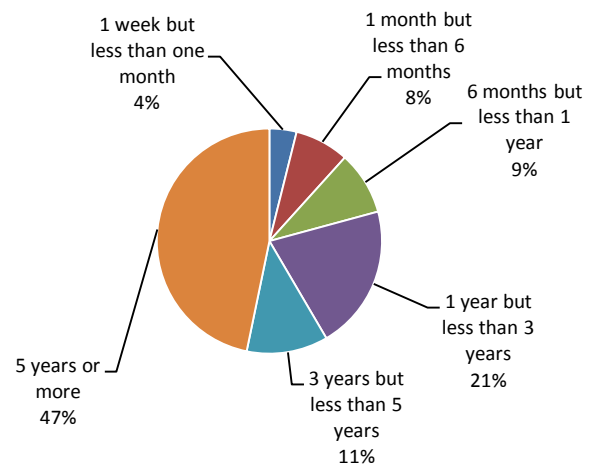
## Survey of the Gypsy and Traveller Population

- 5.1 One of the major components of this assessment is a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population within the Dorset authorities, Bournemouth and Poole. This aims to identify current households with housing needs, and to assess likely future household formation from within existing households, to help judge the need for future site provision.
- 5.2 The participating authorities provided information on all known Gypsy and Traveller sites. Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in the area that was present during April and May 2013. Therefore, the base date for the findings of this study is April 2013. Throughout the survey period interviewers from ORS worked from 9am to 7pm each day and made repeated visits to each household until a successful interview was concluded. In total, interviews were achieved on-site with 77 households.
- 5.3 For the on-site interviews, the following number took place in each Local Authority with one household refusing to have their location recorded:
- » Bournemouth Borough – no interviews
  - » Christchurch Borough – 13 interviews
  - » East Dorset District – 2 interviews
  - » North Dorset District – 29 interviews
  - » Poole Borough – 4 interviews
  - » Purbeck District – 10 interviews
  - » West Dorset District – 18 interviews
  - » Weymouth and Portland Borough – no interviews
- 5.4 Both Bournemouth and Weymouth and Portland contain no permanently occupied sites and there were no unauthorised encampments at the time of the survey, so no interviews were achieved in these areas. We would note that the above figures do not include the 31 surveys conducted with those households living in bricks and mortar; these results are outlined in Chapter 7.
- 5.5 Throughout this study the person responding to the survey will be referred to as the respondent, and in questions which refer to all people in the household they will be referred to as household members. Throughout the remainder of this report the majority of numbers which appear on the charts represent the percentage of respondents who appear in that category. The purpose of showing percentages is to allow the results of the survey to be extrapolated to the whole Gypsy and Traveller population of Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. In a few cases, it is more appropriate to use the actual number of respondents, and these cases are clearly identified. In all charts those respondents who answered ‘don’t know’, or did not answer the question, are omitted unless otherwise stated.

## Length of Residence

5.6 The majority of those surveyed had lived on their current site for at least 3 years, with 47% having lived at their current site for 5 years or more. However, a significant minority (21%) had moved to their current site within the last year (Figure 10). Most respondents (88%) considered the site they were interviewed on to be their permanent base. Of the remaining 12% (9 respondents), various reasons were given for their current presence on site, including; convenience for work purposes (2 respondents), fleeing domestic violence (1 respondent), and having nowhere else to go (2 respondents). Only one of the 8 respondents who stated their current site was not their permanent base reported that they had a permanent base elsewhere. The remaining 8 respondents reported that they had no permanent base.

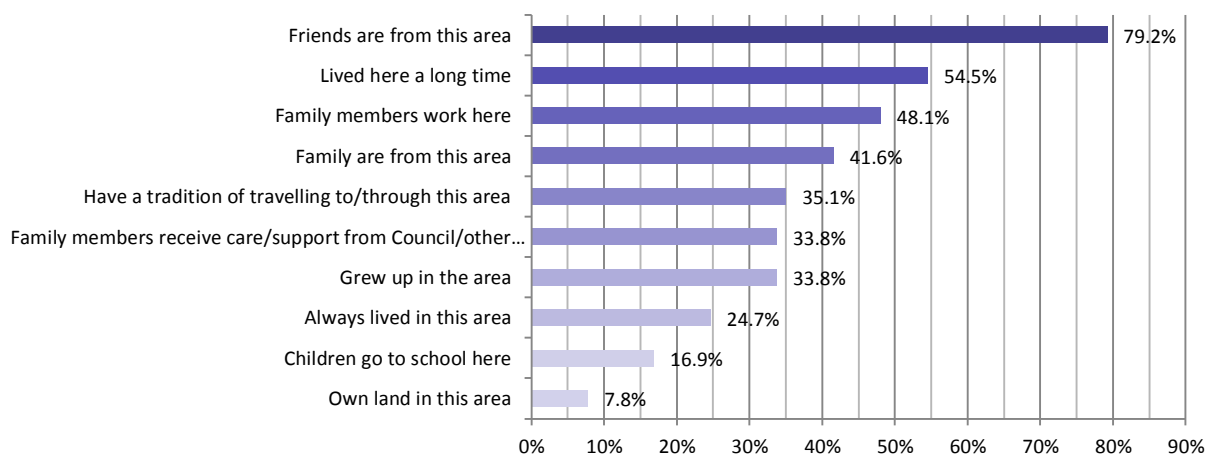
**Figure 10**  
Length of Time Respondents Have Lived on Their Current Site, by all Respondents  
(Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



## Connections with the Area

5.7 Respondents noted a variety of different connections to their local areas (see Figure 11), with the main links identified being that their friends are from the area (79.2%), that they have lived in the area a long time (54.5%), that their family members work in the area (48.1%), or that their family are from the area (41.6%). Interestingly, more than a third (33.8%) of respondents have a family member who receives some care or support from their Council or other local service.

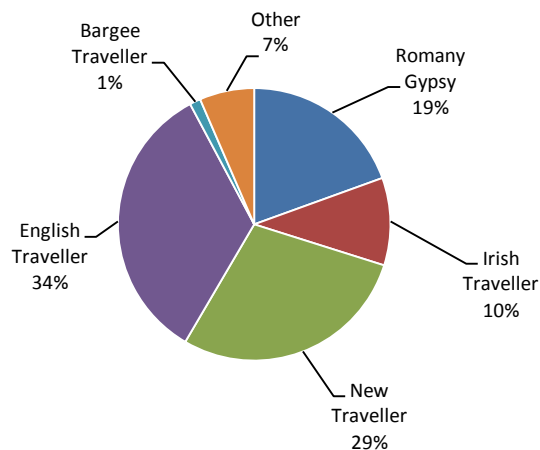
**Figure 11**  
Nature of Local Connections in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



## Ethnic Background

<sup>5.8</sup> Amongst those surveyed, 34% identified themselves as English Travellers, 29% as New Travellers and 19% as Romany Gypsies (Figure 12). We would note that the phrases English Traveller and Romany Gypsy are often used interchangeably, so over half of the surveys were with this group. Compared to other areas, the study authorities have a relatively small proportion of Irish Travellers, who make up just 10% of the Traveller population. The Other category includes a number of people who said they were not travellers, but all were in relationships with travellers.

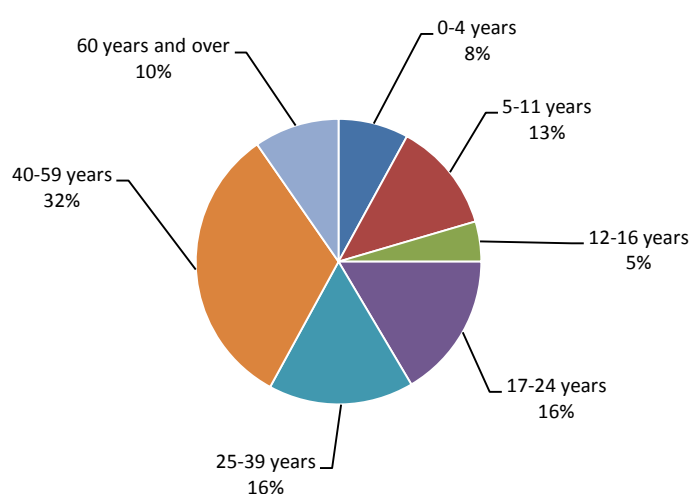
**Figure 12**  
**Ethnic Group by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)**



## Age and Household Profile

- 5.9 Households surveyed showed a mixed range of ages across their members, though with an older population than that found in similar studies carried out by ORS elsewhere; probably due to the high proportion of New Travellers (who tend to be older, with few children). Nearly a third (32%) of household members were middle aged (i.e. between 40 and 59 years), while 10% were aged 60 years or more. Nonetheless, more than a quarter (26%) of household members were aged 16 or under (Figure 13).

**Figure 13**  
Age of Household Members, by all Household Members (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

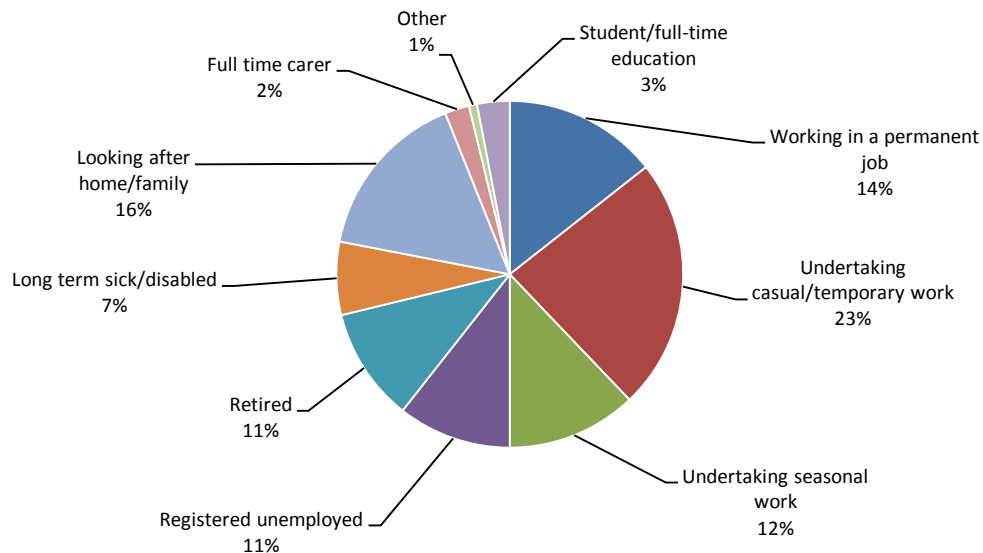


- 5.10 The vast majority of respondents (88%) reported just one household living on their pitch. 8% of respondents reported their pitch was shared with one other household, while 3% (2 respondents) reported that there were 6 households (in total) living on their pitch. However, a detailed analysis of the latter 2 respondents indicates that they may have been counting the number of households on their site as a whole, rather than on a single pitch. This would indicate relatively low levels of concealed households and overcrowding on sites.

## Employment

- 5.11 Respondents were asked to give the employment status of all members of their household. Of those household members who had their employment status recorded, 14% were working in a permanent job, 23% were undertaking casual or temporary work, with a further 12% undertaking seasonal work (Figure 14). Only 16% of household members were reported to be looking after their home and/or family – significantly less than in other such studies carried out by ORS (other studies have shown as many as 50% looking after home and/or family). This may be due to a significantly higher proportion of New Travellers, whom tend to have less rigidly defined gender roles. Levels of employment (whether permanent or casual/temporary) are significantly higher than in other areas surveyed by ORS.
- 5.12 Amongst those who were working, the most common occupations were tree surgery, gardening or landscaping (14 respondents) and building/tarmac work (5 respondents).

**Figure 14**  
**Employment Status of Household Members, by All Household Members Aged Over 16 Years (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2012)**



## Health Problems

- <sup>5.13</sup> 36% of respondents interviewed (26 respondents) reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. In this respect, the study area is not dissimilar to other areas surveyed by ORS, in which between 23% and 36% reported a household member with long-term health problems, although the current study falls at the higher end of that range. The survey only sought information on whether the household contained a health problem and not which specific person this relates to.
- <sup>5.14</sup> Of those who reported a long term health problem within the household, 39% (11 respondents) said their existing pitch did not meet the care needs of those with health issues. The most common reason given was issues with dampness and heating exacerbating illness (7 respondents).

## 6. Existing Sites

### Type of Site

6.1 41 interviews (53% of total interviews) were carried out on authorised sites (7 on private sites and 34 on public sites). The remaining 47% (36 interviews) were carried out on unauthorised encampments and developments. (see Figure 15).

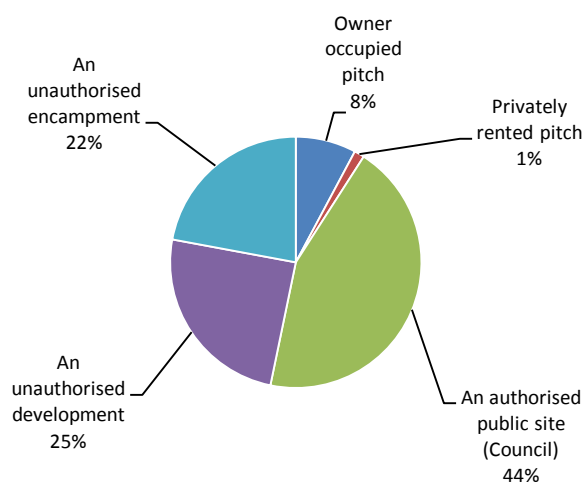
6.2 All respondents were asked if they required any additional caravans at their current pitch. Only 8% (6 respondents) indicated that they would like additional caravans on their existing pitch. 2 of these respondents reported that these additional caravans were needed for older children, 3 said they were needed for adult relatives and 1 respondent said it was needed for an "other".

6.3 When asked how many additional caravans were required, 2 respondents said they needed just one additional caravan, 3 respondents needed 2 caravans, and 1 respondent said they needed five or more additional caravans. However, only half of these 6 respondents felt there was space on their existing pitch for these additional caravans.

6.4 The phrasing of this question focused on a need rather than a demand for more caravans. Respondents were asked, irrespective of who was purchasing the caravans, whether they needed more caravans for household members. Therefore, this question simply reflected a perceived need for more caravans, rather than an ability to afford (demand for) more caravans.

6.5 5 respondents said there was someone else who needed to live with them, who is not able to at present. Nearly all of these said the person(s) who needed to live with them were relatives.

**Figure 15**  
Type of pitch, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



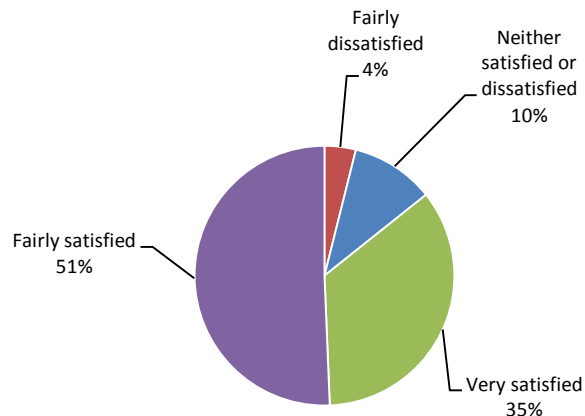
## Views of Sites

6.6 The vast majority (86%) of respondents expressed some degree of satisfaction with their site, with over a third (35%) stating that they were very satisfied. Only 4% of respondents expressed any dissatisfaction, and none were very dissatisfied (see Figure 16).

6.7 When asked whether their current accommodation was meeting all of their needs in terms of quality, space, site facilities, location and management, 68% of respondents felt their needs were being met at their current pitch.

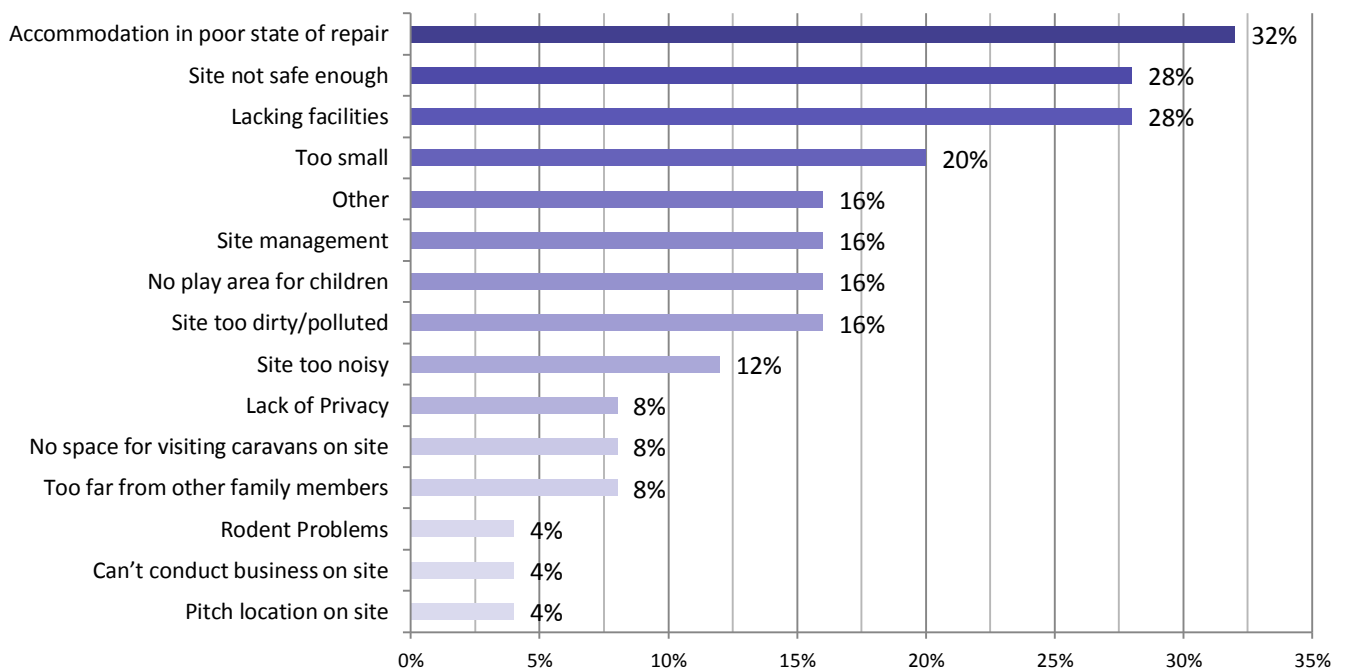
6.8 However, 25 respondents (32%) felt that their needs were not being met at their current pitch. The reasons why respondents felt their site was not meeting their needs are shown in Figure 17 below. The most common reasons given were; that their accommodation was in a poor state of repair (32%, 8 respondents), that their site was lacking facilities (28%, 7 respondents), that their site was not safe enough (28%, 7 respondents), and that their site was too small (20%, 5 respondents).

**Figure 16**  
Satisfaction with Current Site, by all Respondents (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



**Figure 17**

Reasons Respondents Felt Their Site Does Not Meet Their Needs (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



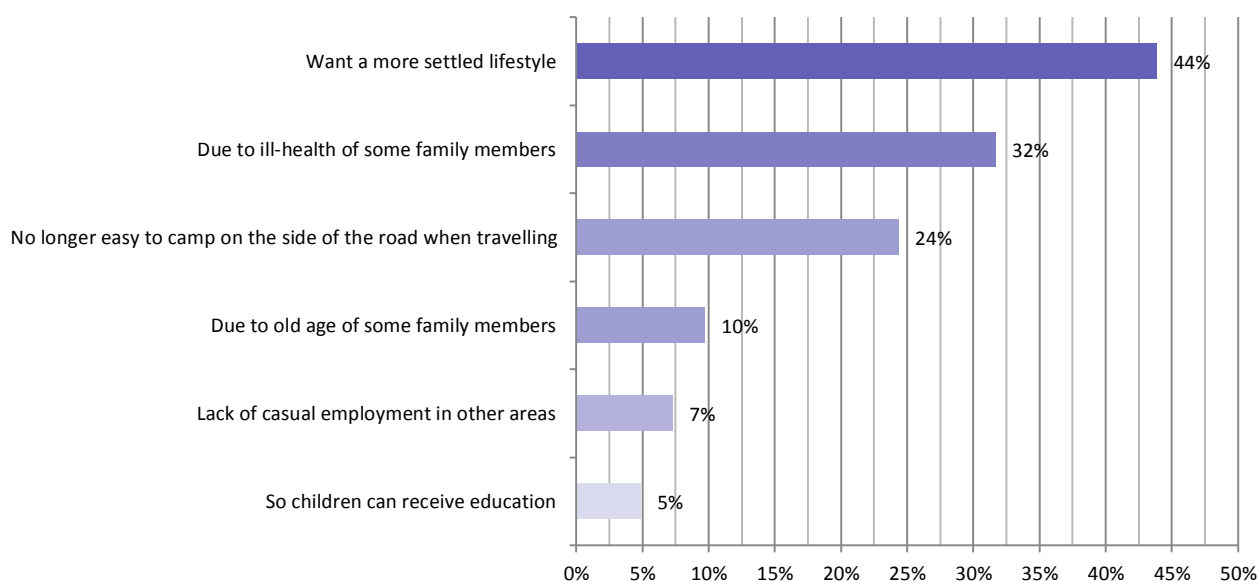


- 6.9 Of the 25 respondents who felt that their current accommodation and site did not meet their needs, 20 felt their needs could be met at their current pitch. Only 5 respondents felt their needs could not be met at their current site.

## Propensity to Travel

- 6.10 Nearly two thirds (65%) of those surveyed reported that they had not travelled at all during the last 12 months, with travelling from among those living on public sites being the lowest. Amongst those who had, the main reasons given for travelling were; for family reasons (7 respondents), for work (6 respondents), for a holiday (2 respondents) and for fairs (2 respondents).
- 6.11 The vast majority (84%) of those who had not travelled in the last 12 months reported that they had travelled in the past. The main reasons given for not travelling in the last 12 months were; wanting a more settled lifestyle (44%), due to the ill-health of some family members (32%) and because of difficulties camping at the side of the road (24%) (Figure 18). A high number of those who don't travel do have school age children.

**Figure 18**  
Reasons Respondents Had Not Travelled in the Last 12 Months (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



## Previous Accommodation

- 6.12 43% (33 respondents) reported that they had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation (i.e. a house, bungalow or flat). The most common reasons given for leaving such accommodation were; for a change of lifestyle (16 respondents), getting married or meeting their spouse (5 respondents), or simply disliking bricks and mortar accommodation (5 respondents). A further 3 respondents reported that they left such accommodation due to financial problems. 20 of these respondents reported that they had last lived in bricks and mortar accommodation at least 10 years ago.
- 6.13 One respondent reported that they currently owned or rented a house, bungalow or flat.

## Moving to a New Permanent Base

6.14 12 respondents indicated that they would want or need to move to a new permanent base within the next 5 years, however this figure includes 8 who do not have an authorised pitch. More than half of these respondents stated that they needed to move to a new base due to uncertainty over their tenure at their current pitch.

6.15 Of these 12 respondents, 5 wish to move onto a pitch on a private site (either rented or owned by themselves), 3 wish to move into some kind of bricks and mortar accommodation (either a house or a flat), and 2 wish to move to unauthorised encampments. No reasons are given for favouring an unauthorised encampment.

6.16 The 12 respondents who indicated that they would want or need to move to a new permanent base in the next 5 years were also asked what areas they would ideally like to establish this base in. Their responses are shown in Figure 20 below.

Figure 19

Type of Site Accommodation Respondents Would Like to Move to (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)

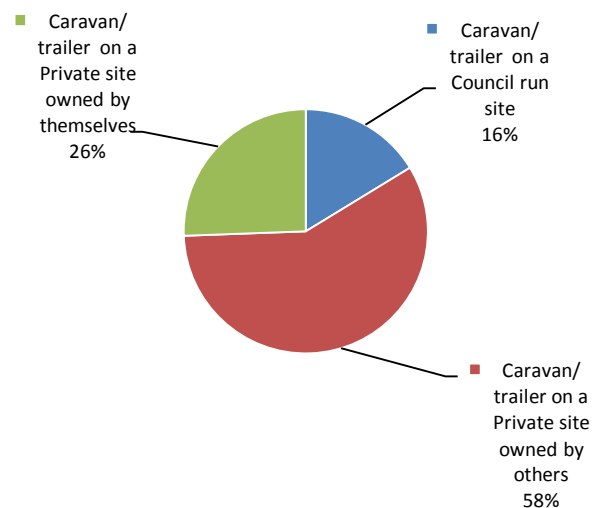
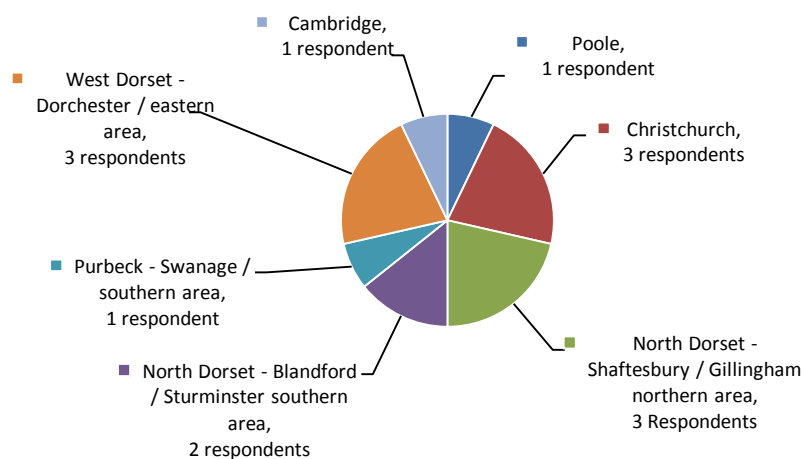


Figure 20 Where Respondents Would Ideally Like to Establish a New Permanent Base (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population On-site 2013)



- <sup>6.17</sup> For most of these respondents, the reason for wanting to live in the above areas was to be close to family or friends.
- <sup>6.18</sup> Respondents were also asked whether they expected to be able to achieve their desired location, and if not, why. Of those who wish to move to a new permanent base, only 4 expected to be able to do so. Reasons given by those who did not expect to be able to move to a new permanent base included a lack of available sites and for one respondent, a lack of sites suitable for horse drawn carriages with appropriate grazing space for horses.

## 7. Bricks and Mortar

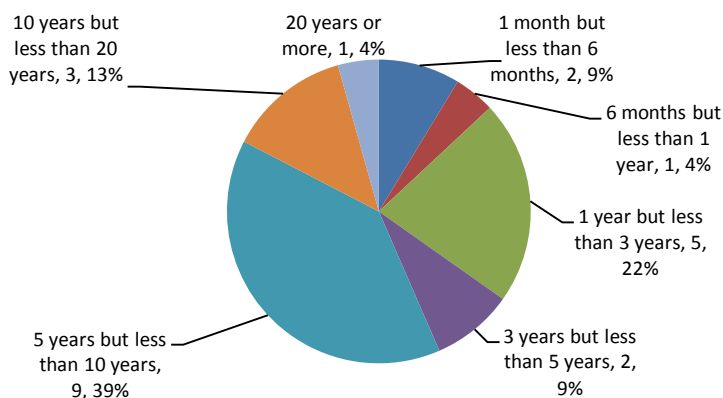
### Survey of Gypsies and Travellers living in Bricks and Mortar

- 7.1 During the fieldwork period, ORS carried out 23 complete surveys at bricks and mortar households alongside a further 8 interviews where partial information was gathered. This included drop in sessions and a meeting with young New Travellers.

#### Length of Residence

- 7.2 Over half of bricks and mortar respondents have been living at their current address for at least 5 years (56%, 13 respondents), with 4 respondents residing there for longer than 10 years (Figure 21).
- 7.3 3 respondents have been living at their current address for less than a year, with 2 respondents only residing there for 6 months or less.

**Figure 21**  
**Length of Time Respondents and their family have lived at current address, by all Respondents living in Bricks and Mortar**  
 (Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population B&M 2013)

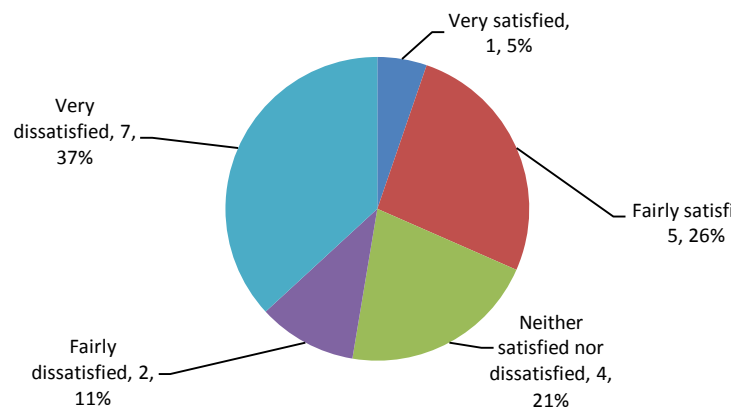


## Satisfaction with Living at Current Address

7.4 9 respondents said that they are dissatisfied with living at their current address; 7 of these citing that they are very dissatisfied.

7.5 6 respondents said that are satisfied with living at their current address. However, it is striking that nearly a half of respondents reported that they were dissatisfied at their current address (Figure 22).

**Figure 22**  
Satisfaction with living at current address, by all Respondents living in Bricks and Mortar  
(Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population B&M 2013)

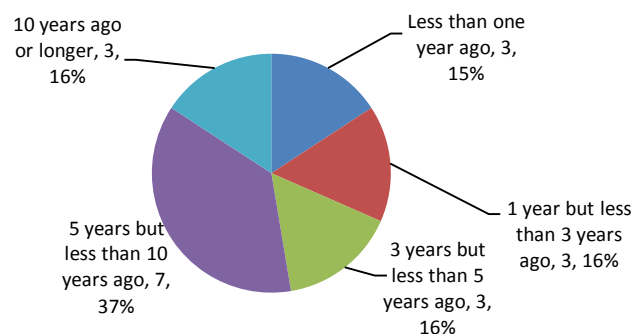


## Previous Accommodation

7.6 19 respondents have previously lived on a caravan site, while 4 had not. When those who had lived on a site before were asked why they left the responses were varied, although, some respondents cited wanting a permanent base and stability for their children's education needs, not having the ability to stop off without being moved on and for health reasons.

7.7 Around 10 respondents last lived in a caravan at least 5 years ago, while 3 respondents were last living at a site less than a year ago (Figure 23).

**Figure 23**  
Length of time last lived on a caravan site, by all Respondents living in Bricks and Mortar  
(Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population B&M 2013)



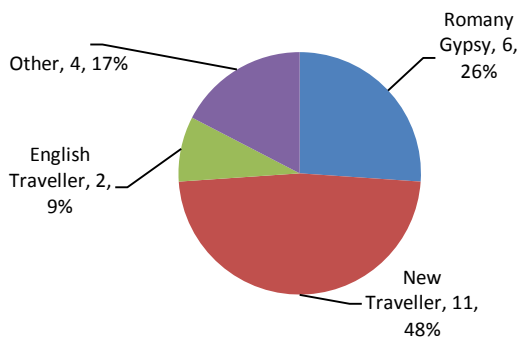
## Age and Household Profile

7.8 The majority of respondents living in bricks and mortar are New Travellers (11 respondents), while 6 are of Romany Gypsy descent (Figure 24).

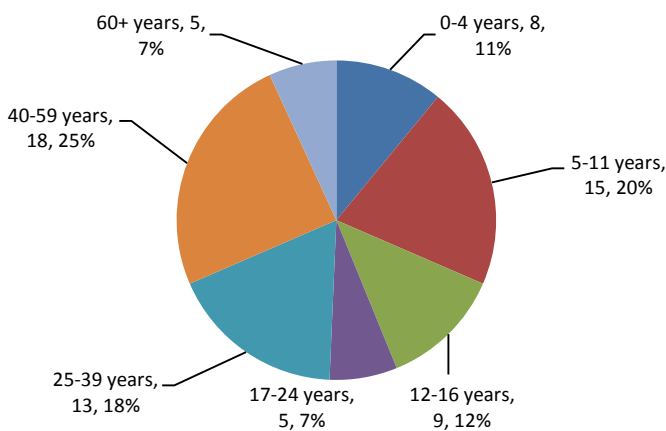
7.9 Households surveyed displayed a mixed age profile (Figure 25). 32 household members are aged 16 or younger (43%), including 8 aged 4 or under. 36 household members were between the age of 17 and 59, with a quarter being middle aged (between 40-59 years).

7.10 Over half of respondents living in bricks and mortar said that someone living as part of the household suffered with a health problem (13 respondents, 57%). Only 1 respondent said that adaptations were required in their home to meet the needs of those who are suffering with a health problem in the household.

**Figure 24**  
Ethnic Group, by all Respondents living in Bricks and Mortar  
(Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population B&M 2013)



**Figure 25**  
Age Group, by all Respondents living in Bricks and Mortar  
(Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population B&M 2013)



## Moving to a New Permanent Base

<sup>7.11</sup> In total 19 households wished to move from bricks and mortar to sites in Dorset. Of these, 12 identified a particular type of site they wished to move to. 3 households wanted to go to public sites, 2 households to sites owned by other people, 6 to sites they own themselves and 1 to an informal site. Those seeking public sites were all Romany Gypsies, while all New Travellers were seeking private sites of one form. It is of course possible to develop New Traveller site on publicly owned land, but typically New Travellers would not wish for these sites to be run in the same manner as public Gypsy and Traveller sites.

## 8. Travelling Showpeople

### Introduction

- 8.1 This section focuses on the needs and aspirations of Showpeople in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. As noted in the introduction, Travelling Showpeople are not a recognised ethnic group under the Equalities Act 2010, but within Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012 they are defined as:

*Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their family's or dependent's 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. (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG, March 2012).*

### Travelling Showpeople Households in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole

- 8.2 The population of Travelling Showpeople is typically smaller than that of Gypsies and Traveller and planning records also tend to be more disparate. Working with the respective authorities in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, we were able to identify that there are the following number of active Travelling Showpeople yards in the study area:

- » Bournemouth Borough – no yards
- » Christchurch Borough – no yards
- » East Dorset District – one yard
- » North Dorset District – no yards
- » Poole Borough – no yards
- » Purbeck District – one yard
- » West Dorset District – one yard
- » Weymouth and Portland Borough – one yard

- 8.3 Therefore, in total, the study area currently contains four Showpeople yards.

### Survey of the Travelling Showpeople Population

- 8.4 During the course of the household survey with Gypsies and Travellers interviews were attempted with Showpeople households in the area. Contact was made with the residents of two of the known Travelling Showperson sites.
- 8.5 In total, 7 interviews were carried out with Travelling Showpeople. Given the limited number of full interviews undertaken with Showpeople and also the less structured information gained from site visits, we have chosen not to provide detailed statistics on the population. However, we would note that residents from sites in both Dorchester in West Dorset and Weymouth cited a lack of space on their existing sites and



that they wished to develop new sites in the area. A Travelling Showperson in Purbeck has also registered an interest in finding a yard in the north of the County to be closer to main road links to other areas.

## 9. Future Site Provision

### Site Provision

- 9.1 This section focuses on the extra site provision which is required in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole currently and over the next 15 years by 5 year segments. This time period allows for robust forecasts of the requirements for extra provision based upon the evidence contained within this survey and also secondary data sources.
- 9.2 This section concentrates not only upon the total extra provision which is required in the area but whether this provision should be in the form of public or private sites, a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.
- 9.3 Before commencing on the identification of future needs we would wish to note some key points. The South West of England Regional Spatial Strategy identified required pitch provision for each Local Authority. However, with the Coalition Government announcing the planned abolition of all Regional Spatial Strategies and the advent of the Localism Act 2011, National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012 it should be the case that Local Plans rapidly replace the RSS as material consideration in planning decisions. It is also the case that we have not considered provision made in the period 2006-2013 and instead we are taking April 2013 as a baseline position for our estimates. While there is a case to argue that authorities who failed to meet their needs in the period 2006-2013 should be expected to meet these in the future there is no clear mechanism in place for this to occur. Instead we have modelled on any current needs in each authority being a backlog which has derived over time and then allowed for additional future needs as they are likely to arise. In this case the backlog of need refers to households who need to have their own accommodation. This includes concealed households, those on unauthorised sites who do not wish to move, those in bricks and mortar seeking to move to sites and other households on the waiting list.
- 9.4 For information, the figures for estimated additional Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements for 2006 – 2028 that were agreed by the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset local authorities in October 2008 following the examination into the SW RSS were as identified in Figure 26 below. It should be noted that the figures were not formally adopted due to the abolition of the RSS.

**Figure 26**

**Previous estimate for additional Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches required 2006 – 2028 as agreed by the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Authorities in October 2008.**

Local Authority	Residential Pitch requirement 2006 - 11	2012 - 2028 compound growth (3%)	Total
Bournemouth Borough	13	8	21
Christchurch Borough	12	8	20
East Dorset District	13	8	21
North Dorset District	20	13	33
Poole Borough	13	8	21
Purbeck District	20	13	33
West Dorset District	20	13	33
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>182</b>

- 9.5 We would also note the location for future provision is a key issue within studies such as this one. The estimates for local authorities within this study are based upon the location where needs will arise. **This is not necessarily the same location as where need should be met.** For example, it is difficult for households to express a desire to live on a public site in an area which currently has no provision. Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are not constrained by local authority boundaries and potentially the requirement for one local authority could be met in a neighbouring area. However, for this to occur will require cooperation from both planning authorities. Therefore, we have not made explicit assumptions about the allocation of needs arising in one area being met in another area but we would recommend that consideration is given to a more equitable allocation of provision between the authorities.
- 9.6 The March 2012 CLG document 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' requires an assessment for future pitch requirements but does not provide a suggested methodology for undertaking this calculation. However, as with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below:

## Supply of pitches

- 9.7 Pitches which are available for use can come from a variety of sources. These include
- » Currently vacant pitches;
  - » Any pitches currently programmed to be developed within the study period;
  - » Pitches vacated by people moving to housing;
  - » Pitches vacated by people moving out of the study area;
  - » Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households (normally through the death of a single person household).

## Current Need

- <sup>9.8</sup> There are four key components of current need. Total current need (which is not necessarily need for additional pitches) is simply:
- » Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected;
  - » Concealed households;
  - » Households in brick and mortar wishing to move to sites; and
  - » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

## Future Need

- <sup>9.9</sup> There are three key components of future need. Total future need is simply the sum of the following:
- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
  - » New household formation expected during the study period; and
  - » Migration to sites from outside the study area.
- <sup>9.10</sup> We will firstly provide the model as set out above for Gypsies and Travellers within the whole Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area and then for each authority. We will then separately analyse the need for additional transit provision in the study area before repeating the calculation for Travelling Showpeople.

## Current Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

- <sup>9.11</sup> We consider that there are approximately 138 occupied pitches across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. There is also a waiting list for public sites and households in bricks and mortar which adds to the number of future households. It is this number of households we have used for the baseline position. While it can be argued that some households will leave sites for bricks and mortar other, currently unknown households, may wish to move in the opposite direction. Therefore we have assumed that households currently and wishing to live on sites continue to do so and their children will also live on sites. The table below shows the number of households by authority.

**Figure 27**  
**Number of Households by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Permanent permission and long-term temporary	Temporary permission	Waiting list for a site or in bricks and mortar	Tolerated sites	Unauthorised pitches	Total
Bournemouth Borough	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Christchurch Borough	4	1	5	3	0	<b>13</b>
East Dorset District	5	0	1	0	12	<b>18</b>
North Dorset District	21	3	8	15	14	<b>61</b>
Poole Borough	15	0	9	0	0	<b>24</b>
Purbeck District	17	0	13	0	6	<b>36</b>
West Dorset District	14	3	9	0	5	<b>31</b>
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>183</b>

<sup>9.12</sup> The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become available on existing sites. The main ways of finding this is through:

- » Current empty pitches;
- » New sites or site extensions which have already been granted permission or are likely to gain planning permission in the foreseeable future or sites which are likely to come back into use following refurbishment;
- » Migration away from the area;
- » Movement to bricks and mortar;
- » Dissolution of households.

<sup>9.13</sup> Currently, all authorised public site pitches are occupied so there is no available space. In total, six respondents to the household survey on public sites identified themselves as not being Travellers, however all but one of these respondents was the partner of a Traveller. One new public site with 8 pitches is currently under development in North Dorset and therefore can be counted as part of the supply. Most private sites are for one family and have no available space on them.

<sup>9.14</sup> When calculating out-migration to other areas or movements from sites to bricks and mortar, it must be borne in mind that households may also wish to move in the opposite direction. Therefore, we have treated these as being part of the current and future need sections of the calculation.

<sup>9.15</sup> The dissolution of a household occurs when all the members leave the household. Common ways for a household to dissolve are for a person living on their own to die or to move to an existing household. Given that households will also form in the future, we have treated the net growth in household numbers as being part of the future need.

## Additional Site Provision: Current Need

<sup>9.16</sup> The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include those:

- » Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected;
- » Concealed households;
- » Households in bricks and mortar wishing to move to sites; and
- » Households on waiting lists for public sites.

## Current Unauthorised Developments

<sup>9.17</sup> The household survey interviewed 32 households on unauthorised sites. However, three of these households stated that the address was not their permanent location and they either travelled permanently or were just passing through the area and therefore do not need to be accommodated on permanent sites.

<sup>9.18</sup> A problem with many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is that they have counted all caravans on unauthorised sites or encampments as requiring a pitch in the area when in practice many are simply visiting. We have adopted the approach that the only households identified as being in need from this source are those already in the planning system (i.e. have attempted to gain planning permission or are known to be permanently resident on the site), those otherwise known to the Local Authorities as being resident in the area or those identified through the household survey as requiring pitches. For unauthorised sites, evidence from the Local Authorities and the household survey indicates that there are 12 households in East Dorset District, 14 households in North Dorset District, 6 households in Purbeck District, and 5 in West Dorset District. Therefore, in total we have counted 37 households on unauthorised pitches.

<sup>9.19</sup> We would note that these figures exclude another 18 long-standing pitches across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole which do not have planning permissions but which are not subject to enforcement action and can be considered as being tolerated and therefore not generating immediate need (although they have still been counted as contributing towards future household formation).

**Figure 28**  
**Unauthorised Pitches by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Number of Pitches
Bournemouth Borough	0
Christchurch Borough	0
East Dorset District	12
North Dorset District	14
Poole Borough	0
Purbeck District	6
West Dorset District	5
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

## Concealed Households

- <sup>9.20</sup> This survey has identified households who would like more caravans at their pitch or who said their current accommodation was too small. This is not an objective measure of overcrowding, but can be thought of as households who felt that they are overcrowded. However, as explained below, this study feels that no extra net pitch provision is required for this group.
- <sup>9.21</sup> To understand the reasons for this it is necessary to consider how these overcrowding options can be addressed. For a household which feels that it needs more caravans or trailers there are two possibilities. Either the extra caravans or trailers could be accommodated on the existing pitch or if this is not possible, a new larger pitch is required. In Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, 7 households would like more caravans for older relatives and adult children. However, 4 of these households have space at their pitch for extra caravans and hence do not need to move. Those who do need to move would be vacating a pitch for someone else to use and hence do not add to the net requirement for pitches.
- <sup>9.22</sup> The household survey also sought to identify concealed households who require a pitch immediately. A concealed household is one who is living within another household and would wish to form its own separate family unit, but is unable to do so because of a lack of space on public or private sites.
- <sup>9.23</sup> The findings of the household survey and feedback from interviewers indicated that there is no evidence of high numbers of concealed households within the survey data. However, there were a small number of pitches where households were sharing and wished for their own pitch as set out below.

**Figure 29**

**Concealed Households by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Number of Pitches
Bournemouth Borough	0
Christchurch Borough	3
East Dorset District	0
North Dorset District	0
Poole Borough	1
Purbeck District	2
West Dorset District	0
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

## Bricks and Mortar

- <sup>9.24</sup> Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. As noted in Chapter 2, the 2011 UK Census of Population identified a population of 987 Gypsy and Traveller persons in the whole of Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.
- <sup>9.25</sup> As noted earlier, ORS worked with stakeholders, most notably Kushti Bok, the Local Authorities and on-site interviewees to identify households in bricks and mortar and this process yielded 31 interviews, 19 of who wished to move on to sites. All households identified as wishing to move from bricks and mortar to sites have been included in the needs figures. The locations these household have been allocated to are their

preferred locations, rather than where they currently reside. If they did not express a preferred location we have counted them in their current local authority.

- 9.26 We would note that households who are seeking to move from housing to public sites can express a desire to do so through registering on the waiting list for public sites and therefore will have been counted elsewhere in this calculation. Therefore, including those on waiting lists we have allowed for around 45 households to leave bricks and mortar for sites.
- 9.27 We would note that the 45 households have not been scaled to the total size of the estimated population in bricks and mortar. The most common approach to addressing the needs of bricks and mortar households in other GTAAAs has been to interview a small sample (50 households). If 10% of these households identify that they wish to move back to sites, this has then been extrapolated to an estimate of size of the bricks and mortar population.
- 9.28 This type of modelling is only legitimate if the interview sample was taken from a full random sample of the population. However, when interviewing Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar it is almost impossible to achieve a full random sample because much of the population is hidden. It is typically households who are looking to move back to sites who are most visible and easy to find. By interviewing this group and then extrapolating the results to the wider population we believe that serious modelling mistakes have been made in the past.
- 9.29 In our view the only meaningful way in which to count households seeking to leave bricks and mortar housing is on an individual basis. This means that if the household does wish to move to a site they count as one additional household in the pitch requirement and their desire to move is not extrapolated to the wider population.
- 9.30 We would note that in authorities such as Bournemouth the 2011 UK Census of Population indicates a relatively large population in bricks and mortar. However, no household came forward wishing to be interviewed, despite ORS contacting stakeholders representing this group. We would recommend that this situation is monitored in the future because there may be further households in bricks and mortar who wish to move to sites, but who were not known to ORS at the time of this survey.
- 9.31 It should be remembered that movement between housing and sites runs in both directions. The on-site survey also contained three interviews with households wanting to move from sites to bricks and mortar.

**Figure 30**  
**Desire to Move between Sites and Bricks and Mortar by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Movement from sites to bricks and mortar	Movement from bricks and mortar to sites	Net movement from bricks and mortar to sites
Bournemouth Borough	0	0	0
Christchurch Borough	0	5	5
East Dorset District	0	1	1
North Dorset District	0	3	3
Poole Borough	1	0	(1)
Purbeck District	0	1	1
West Dorset District	2	9	7
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>



## Waiting Lists for Public Sites

- 9.32 The method of registering a desire to obtain a pitch on a public site is through placing your name on the waiting list held by Dorset County Council or Poole Borough. Currently, there are 40 households on the waiting list for a site in the area. However, 11 of these households are currently living on unauthorised sites and have therefore been counted elsewhere in this model. This leaves 29 households on the lists who are either homeless or living in bricks and mortar.
- 9.33 It could be argued that some of these households may be on waiting lists elsewhere in the country and will have their needs met elsewhere. However, we have taken the view that because of the otherwise limited information available for households in bricks and mortar all 29 households should be counted and therefore have been included here.
- 9.34 It could also be argued that the waiting list represents only the current backlog of need and that further households will join in the future. However, at the same time households will leave sites for bricks and mortar and we have assumed that any future movement between sites and bricks and mortar will balance when the initial backlog is addressed.
- 9.35 We would note that the table below shows the identified locations for where households wish to move to, not where they currently reside. We would note that it is currently not possible to express a need to live in a borough or district without a public site. For example, when looking at the current addresses of the households, one household currently lives in Bournemouth, but wishes to move to West Dorset. This may reflect a genuine preference, or may reflect the absence of a site in Bournemouth.

**Figure 31**  
**Waiting List by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Total number of households	Excluding those living on Unauthorised Sites
Bournemouth Borough	0	0
Christchurch Borough	0	0
East Dorset District	0	0
North Dorset District	12	5
Poole Borough	11	10
Purbeck District	15	12
West Dorset District	2	2
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>

## Additional Site Provision: Future Need

- 9.36 The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include:
- » Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
  - » New household formation expected during the study period; and
  - » Migration to sites from outside the study area.

## Temporary Planning Permissions

- 9.37 The study area currently has six Gypsy and Traveller sites with temporary planning permissions, three in West Dorset District, one in Christchurch Borough and two in North Dorset District, all with one pitch except for one site in North Dorset with two pitches. In all cases the permissions will expire within the next 5 years and no-one interviewed on any of these sites wished to leave. They have therefore been counted as need within this assessment but not as supply of pitches.
- 9.38 We would also note that North Dorset and East Dorset have a number of sites with personal permissions. We have not counted these sites as being temporary and instead they will expire when the occupants no longer use them.

**Figure 32**

**Temporary Planning Permissions by Local Authority**

Local Authority	Number of pitches
Bournemouth Borough	0
Christchurch Borough	1
East Dorset District	0
North Dorset District	3
Poole Borough	0
Purbeck District	0
West Dorset District	3
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

## New Household Formation

- 9.39 It is recognised that an important group for future pitch provision will be children from existing households who wish to form their own households. Many studies of Gypsy and Traveller populations, including the South West Regional Spatial Strategy, assume a net growth in the population of around 3% per annum. Long-term trends indicate that the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on site has grown by 134% nationally in the past 34 years, which equates to a net growth of around 2.5% per annum in caravan numbers. Unfortunately there are no figures for Gypsy and Traveller households.
- 9.40 While most studies use a net growth rate of between 2.5% and 3% per annum, ORS believe that an evidence base should use the most accurate information possible, rather than simply relying upon precedent. The household survey indicates an age profile for the population which is not as young as is typical of those obtained elsewhere by ORS, with 26% of all household members being 16 years or under and 10% being aged over 60 years. It is common for many New Traveller populations to be predominantly adult. So a population growth rate of 2.5% is too high for the study area as a whole. Therefore, we have instead used a lower rate of growth of 2% per annum to reflect the higher number of adults in the existing population. When including the impact of compound growth, a 2% growth per annum provides for 10% growth over 5 years, 21% growth over 10 years, 35% growth over 15 years.
- 9.41 In terms of the total number of household formations per district, the table below sets out the baseline position for households including all those on the waiting lists and in bricks and mortar and the growth rate based upon 35% over 15 years. It is assumed that each forming household requires a pitch of their own.

**Figure 33**  
**Number of Household Formations in the Period 2013-2028**

Local Authority	Households on site including those on the waiting list and in bricks and mortar	Household growth based upon 35% over 15 years
Bournemouth Borough	0	0
Christchurch Borough	13	5
East Dorset District	18	6
North Dorset District	61	21
Poole Borough	24	8
Purbeck District	36	12
West Dorset District	31	11
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>63</b>

## In-migration from Other Sources

- <sup>9.42</sup> The most complicated area for a survey such as this is to estimate how many households will require accommodation from outside the area. Potentially Gypsies and Travellers could move to the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset from anywhere in the country. The number of households seeking to move to the area is likely to be heavily dependent upon pitch provision elsewhere. It has been noted that a weakness of many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments conducted across the country has been that they either allowed for out-migration without in-migration, which led to under-counting of need, or they over-counted need by assuming every household visiting the area required a pitch.
- <sup>9.43</sup> Overall, the level of in-migration to Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset is very difficult to predict. As noted in Chapter 5, over 58% of residents have lived in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset for over 3 years. However, 21% of respondents to the household survey had lived at their current site for less than a year. While a number of these were only visitors, there is some movement within existing permanent sites. The household survey indicates that 12 households are currently seeking to move, with three seeking to move to bricks and mortar and one wishing to move outside of the area to Cambridge. The remainder are looking for permanent or better sites within Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset and most are happy to consider anywhere in the county. Therefore, there is little evidence that households are seeking to leave Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset. While it would be possible to extrapolate migration trends from within the household survey we would suggest that with only one household seeking to leave the area this would not be a robust position to adopt.
- <sup>9.44</sup> We would note that movement to the public sites is covered by the waiting list and therefore does not need to be included within the model again. We have allowed for a balanced level of migration on to existing private sites. The advantage of allowing for net migration to sum to zero is that it avoids the problems seen with other Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments where the modelling of migration clearly identified too low or high a level of total pitch provision. An assumption of net nil migration implies that the net pitch requirement is driven by locally identifiable need. This is also consistent with the findings from the stakeholder consultation on Duty to Co-operate where neighbouring Local Authorities identified that they were seeking to address their own needs, but were not making

provision for more than this figure. We have also assumed a net nil migration between Local Authorities in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, but as noted above many Gypsies and Travellers would be happy to consider alternative locations within the county and therefore migration across boundaries may occur.

- 9.45 Beyond this number, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, we would propose that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is important for the authorities to have clear criteria based planning policies in place for any new potential sites which do arise.

## Overall Needs for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole

- 9.46 The estimated extra residential site provision that is required now and in the near future for the 8 authorities will be 150 pitches to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households on unauthorised sites, concealed households, those on the waiting list for a public site or in bricks and mortar, those currently seeking to develop a private site and growth in household numbers due to household formation.

**Figure 34**

**Extra Pitches which are Required in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Authorities from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	8	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	37		
Concealed households	6	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	16	-	
Waiting list for public sites	29	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>88</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	7	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	63	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>70</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>150</b>

## Overall Needs for Each Planning Authority

- 9.47 To provide estimates for each Local Authority, we have apportioned the needs outlined above by Local Authority on the basis of where the need currently arises or where future household growth will arise. As discussed earlier, this process inevitably places a low amount of need in areas which currently have low populations while placing higher needs in authorities with larger populations. Therefore, potentially the requirement being generated in one Local Authority could be met in a neighbouring area.

<sup>9.48</sup> The Regional Spatial Strategy process sought to allocate provision across the entire region and had the potential to allocate sites to areas with a low current population to help to relieve potential pressures on those with little available building land or who had provided a high number of pitches already. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites encourages Local Authorities to produce joint plans for Gypsy and Traveller needs but there is now no formal process for allocating needs arising in one authority as provision in another authority. Feedback from the Department for Communities and Local Government indicates that the Duty to Cooperate is not a Duty to Agree and therefore it will require the Local Authorities to plan strategically across boundaries if needs are not to be met where they arise.

## Bournemouth Borough

9.49 There is no identified requirement for Bournemouth Borough. We would note that there is a significant population of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar in Bournemouth, but there is currently no evidence that they wish to move to sites with only one being on a waiting list for a public site. However, we would recommend carefully monitoring of this situation because it is possible that more households do wish to move to sites, but feel unable to do so because there are no sites in Bournemouth.

**Figure 35**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in Bournemouth Borough from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	0		
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Waiting list for public sites	0	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	0	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Christchurch Borough

- <sup>9.50</sup> There is no Council Gypsy and Traveller site within the Borough. There is one private site with 4 pitches, a site with temporary permission and 3 long-term tolerated pitches. There is a trend of seasonal unauthorised encampments by Gypsies and Irish Travellers who are moving through the south east Dorset conurbation. Unauthorised encampments have remained relatively low since a peak in 2008, but the size of encampments has risen (see Figure 9). There is evidence of a gypsy population in housing (See Figure 27). There does not seem to be a history of New Age Travellers passing through or settling within the area.
- <sup>9.51</sup> The projected requirements for Christchurch Borough arise from concealed households, movements from bricks and mortar and household growth.

**Figure 36**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in Christchurch Borough from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	0		
Concealed households	3	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	5	-	
Waiting list for public sites	0	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	1	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	5	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

## East Dorset District

<sup>9.52</sup> The projected requirements for East Dorset Borough arise from households on unauthorised sites movements from bricks and mortar and household growth.

**Figure 37**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in East Dorset District from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	12		
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	1	-	
Waiting list for public sites	0	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>13</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	6	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>



## North Dorset District

<sup>9.53</sup> The need for a relatively high number of pitches in North Dorset District is predominantly driven by existing unauthorised sites, movement from bricks and mortar, the waiting list for public sites and household growth, a significant element of which comes from households on unauthorised sites and encampments.

**Figure 38**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in North Dorset District from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	8	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	14		
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	3	-	
Waiting list for public sites	5	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>22</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	3	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	21	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>24</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>

## Poole Borough

<sup>9.54</sup> Households on the waiting list for the residential public site and household growth account for most of the need in Poole Borough. Figure 9 (page 18) shows the number and type of unauthorised encampments during the last 6 years and this evidence demonstrates the recent demand for transit or temporary provision which the Borough may wish to tackle.

**Figure 39**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in Poole Borough from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	0		
Concealed households	1	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	(1)	-	
Waiting list for public sites	10	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>10</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	8	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>

## Purbeck District

- <sup>9.55</sup> There is currently one council run Gypsy and Traveller site in Purbeck (with 16 pitches) and one private site (with permission for one pitch). There is a seasonal trend of unauthorised encampments by various Gypsies and Travellers in the area, including New Travellers. Unauthorised encampment levels have reduced in recent years, along with the size of the encampments (see Figure 9).
- <sup>9.56</sup> The projected requirements for Purbeck District arise from the current unauthorised encampments, need from concealed households, movement from bricks and mortar and household growth. A significant proportion also relates to the waiting list for a pitch on the public site at Ashoaks Park. The waiting list is currently at the highest level for public sites in Dorset and this might be partly due to proximity to the conurbation.

**Figure 40**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in Purbeck District from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	6		
Concealed households	2	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	1	-	
Waiting list for public sites	12	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>21</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	12	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>12</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>

## West Dorset District

<sup>9.57</sup> West Dorset has a number of households on unauthorised sites and households on the waiting list for sites in its area.

**Figure 41**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in West Dorset District from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	5		
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	7	-	
Waiting list for public sites	2	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	3	-	
Net migration	2	-	
New household formation	11	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

## Weymouth and Portland Borough

<sup>9.58</sup> Weymouth and Portland Borough has no identified need.

**Figure 42**  
**Extra Pitches which are Required in Weymouth and Portland Borough from 2013-2028**

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
<b>Supply of Pitches</b>			
Additional supply from empty pitches	-	0	
Additional supply new sites	-	0	
<b>Total Supply</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Current Need</b>			
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	0		
Concealed households	0	-	
Net movement from bricks and mortar	0	-	
Waiting list for public sites	0	-	
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	0	-	
Net migration	0	-	
New household formation	0	-	
<b>Total Future Needs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Split by Public/Private Sites by Planning Authority to 2028

<sup>9.59</sup> In terms of providing public and private sites, we have treated those on the waiting list as requiring public sites, those currently on unauthorised developments or sites with temporary planning permission as requiring private sites and for household growth to follow the pattern of existing sites. Any New Traveller need has been allocated to private sites due to evidence pointing few successful New Traveller sites managed by the public sector and all New Travellers in bricks and mortar seeking to live on private sites. However, we would note that New Traveller sites could be developed on publicly owned land with the cooperation of the community with the sites then being managed by New Travellers and so may effectively count as being public sites. However, New travellers would typically not wish to reside on public sites run in the same manner as public Gypsy and Traveller sites.

<sup>9.60</sup> In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods, given that unauthorised sites, concealed households, households in bricks and mortar and waiting list needs represent a backlog of need we have assumed that the local authorities will seek to address these as part of their first 5 year land supply. All sites with temporary planning permissions will also expire in the first 5 years so we have also assumed that addressing the needs on these sites will be covered in the first 5 years. Any supply from undeveloped sites is assumed to be developed in the first 5 years. Household growth is apportioned over time.

<sup>9.61</sup> In summary, Figure 43 sets out the net requirement for new pitch provision by Local Authority and by public and private sites until 2028.

**Figure 43**

**Extra Pitch Provision in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole by Local Authority by Public and Private Sites to 2028**

Local Authority	2013-2018		2018-2023		2023-2028	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Bournemouth Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christchurch Borough	4	6	0	2	0	2
East Dorset District	0	14	0	2	0	3
North Dorset District	6	14	3	5	4	6
Poole Borough	12	0	3	0	3	0
Purbeck District	18	6	3	0	5	1
West Dorset District	3	16	3	1	4	1
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

## Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

<sup>9.62</sup> Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through on the way to somewhere else. A transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity and amenity blocks. They do not have a function in meeting local need which must be addressed on permanent sites.

<sup>9.63</sup> An alternative to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.

<sup>9.64</sup> As well as facilitating the accommodation needs of household visiting an area, the presence of a transit site or emergency stopping place in an area can speed up enforcement on unauthorised encampments, with households facing committing an offence if they do not move on to the site, or leave the County. However, we would note that Local Authorities are not able to use transit provision on private sites as part of their enforcement action policies and therefore while it does provide an option for visiting households it is at the discretion of the site owner who is allowed on to the site.

<sup>9.65</sup> Dorset has some experience of operating temporary transit sites associated with major events. For many years the County Council, in partnership with North Dorset District Council and Dorset Police, have organised a temporary transit site for the period running up to and during the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Numbers of occupants have fluctuated. In the earlier years there were between 60 and 100 caravans on the site. In more recent years the peak number of caravans has ranged from 36 to 60. During 2012 a temporary transit site was arranged during the period of the Olympic events and opened before the Torch Carrying Ceremony closing at the end of the Paralympics in September 2012. This resulted in a significant reduction in the levels of unauthorised encampment during 2012 with no incidents on park and ride sites or any of the Olympic infrastructure. In contrast, in 2013, there have been four unauthorised encampments on the Weymouth park and ride site alone.

- <sup>9.66</sup> As previously mentioned, there is evidence from the statutory caravan counts and the data collected by the local authorities themselves that there is a peak in unauthorised camping by Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities during the summer months. This particularly affects the South East Dorset conurbation and the Weymouth and Dorchester area and more widely in the run-up to the Great Dorset Steam Fair. ORS have spoken to a number of local authorities and county councils across the country (such as those in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Hertfordshire). Several indicate that publicly provided transit sites are poorly used and in some cases have fallen out of use. This is partly due to such sites being poorly located away from major travelling routes. Worcestershire district councils have a formal temporary toleration policy which generally meets the needs of Travellers moving through the county without establishing a formal transit site. The joint policy towards unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers in Worcestershire allows Travellers to remain and camp for up to 21 days provided there are no issues.
- <sup>9.67</sup> Dorset County Council has followed a similar policy of 'sensitive management' an approach which addresses the need for proper judgement in policy response according to the nature of the site, the Gypsy or Traveller group and the concerns of residents and businesses. This balanced approach has minimised the need for formal legal action. However, it is proving increasingly difficult to sustain. Some of the sites that are commonly frequented by Gypsies and Travellers have been heavily defended or the land has been sold, thus restricting the availability of such sites.
- <sup>9.68</sup> Transit site provision for the Dorset sub-region is clearly a complex issue. The evidence would suggest that, given the scale of some encampments in each area, the sites would need to be at least 10 pitches and probably larger with up to 25 pitches being needed. In addition to the Great Dorset Steam Fair temporary transit site travelling patterns would suggest a 25 pitch transit site or stopping place for the south-east Dorset conurbation and a similar provision for the Dorchester/Weymouth area. However, it should be noted that strengthened Police powers can only be triggered if a transit site or temporary stopping place is made available within a specific local authority area. In Shire Dorset this can be the County Council area but Bournemouth and Poole are unitary authorities and the legislation does not currently allow the direction of Travellers across local authority boundaries. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole would, therefore, either need to plan for separate sites within each of their local authority areas or share provision and accept some limitations to Police powers.

## Needs for Plots for Travelling Showpeople

- <sup>9.69</sup> The estimated need for plots for Travelling Showpeople is typically much simpler to model than for Gypsies and Travellers. In our experience, it is normally the case that none are on unauthorised sites, no plots are expected to be freed for any reason and there is no waiting list for sites. Therefore, the needs are typically driven by concealed households at existing sites and household growth.
- <sup>9.70</sup> As outlined in Chapter 8, the situation with Travelling Showpeople is that there are only four yards in the study area, with one each in the Districts of East Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Borough of Weymouth and Portland. The households on the sites in West Dorset and Weymouth both report high and potentially dangerous levels of overcrowding. The households in West Dorset are seeking to develop a new yard for 7 plots in the Dorchester/West Dorset area and the households in Weymouth and Portland Borough are

seeking 3 more plots within the Weymouth and Portland area. The occupant of the site in Purbeck is seeking an alternative site in the north of the County.



# 10. Conclusions

## Introduction

<sup>10.1</sup> This chapter brings together the evidence presented earlier in the report to provide some key policy conclusions for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. It focuses upon the key issues of future site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and also Travelling Showpeople.

## Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

<sup>10.2</sup> Based upon the evidence presented in Chapter 8, the estimated extra pitch provision that is required for Gypsies and Travellers in the next 15 years in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole is 150 pitches. The table below shows the requirement by local authority by type of pitch in 5 year intervals. These figures should be seen as the minimum amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population.

**Figure 44**  
**Extra Pitch Provision in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole by Local Authority by Public and Private Sites to 2028**

Local Authority	2013-2018		2018-2023		2023-2028	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Bournemouth Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christchurch Borough	4	6	0	2	0	2
East Dorset District	0	14	0	2	0	3
North Dorset District	6	14	3	5	4	6
Poole Borough	12	0	3	0	3	0
Purbeck District	18	6	3	0	5	1
West Dorset District	3	16	3	1	4	1
Weymouth and Portland Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

<sup>10.3</sup> We would note that the estimates for local authorities within this study are based upon the location where needs will arise. **This is not necessarily the same location as where need should be met.** For example, it is difficult for households to express a desire to live on a public site in an area which currently has no provision. Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are not constrained by local authority boundaries and potentially the requirement for one local authority could be met in a neighbouring area. We have not made explicit assumptions about the allocation of needs arising in one area being met in another area but we would recommend that consideration is given to a more equitable allocation of provision between the authorities. Also, there is a significant population of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar in Bournemouth, but there is currently no evidence that they wish to move to sites with only one being on a waiting list for a public site. However, we would recommend careful monitoring of this situation because it is possible that more households do wish to move to sites, but feel unable to do so because there are no sites in Bournemouth.

## Transit Sites

- <sup>10.4</sup> There is evidence from the statutory caravan counts and the data collected by the local authorities themselves that there is a peak in unauthorised camping by Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities during the summer months. This particularly affects the South East Dorset conurbation and the Weymouth and Dorchester area and more widely in the run-up to the Great Dorset Steam Fair. ORS have spoken to a number of local authorities and county councils across the country (such as those in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Hertfordshire). Several indicate that publicly provided transit sites are poorly used and in some cases have fallen out of use. This is partly due to such sites being poorly located away from major travelling routes. Worcestershire district councils have a formal temporary toleration policy which generally meets the needs of Travellers moving through the county without establishing a formal transit site. The joint policy towards unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers in Worcestershire allows Travellers to remain and camp for up to 21 days provided there are no issues.
- <sup>10.5</sup> Dorset County Council has followed a similar policy of 'sensitive management' an approach which addresses the need for proper judgement in policy response according to the nature of the site, the Gypsy or Traveller group and the concerns of residents and businesses. This balanced approach has minimised the need for formal legal action. However, it is proving increasingly difficult to sustain. Some of the sites that are commonly frequented by Gypsies and Travellers have been heavily defended or the land has been sold, thus restricting the availability of such sites.
- <sup>10.6</sup> The evidence would suggest that, given the scale of some encampments in each area, the transit sites would need to be at least 10 pitches and probably larger with up to 25 pitches being needed. In addition to the Great Dorset Steam Fair temporary transit site travelling patterns would suggest a 25 pitch transit site or stopping place for the south-east Dorset conurbation and a similar provision for the Dorchester/Weymouth area. However, it should be noted that strengthened Police powers can only be triggered if a transit site or temporary stopping place is made available within a specific local authority area. In Shire Dorset this can be the County Council area but Bournemouth and Poole are unitary authorities and the legislation does not currently allow the direction of Travellers across local authority boundaries. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole would, therefore, either need to plan for separate sites within each of their local authority areas or share provision and accept some limitations to Police powers.

## Travelling Showperson Requirements

- <sup>10.7</sup> There are only four yards in the study area, with one each in the Districts of East Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Borough of Weymouth and Portland. The households on the sites in West Dorset and Weymouth both report high and potentially dangerous levels of overcrowding. The households in West Dorset are seeking to develop a new yard for 7 plots in the Dorchester/West Dorset area and the households in Weymouth and Portland Borough are seeking 3 more plots within the Weymouth and Portland area. The occupant of the site in Purbeck is seeking an alternative site in the north of the County.

## Policy Issues

- <sup>10.8</sup> Stakeholder interviews indicated that some comments from both Council officers and members indicate a limited awareness of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeoples' presence in the area and ambiguity as to the powers available to Local Authorities in managing the movement of travellers through the County. There is also evidence of a lack of understanding of the history and traditions of the travelling community among both the Local Authorities and wider stakeholders.
- <sup>10.9</sup> The majority of officers and members interviewed believed that further training and seminars were needed. This would enable a greater understanding of the cultural differences between Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople and raise awareness of the issues that often arose in relation to these groups and the wider community. It is suggested that any future events should be organised countywide rather than by individual authorities which would ensure a uniform approach and ability to share costs. It is understood that Kushti Bok – a Gypsy and Traveller representative group would be interested in assisting with any future training.
- <sup>10.10</sup> The need to improve the level of understanding of issues affecting Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople among those involved in providing services to address their needs is particularly pertinent now in view of the imminent withdrawal of the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS). The loss of this service is likely to put more pressure on individual local authorities and other service providers. There is therefore an even greater need for good inter-authority liaison. The Dorset Gypsy and Traveller Group already provides a forum for local authorities and other agencies such as the Police, Health Service, Registered Providers of housing and charities to regularly meet to address issues of mutual concern related to the travelling community. While traveller representative groups, such as SWAN nomads already attend, the group may benefit from more involvement by individual Gypsies and Travellers. It would also assist understanding across the wider study area if local authority representatives from Bournemouth and Poole were involved with the group.
- <sup>10.11</sup> Another issue that was identified through the study and was confirmed by discussion with Registered Providers was the difficulty of identifying Gypsies and Travellers through their monitoring systems. Although the current housing application systems have an Equality and Diversity section that is mandatory to complete and contains questions related to the applicant's ethnicity, the range of different ethnic groups identified is generally limited to Roma Gypsy and Irish Travellers. It was also believed that those completing an application form may not have completed the section relating to ethnicity or had not identified their true ethnic origins.
- <sup>10.12</sup> It is understandable that some people may not wish to reveal their ethnicity through fear of discrimination. However the lack of information has made it more difficult in this study to identify the Gypsy and Traveller population living in bricks and mortar housing and so gauge their views on their existing accommodation and future needs. It would assist in monitoring needs in the future if all housing agencies could address their information on ethnicity to ensure it includes as broad a range of groups as possible. Gypsies and Travellers should also be advised of the positive advantages of supplying the correct information.
- <sup>10.13</sup> A final point that the interviews have highlighted is the issue of education for Gypsies and Travellers. It was reported that there had been vast improvements in respect of accessibility and attendance for children from these communities, although some concerns still about transport to school and bullying. However it

was noted that there are still challenges relating to older children especially girls attending secondary and higher education. It was also noted that it is practical skills that are sought (such as bricklaying and plastering) that will assist the young people to earn a living. Gosport Educational Improvement Partnership was highlighted as a group who are developing ways of making learning more meaningful for young people. It was also noted that Kingston Maurward College had introduced courses on rural and marine skills. However the withdrawal of EMTAS will leave a void that the other authorities will need to fill to ensure that educational provision continues to address the needs of the travelling community.

# Appendix A: Existing Gypsy and Traveller Residential Sites in Dorset and Poole\*

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Christchurch Borough

Site	Number of Pitches
<b>Local Authority Sites</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>	
Hurn	4
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sites with Temporary Permission</b>	
Hurn	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission</b>	
Hurn	3
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/ SITES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Unauthorised Developments/Encampments</b>	
	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>8</b>

\*While the Borough of Bournemouth is part of the study area, it currently has no Gypsy and Traveller sites, so has been omitted. The Borough of Weymouth and Portland Borough also has no Gypsy and Traveller sites.

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites in East Dorset District

Site	Number of Pitches
<b>Local Authority Sites</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>	
St Leonards	2
Sturminster Marshall	2
Verwood	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sites with Temporary Permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/ SITES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unauthorised Developments/Encampments</b>	
West Moors	2
Ferndown	1 ENC
Wimborne	2 ENC
Verwood	3
Three Legged Cross	4
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>17</b>

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites in North Dorset District

Site	Number of Pitches
<b>Local Authority Sites</b>	
Blandford	12
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>	
Hazelbury Bryan	3
Lydlinch	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Private Sites with Long-term Temporary Permission</b>	
Motcombe	2
Stoke Wake	1
Stour Provost	1
Pulham	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH LONG-TERM TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sites with Short-term Temporary Permission</b>	
Child Okeford	2
Marnhull	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH SHORT-TERM TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission</b>	
Shaftesbury	6 ENC
Gillingham	4 ENC
OkefordFitzpaine	5 ENC
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/SITES</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Unauthorised Developments/Encampments</b>	
OkefordFitzpaine	8 ENC
West Stour	5 ENC
Stoke Wake	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>53</b>

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Poole Borough

Site	Number of Pitches
<b>Local Authority Sites</b>	
Mannings Heath	15
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sites with Temporary Permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/ SITES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unauthorised Developments/Encampments</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>15</b>



## Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Purbeck District

Site	Number of Pitches
<b>Local Authority Sites</b>	
Wareham	16
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>	
Wareham	1
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sites with Temporary Permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/ SITES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unauthorised Developments/Encampments</b>	
Wool	2 ENC
Coombe Keynes	4 ENC
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>23</b>

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites in West Dorset District

Site	Number of Pitches
<b>Local Authority Sites</b>	
Dorchester	14
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SITES</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>	
	0
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON PRIVATE SITES WITH PERMANENT PERMISSION</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sites with Temporary Permission</b>	
Sandford Orcas	1
Beaminster	2
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON SITES WITH TEMPORARY PERMISSION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tolerated Sites – Long-term without planning permission</b>	
-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON LONG-TERM TOLERATED ENCAMPMENTS/ SITES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unauthorised Developments/Encampments</b>	
West Stafford	5 ENC
<b>TOTAL PITCHES ON UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>22</b>