

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

(February 2016)



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1 Executive Summary

1.0.1 Under section 225 of the 2004 Housing Act, Local Authorities (LAs) were required to undertake Accommodation Assessments for Gypsies and Travellers in their area. However, Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (which supersedes the 2004 Act) places a duty on all LAs in Wales to undertake a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) every 5 years and where the assessment identifies an unmet need for mobile home pitches it must make provision for the identified need.

1.0.2 The most recent GTAA for Neath Port Talbot (NPT) was produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS) in 2012. This study identified a 20 pitch need, on public residential pitches, over a 15 year period (upto 2027).

1.0.3 Neath Port Talbot has an established Gypsy and Traveller community of 56 pitches on 3 authorised sites within the County Borough. Following the findings of the 2012 GTAA the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the County Borough made further provisions for an extra 11 pitches at the existing Cae Garw site near Margam to accommodate the identified short to medium term need of 4 pitches for the period 2012 – 2017 and 7 pitches for the period 2018 – 2022. Due to the statistical inaccuracies associated with predicting the longer term needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community, who by their very nature have nomadic lifestyles, it was the Council's view that the remaining need for 9 pitches would be reviewed as part of the LDP's Monitoring Framework and addressed by the Plan's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) – this was subsequently endorsed by the Inspectors in their binding report.

1.0.4 Using the Welsh Government guidance '*Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*' the new GTAA has been undertaken in-house by the Authority's Housing Strategy and Planning Policy Sections with help from colleagues within the Estates' section of the Authority to collect the primary data for the study through interviews / questionnaires.

1.0.5 The Study, which has to be submitted by all LAs to the Welsh Ministers by 25 February 2016, identified no need (an oversupply of 3 pitches) in the short term (2016 – 2021) with 4 pitches required on public residential sites towards the end of the LDP period (2022 – 2026). This need takes into account the supply resulting from the 11 pitches that received planning permission in February 2015 and the two pitches on the Briton Ferry site that were recently brought back into use.

1.0.6 Once the Authority receives confirmation from the Welsh Ministers that the GTAA has been approved, the Study findings will be incorporated into the LDP's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The full list of relevant indicators will be monitored throughout the 2016/17 financial year and reported to the Welsh Government (WG) by 31 October 2017. The Authority will consider the findings of the AMR and if required will resolve to revise the LDP to address any identified shortcomings through the Review process.

1 . Executive Summary

2 Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Neath Port Talbot has a well established and long standing Gypsy and Traveller population and currently has one of the highest populations of Gypsy and Traveller communities in Wales. There are three authorised public sites within the County Borough, two sites located at Wharf Road, Briton Ferry and one site at Cae Garw, Margam.

2.1.2 The purpose of this study is to assess the future accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community and determine whether there is a requirement for additional site provision within Neath Port Talbot for permanent residential pitches and/or transit pitches. Undertaking the study will enable the Authority to meet its statutory requirements under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and will provide the Authority with a comprehensive understanding of the future needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community.

2.1.3 Until recently, all local authorities had a duty to assess the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community under section 225 of the Housing Act 2004. This requirement has been superseded by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, of which part 3 relates to Gypsies and Travellers and meeting their accommodation needs. Under the 2014 Act, all local authorities in Wales are required to periodically assess the needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in (i.e. those who currently live in the area) and those resorting to (i.e. those wishing to move to an area or stay from time to time). Authorities are required to report findings of the study to Welsh Ministers for approval and have a duty to meet any need that is identified.

2.1.4 The definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' within section 108 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 is:

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

2.1.5 Whilst using this definition, Gypsies and Travellers should not be described as a homogeneous group or as a single entity; Gypsy and Traveller communities can have varying lifestyles dependent on culture and heritage. Gypsies and Travellers are a racial group, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, and are therefore protected from discrimination and harassment.

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2.1.6 Within Neath Port Talbot, the Single Integrated Plan (2013-2023) sets out the Council's vision as *'Creating a Neath Port Talbot where everyone has an equal opportunity to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous'*. Ensuring there is adequate provision of suitable housing for all residents in Neath Port Talbot is a key consideration for the Authority to meet this vision. Assessing the needs of all members of the population, including Gypsies and Travellers is therefore fundamental in promoting safe, integrated, sustainable and thriving communities.

2.2 National Policy Context: Legislation and Guidance

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

2.2.1 Under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, assessing the future needs of Gypsies and Travellers has become a statutory requirement, with a duty placed on all local authorities in Wales to provide additional sites where a need has been identified.

2.2.2 Local authorities in Wales are required to periodically carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in and resorting to an area every 5 years. Part 3, relating to Gypsies and Travellers (with the exception of sections 103 and 104) came into effect on 25th February 2015, with the first Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) required to be completed within one year of commencement.

2.2.3 Once an assessment is complete, local authorities must prepare a report detailing the findings. The report should detail the methodology used, the level of consultation undertaken and form conclusions on the future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers both residing in and resorting to the area. The report must be submitted to Welsh Ministers, who will either approve the assessment with or without modifications, or reject it. If an assessment is rejected by Ministers, the authority must revise and resubmit or carry out another assessment. Reasons for rejecting an assessment could include inadequate consultation or failure to provide adequate evidence in support of an assessment of need.

2.2.4 Should an assessment identify an unmet need, authorities have a duty under Section 103 of the Act to meet this need. Should an authority fail to comply with Section 103, Welsh Ministers may direct the authority to exercise its powers under section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 to meet the needs identified in its approved assessment.

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

2.2.5 The Mobile Homes (Wales) Act gained Royal Assent on 4th November 2013 and provided an update to previous legislation. The legislation (the provisions of which have subsequently come into force throughout 2014) is designed to improve regulations of the industry and ensure that conditions on mobile home sites are improved and the rights of mobile home owners are better protected. The legislation and protection of the rights to mobile home owners is required as in some instances, whilst the mobile home owner may own their own home, the land on which it sits may be owned by a site operator or land owner.

2.2.6 The Act introduces a license system, where site owners are required to apply for a licence from their local authority to operate a site, subject to relevant planning permissions. To obtain a licence, site managers will need to pass a 'fit and proper person' test, with licences lasting for a period of 5 years once awarded. Pitch fees charged on site can only be increased in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

2.2.7 Under the legislation, local authorities are able to inspect sites and issue fixed penalty notices to site owners if there are issues with on-site conditions and in more serious instances may issue compliance notices.

Planning Circular 30/2007 - Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites

2.2.8 The circular provides guidance on planning for suitable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The Circular recognises that Gypsies and Travellers are not a single entity and have varying values and lifestyles and future accommodation needs should be discussed directly with the Gypsy and Traveller community and representative bodies and groups.

2.2.9 The Welsh Government Circular 30/2007, provides the following definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers':

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

2.2.10 Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMA) are identified as providing a key source of information for assessing future accommodation needs. Where a need for additional accommodation is found, LDPs should provide additional accommodation to meet this need over the Plan period and will need to demonstrate that sites are suitable and there is a realistic possibility of the identified sites being made available for this purpose.

2.2.11 The circular notes the suitability of a site is important for the health and well being of the community and for the maintenance and support of family and social networks. The circular provides guidance on important considerations when identifying sites, such as transport modes and pedestrian access, safety and distances from services, and other considerations such as:

- Opportunities for growth within family units;
- The promotion of peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;
- Access to education, GP and other health services and access for emergency vehicles;
- Access to utilities including waste recovery and disposal services;

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- Suitable safe play areas; and
- Not locating sites in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains, given the particular vulnerability of caravans.

2.2.12 In identifying sites, first regard should be given to sites in locations which are in or near to existing settlements with a range of services and facilities available, and the social, environmental and economic impacts of the site's potential allocation will need to be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal.

2.2.13 Criteria based policies are required within LDPs to assess / meet future or unexpected demand. Gypsies and Travellers have the same rights and responsibilities in the planning system as other residents and social groups. As such, Plan policies and criteria must be fair, reasonable, realistic and effective in delivering sites. Policies that place undue constraints on the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites should not be included in LDPs.

WAG Circular 78/91 - Travelling Showpeople

2.2.14 Travelling Showpeople can have different lifestyles, values and attitudes to the Gypsy population and as such should be considered as a separate entity. Circular 78/91, gives the following definition of 'Travelling Showpeople':

'Showpeople are self-employed business people who travel the country holding fairs, chiefly during the summer months. Although their work is of a peripatetic nature, showpeople nevertheless require secure, permanent bases for the storage of their equipment and more particularly for residential purposes'.

2.2.15 The Circular advises that local planning authorities should consider the needs of Travelling Showpeople when preparing their Development Plans. They should identify existing sites which have planning permission, whether occupied or not, and should make a realistic assessment of the amount of accommodation required, including that made necessary by displacement, to provide the basis for relevant and appropriate Plan policies. Where there has been a tradition of sites occupied by Showpeople, and/or a local need for sites has been demonstrated, plans may make specific proposals for sites which would be suitable locations for Showpeople's quarters.

2.2.16 Any identified sites should be reasonably flat, have good vehicular access and be located close to schools and other community facilities. The identification of sites should have regard for environmental considerations, including the potential nuisance to neighbours from vehicular movement and the maintenance and testing of equipment. Where possible, sites should also provide safe and convenient access to the highway network and care should be taken to avoid visual encroachment into the open countryside.

Welsh Government (2015) Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites

2.2.17 The Welsh Government updated this guidance in May 2015, providing a revised good practice guide to local authorities that should be read in conjunction with another Welsh Government publication, 'Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites'. The guidance, whilst not a statutory document, provides practical assistance to local authorities to deliver sites that are sustainable, well managed and fit for purpose, providing a good quality of life for residents which aims to promote positive relationships between the Gypsy and Traveller community and settled community.

2.2.18 Important material considerations, including size of site, layout, access arrangements spacing of caravans and trailers, are explored in some detail to provide model standards that promote well designed sites that comply with health and safety, secure by design principles and fire standards. It is suggested that local authorities follow a 'line of best fit' when assessing potential sites and use the following general themes:

- Access: locating sites close to public roads and where possible with public transport links;
- Suitability of land: a site survey should be undertaken to identify issues such as drainage, flood risk and contaminated land;
- Local Services: locating sites within a reasonable distance from education, health and local services such as shops;
- Environment: consideration should be given to the location of hazards such as rivers, canals, industrial sites and major roads;
- Utilities: sites should be able to provide adequate water supply, electricity, sewerage, drainage and refuse disposal.

2.2.19 The publication also provides guidance on transit sites, temporary stopping places and methods of consultation with stakeholders.

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2.3 Local Policy Context

Neath Port Talbot Working in Partnership (2013-2023): Single Integrated Plan (SIP)

2.3.1 The Single Integrated Plan (SIP) sets out the following vision for Neath Port Talbot: *'Create a Neath Port Talbot where everyone has an equal opportunity to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous'*.

2.3.2 The Plan outlines steps to protect and improve local services and support our communities over the period 2013-2023 and prioritises action in the following areas:

- **Children and Young People;**
- **Anti-poverty;**
- **Health inequalities;**
- **Transport.**

2.3.3 The Plan has five main outcomes to achieve the vision. Under each outcome, a list of measures and steps are detailed. The majority of these measures relate to the Gypsy and Traveller Community as they cover a number of actions to improve general health, wellbeing and education, reduce poverty and fear of crime and develop communities that are strong and sustainable through meeting housing needs across all tenures. The outcomes are:

- **Outcome 1- Healthier:** This outcome aims to improve the health and well-being of Neath Port Talbot residents and reduce the gap between the least and most healthy. Measures identified include encouraging healthier lifestyles and embedding health improvements into policy making and service delivery arrangements.
- **Outcome 2 - Safer:** This outcome aims to improve people's safety through a number of measures including reducing the impact and fear of crime, reducing the incidence and impact of domestic abuse and improving public confidence and satisfaction around levels of anti-social behaviour.
- **Outcome 3 - Sustainable:** This outcome will improve the sustainability of our communities and environment to create strong and sustainable communities to face increasing challenges. Measures identified include developing communities that are strong and sustainable through meeting housing needs across all tenures and supporting opportunities for building safe, resilient, economically viable and sustainable communities.

- **Outcome 4 - Prosperous:** This outcome aims to improve our local economy and help reduce poverty, addressing the loss of industry within the area and the challenging economic climate through developing key sites, projects and infrastructure to retain and attract investment into the local economy and maximising the number of people who are able to access employment, by addressing barriers to employment.
- **Outcome 5 - Learning:** This outcome will help and support children, young people and adults to fulfil their learning potential. The outcome seeks to address instances of under achievement and raise standards in school and pupil performance through improving education, and ensuring schools are fit for purpose and are capable of delivering high quality education.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

2.3.4 The Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the Council's planning policy for the 15 year period 2011 - 2026. Adopted in January 2016, the LDP provides a development framework to deliver prosperous, thriving, sustainable communities with social and economic opportunities available to all, whilst addressing the key issues facing the County Borough.

2.3.5 The Plan is underpinned by an economic led strategy which aims to '*facilitate growth within Neath Port Talbot, with a focus on the Coastal Corridor whilst reinvigorating the Valley communities*'. The economic strategy is aspirational in its approach and uses job growth and projected economic activity rates to identify the required working age population to support the projected number of jobs. The projected number of jobs is then used and translated into population change and the housing requirement over the plan period, ensuring the employment and housing strategies are aligned.

2.3.6 The Plan's vision and strategy were established and underpinned by a substantial evidence base and considerable community involvement. The evidence identified a total of 18 key issues that the LDP needed to address, one of these issues (KI7) related specifically to Gypsies and Travellers and the need for additional residential pitches in the County Borough. This issue translated into some of the Plan's main objectives which formed the basis for policy development:

2.3.7 Objectives

OB 7: Provide an adequate supply, mix, type and tenure of housing within sustainable settlements to meet the needs of the projected population.

OB 9: Deliver additional pitches, to meet the identified need of Neath Port Talbot's Gypsy and Traveller community.

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2.3.8 Based on the findings of the 2012 Neath Port Talbot Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Study and to meet the objectives listed above, the LDP has provided a framework to address the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community over the Plan period through the detailed policies listed below.

2.3.9 The 2012 Neath Port Talbot Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Study identified a need of 20 additional residential pitches over the Plan period, with 11 of these pitches required over the short to medium term of the LDP, up to 2022. These 11 pitches will be provided through an expansion of the existing, well established Gypsy and Traveller site at Cae Garw, Margam.

2.3.10 Policy GT1 allocates land to extend the existing site at Cae Garw, Margam. The allocation will create 11 new permanent, residential pitches and will meet the identified need over the short to medium term of the Plan, up to 2022.

2.3.11 Whilst the allocation identified in Policy GT1 meets the identified need, there maybe future applications for additional sites over the Plan period, which will need to be assessed on individual merits. To assess such applications, Policy GT2 provides a policy framework and sets out a criteria based approach to ensure future sites are sustainable, located in close proximity to community facilities and have utilities such as water supply, drainage and waste disposal.

2.3.12 The Plan's monitoring framework will closely monitor the implementation and take up of the new pitches and will review the requirement for the latter part of the Plan, post 2023. A new GTAA will be undertaken every 5 years, in line with the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, which will further inform the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the Plan period.

2.3.13 Policies

Policy GT1

Gypsy and Traveller Site

The following site is allocated for the provision of 11 Gypsy and Traveller pitches:

Reference	Site
GT1	Cae Garw, Margam

Policy GT2

Proposals for New Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Sites and/or pitches to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers residing in, or resorting to, the County Borough will only be permitted where all the following criteria, where relevant, are satisfied:

1. Sites will be allowed outside settlement limits only when it has been demonstrated that there are no suitable sites or pitches available within:
 - (a) the allocated Gypsy Site at Cae Garw (GT1), or within other existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in Neath Port Talbot; or
 - (b) within existing settlement limits.
2. The site is in a sustainable location within reasonable distance of community facilities (including education) and transport links including walking and cycling routes;
3. The site has or would have a good standard of utilities including water supply, power, drainage, sewage disposal, waste disposal (storage and collection) and safe play areas for children;
4. The site will not be detrimental to residential amenity or the environment;
5. The site can accommodate home-based business uses where required without detrimentally affecting the amenity and character of the area;
6. The site can accommodate a safe and convenient access to the highway network and would not compromise highway safety and can provide an appropriate layout, in terms of pitches, parking and manoeuvring of vehicles, amenity buildings, hard standings and open spaces.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Housing Strategy 2015 - 2020

2.3.14 Neath Port Talbot's Local Housing Strategy sets out an agreed vision for addressing the housing needs of its citizens over the forthcoming years:

"Our Vision is that Housing in Neath Port Talbot will be appropriate, affordable, of good quality, in sustainable communities, offering people choice and support if they need it".

2.3.15 The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) has been produced at a time of considerable change. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014, Wales' first ever housing act proposes to improve the supply, quality and standards of housing in Wales. This includes improvement of the

2 . Policy Context

private rented sector, better standards in social housing, help to meet people's housing needs and prevent homelessness, enhance communities and help prevent the difficulties and lack of opportunities often encountered by vulnerable people.

2.3.16 Housing impacts on all aspects of life and on all of society regardless of age, race, status etc. Housing is essential to meeting basic human needs, such as shelter; but it is not just a question of four walls and a roof, housing should offer a place to sleep and rest where people feel safe and have privacy and personal space; somewhere they can raise a family. All of these elements help make a house a home.

2.3.17 The findings from the Local Housing Market Assessment produced jointly with the City and County of Swansea are the main feature within the document which analyses the local housing market and identifies the need for affordable housing. The housing mix indicated that 61% of market housing was required and 39% of social housing and other affordable housing was necessary to meet the housing need.

2.3.18 In 2012 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council also commissioned Opinion Research Services to undertake a Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment to inform the Local Housing Strategy and the estimated pitch provision is also a feature within this document; as well as a key action which forms part of Objective 3: *'To improve our knowledge and understanding of the Local Housing Market'* is in undertaking a revised Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment by 2016.

3 Background

3.1 Current Accommodation Provision

Public Residential Sites

3.1.1 The Gypsy and Traveller community in Neath Port Talbot is well established, with 56 permanent residential pitches over three authorised public sites: two sites are located at Wharf Road, Briton Ferry with a further site at Cae Garw, near Margam.

3.1.2 The sites at Wharf Road and Cae Garw have been constructed in phases over a period of time; the original Briton Ferry site was developed in the 1980's, with the larger element of the site constructed later during the 1990's. Both original phases of the Cae Garw site were also completed in the 1990's. All sites are permanent, have full planning consent and are owned by the Local Authority.

3.1.3 All sites were originally managed by the Authority until June 2000, at which time the management was transferred to the National Gypsy Council, with Neath Port Talbot Council retaining a small role liaising directly with the Gypsy Council. This arrangement continued until September 2013, at which time the full management responsibilities reverted back to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

3.1.4 Upon regaining full management of the sites, the Authority assessed the standard of pitches on all sites and found that the sites had deteriorated over recent years, mainly due to general wear and tear and limited maintenance. To rectify this, the Authority prioritised the required works, and through Welsh Government grant funding and some of the Council's own resources set about undertaking a considerable amount of improvement and upgrading works.

3.1.5 The upgrading and improvement works set about improving the standard of living across all sites, ensuring all pitches were in a good habitable condition ensuring a good quality of life for residents. In summary, improvements included the following:

- The replacement of windows and doors on facility blocks;
- Due to deterioration of facility blocks, walls and ceilings were lined with UPVC Cladding;
- Electrical re-wiring, including new fixtures and fittings and external weatherproof boxes;
- New fencing to provide screening and privacy for sites and also fencing and gates to individual pitches to improve security and safety for small children;
- A new site office at Briton Ferry to provide a community facility to hold meetings and an area for the site warden(s) to undertake their duties;

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- Improvements to facility blocks and upgrades to kitchens and bathrooms;
- Increasing the number of pitches from 54 to 56 by refurbishing the utility blocks on 2 previously de-commissioned pitches on the Briton Ferry site.

Unauthorised Encampments

3.1.6 Neath Port Talbot, generally, has experienced very low levels of unauthorised encampments. During the study, there was an unauthorised encampment of one caravan outside one of the existing sites. Since arriving in the County Borough, the family were in regular contact with the Authority, with support provided to the family. The family have been interviewed as part of this study, advising they have moved from a Local Authority owned site elsewhere in Wales whilst awaiting a move into bricks and mortar accommodation within the private rented sector. This encampment will be discussed further in the study as part of the survey findings.

Private Sites

3.1.7 There are currently no private sites in Neath Port Talbot and there have not been any planning applications made for any private sites over recent years. Within the past 5 years, the only planning application for new pitches/sites was made for public residential pitches in late 2014 by Neath Port Talbot Council for the extension to Cae Garw, further detail of which is provided within the next section.

Travelling Showpeople

3.1.8 There are no known permanent Travelling Showpeople in Neath Port Talbot. There are a number of fairs that visit the area, the largest of which is the September Neath Fair, which has a long standing history and connection to the area. The previous GTAA (2012) did not identify a need for a site for Travelling Showpeople or for Winter Quarters, however, this will be reassessed as part of this study.

Transit / Emergency Stopping Site Provision

3.1.9 Neath Port Talbot currently contains no Transit or Emergency Stopping Site Provision.

3.2 Previous GTAA Findings

3.2.1 In 2012, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council commissioned Opinion Research Services (ORS) to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. Completed in December 2012, the study reviewed the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need within the County Borough for the 15 year period, up to 2027. This study was used to inform the Gypsy and Traveller section of the Local Housing Strategy and also formed part of the evidence base used to underpin the Local Development Plan (LDP) and inform the Plan's Gypsy and Traveller policies and allocations.

3.2.2 In undertaking the study, interviews were attempted with all households on the existing sites. The success rate for the interviews was moderate, with 28 completed interviews obtained, representing just over half of the 54 pitches. Of those interviewed, the majority were Romani Gypsies, which represented 89%, with 7% Irish Travellers and 4% Scots Gypsy or Traveller.

3.2.3 The survey found that a high percentage of respondents (89%), had lived within their current site for more than five years; with the same percentage expressing strong connections with Neath Port Talbot due to the length of time they had resided within the area and due to friends and family also living within Neath Port Talbot.

3.2.4 Of those questioned, 86% expressed satisfaction with their existing accommodation, with some community members suggesting improvements that could be made, which included better site management, improved wash facilities and children's play areas. In response to suggestions made, the Authority, upon taking back management of the sites, addressed the concerns raised and through successful bids to the Welsh Government's Capital Grant Fund made a number of improvements to existing sites, as detailed in the previous section.

3.2.5 The calculation of need within the study focused on demographic factors, such as the age profile of the existing population, levels of household formation and household dissolutions along with in-migration were considered. Nearly 50% of household members were aged 16 and under, with 25% of these aged between 5 and 11 years old. In addition, there were a high number aged 60 years and older, which represented 25% of respondents. These demographic factors were noted as potentially having an influence on the future planning of any additional site provision and suggested the location of future pitches should be close to health care and education establishments, as well as other community facilities.

3.2.6 The study used a three stage approach to calculate the future need, firstly identifying the existing population and number of authorised pitches, with stage 2 assessing the number of pitches likely to become vacant through new site provision, migration out of the area, movement to bricks and mortar accommodation or household dissolution. The final stage assessed the number of households likely to require pitches, considering those currently seeking accommodation in the area, those on unauthorised encampments, current overcrowding, new household formation, migration into the area and those in conventional housing wishing to move to a site. The study concluded there to be a need for 20 additional permanent residential pitches on public sites within the County Borough over the LDP period, predicting the following additional pitch provision in the short, medium and longer term:

- Short term, 2012-2017: 4 pitches;
- Medium term, 2018-2022: 7 pitches;
- Longer term, 2023-2027: 9 pitches.

3.2.7 There was no need identified for transit pitches or provision for Travelling Showpeople.

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3.2.8 Whilst the study projected the need for the full plan period, it was noted that accurately predicting long term requirements for the Gypsy and Traveller population can be difficult, particularly over a long period of time. Given the nomadic lifestyles and culture of the community, there is no set methodology or travel patterns and with data limited creating a statistical sensitivity to making long term forecasts. On this basis, the LDP adopted a policy approach that allocated land to meet the needs of the short to medium term (up to 2022), with a monitoring trigger within the Plan to carry out a new GTAA later on in the plan period to provide a more accurate assessment of need. The introduction of the Housing (Wales) Act has supported the Authority's phased approach and a new GTAA will be undertaken every 5 years in line with the Act.

3.2.9 Once the need and approach had been established the Authority set about addressing the short to medium need. Using the Welsh Government's good practice guide,⁽¹⁾ and using a robust methodology, the Authority undertook a site assessment to identify a suitable site to accommodate the 11 pitches required by 2022. Following the assessment, an extension to the existing site at Cae Garw, Margam was chosen, with land allocated within the Deposit LDP (August 2013) to accommodate the 11 pitches.

3.2.10 Following the publication of the Deposit Plan, the Authority began work on the planning and implementation of the extension and entered into discussions with the landowner to acquire the site. A detailed design process was undertaken in house, which enabled the Authority to submit a planning application, which was granted planning permission in early 2015. Around the same time, the Authority, following detailed discussions with the landowner, agreed terms and purchased the land. The Authority then applied for, and was successfully awarded, the Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant 2015-2016 to implement the extension. To date, work is continuing on site, with the completion date scheduled for March 2016, in line with the terms of the grant.

3.2.11 The extension to Cae Garw was planned and based on the 2012 GTAA, and will cater for the need identified within the study for new residential pitches in Neath Port Talbot up to 2022. Whilst this study is fairly recent, the introduction of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the duties under this Act means the Authority must provide a new GTAA and submit to Welsh Ministers by February 2016. This revised GTAA will provide a new assessment of need for the five year period 2016 - 2021 and also provide an estimate of need upto the end of the LDP period (2026). The Study will therefore further examine the need established within the 2012 Study to test whether the extension of 11 pitches currently being developed at Cae Garw sufficiently meets the needs of the community over the next 5 years (upto 2021) and the likely longer term need upto 2026.

3.3 Population Data and Caravan Count

2011 Census

3.3.1 The 2011 Census allowed respondents to identify themselves as Gypsy and Traveller for the first time. In England and Wales as a whole, there were 58,000 people identified within this category, accounting for 0.1% of the overall population of England and Wales, and was the smallest of all ethnic groups listed within the Census. Of those

1 Welsh Government, Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites, updated May 2015

respondents, the highest proportion (61%) of Gypsies and Traveller households lived in a house or bungalow, with 24% of households living in caravans or other mobile or temporary structures.

3.3.2 Of those identifying as Gypsy and Traveller in England and Wales, a high proportion, 39%, were aged under 20, which was significantly higher than the whole population of England and Wales, where 24% were within this age category. The median age of the Gypsy and Traveller population was 26, compared to a median age of 39 for the total population of England and Wales. In terms of family formation, 45% of Gypsy and Traveller households had dependent children, compared to 29% (the average for England and Wales as a whole).

3.3.3 Whilst featuring Gypsy and Travellers as an ethnic group within the Census is a positive addition to the survey, it should be noted that these figures may not be representative of the whole community for a number of reasons. The category within the Census was, 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller'; and whilst some community members may identify themselves within this category, others may have a stronger affiliation with other ethnic categories such as White Irish, Roma, Travelling Showpeople or New Travellers who may not identify with the Gypsy and Traveller ethnic group. In addition, there may be some instances where Gypsy and Travellers may not have taken part in the Census or may have declined to self-ascribe their ethnicity for fear of discrimination.

3.3.4 In Wales alone there were 2,785 Gypsies and Travellers who identified themselves within the 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' ethnic group, with 125 of these residents residing in Neath Port Talbot, which represented less than 1% of the total population of the County Borough.

Table 3.3.1 Total Population and Gypsy and Traveller Population

	All categories: Accommodation type	Whole house or bungalow: Total	Whole house or bungalow: Detached	Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	Whole house or bungalow: Terraced	Flat, maisonette or apartment, or mobile or temporary accommodation
NPT; All categories	138,682	129,754	30,519	63,094	36,141	8,928
NPT: White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	125	51	17	24	10	74

Source: 2011 Census (ONS_DC2121EW - Ethnic Group by Accommodation Type - from Nomis, 27 July 2015).

3.3.5 Table 3.3.2 on page 19 shows the number of Gypsy and Traveller households by Local Authority. In comparison with the rest of Wales, the Census indicates that Neath Port Talbot has the fourth highest number of households in Wales living in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure, with only Cardiff, Pembrokeshire and Torfaen having a greater number of households in this type of accommodation.

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3.3.6 The table indicates that in Neath Port Talbot there were 25 households living in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure. However, at the time of the Census there were 54 residential pitches in the County Borough, with generally high levels of occupancy. Potentially, therefore, there could be a greater concentration of Gypsy and Travellers in Neath Port Talbot, and indeed other areas of Wales than indicated by the Census. For this reason, and given the relatively small sample size in Neath Port Talbot, whilst the Census provides a useful indication of demographic and social factors, it is difficult to construct meaningful conclusions around future growth, particularly as the previous 2001 Census did not feature Gypsy and Traveller as an ethnic category. The bi-annual caravan count and questionnaire element of this survey will therefore provide a more detailed analysis of the Gypsy and Traveller community and future need.

Table 3.3.2 Census 2011: Number / Type of Gypsy and Traveller Households by Local Authority

	Total: Accommodation Type	House or Bungalow	Flat, Maisonette or Apartment	Caravan or other Mobile of Temporary Structure
Wales	1,004	602	116	286
Blaenau Gwent	30	15	0	15
Bridgend	26	18	4	4
Caerphilly	14	11	0	3
Cardiff	158	70	36	52
Carmarthenshire	120	91	7	22
Ceredigion	29	21	5	3
Conwy	33	29	3	1
Denbighshire	16	11	4	1
Flintshire	38	30	1	7
Gwynedd	72	54	11	7
Isle of Anglesey	30	19	6	5
Merthyr Tydfil	29	16	4	9
Monmouthshire	3	3	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	47	20	2	25
Newport	28	23	3	2
Pembrokeshire	151	75	14	62
Powys	52	31	6	15
Rhondda Cynon Taf	22	16	3	3
Swansea	20	13	3	4
The Vale of Glamorgan	6	4	0	2
Torfaen	50	15	2	33
Wrexham	30	17	2	11

Source: 2011 Census

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Traveller Education Services

3.3.7 Traveller Education Service records indicate that as at 8th October 2015 there were **73** pupils registered and engaged in education. All pupils have access to the usual school-based support as well as involvement in School from the organisations 'Travelling Ahead' and the 'Youth Action Service'.

3.3.8 Analysis of records show that of the 73 Pupils registered, 6 (8%) were being home-educated and the remaining 92% (67) were being educated within 1 of 15 local schools operating within the County Borough.

3.3.9 The gender split of those home-educated, were 2 Male and 4 Female with one aged 13 years, three aged 14 years, one 15 years and one 16 years old.

3.3.10 Of those pupils being educated within a formal school environment;

- 45 pupils were based within 8 Primary/ Junior Schools, catering for pupils aged between 3 & 7 years; and
- 22 pupils were based within 7 Comprehensive/ 6th Form Centres, catering for pupils aged 11+ years.

3.3.11 2 of the 15 Schools were Welsh-medium and the remaining 13 educated pupils through the English language.

Table 3.3.3 Age Range of Pupils Educated within a Formal School Environment

AGE	TOTAL
3 Years	1
4 Years	3
5 Years	3
6 Years	7
7 Years	5
8 Years	9
9 Years	6
10 Years	7
11 Years	11
12 Years	5
13 Years	3
14 Years	4
15 Years	3

Source: Traveller Education Records

3.3.12 Of the pupils aged 11 years old, 4 were still within a Primary / Junior School setting, whereas 7 of the pupils were in a Comprehensive School. There were no pupils recorded in education beyond the age of 15 years.

Caravan Count

3.3.13 The Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count is undertaken by local authorities in Wales, with the data collated by the Welsh Government. The count is of the number of caravans and not the number of households or pitches. The Count records whether the caravans are on authorised or unauthorised sites, and whether they are public or private. All previous caravan counts have been undertaken on a bi-annual basis, in January and July each year on a specific day, and therefore any unauthorised encampments which may occur on other dates were not recorded. To remedy this, the Welsh Government have recently introduced and are continuing to develop a reporting system, whereby any unauthorised encampments that occur outside of the two days, can be recorded. The new system will run alongside the traditional count for forthcoming counts, with the new system running as a stand alone system once fully operational.

3.3.14 The most recent caravan count was conducted in July 2015, with 22 local authorities participating in the study. The count recorded a total of 1,029 Gypsy and Traveller caravans across a total of 102 sites. This represented an increase in caravans of 0.4%, and an increase of 3 sites from the previous survey in January 2015. Of the 1,029 caravans recorded, 80% (824 caravans) were on authorised sites of which 609 were on Local Authority pitches, and 215 on private sites.

3.3.15 At the time of the study, there were a total of 373 authorised permanent pitches provided by Local Authorities, 7 of which were vacant. A further 101 transit pitches were provided by Local Authorities, a large proportion of which (64 pitches) were vacant at the time the study was conducted.

3.3.16 The table below contains the results of the bi-annual count in Neath Port Talbot. Generally, there has only been a marginal variation in the number of caravans recorded at each survey, with an increase of 7 caravans between July 2011 and July 2015.

Table 3.3.4 Neath Port Talbot: Bi Annual Caravan Count (July 2011-2015)

Date	July 11	Jan 12	July 12	Jan 13	July 13	Jan 14	July 14	Jan 15	July 15
No of Caravans	77	80	76	81	78	88	86	89	85

Source: Welsh Government Caravan Count

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4.1 Project Steering Group and Consultation

4.1.1 The Gypsy & Traveller Project Steering Group was made up of Key Partners and Stakeholders (listed below) whose remit include working with / representing the Gypsy and Traveller Community within Neath Port Talbot:

- Neath Port Talbot Council's Housing Strategy Team;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Planning Policy Team;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officers;
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Wardens;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Consultant Social Worker, Childcare Team and Traveller's Rights;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Equalities and Engagement Officer;
- Neath Port Talbot's Traveller Education Service;
- NPT Homes Housing Representative;
- ABMU Health Board Health Visitors for the Gypsy & Traveller Community;
- Senior Programme Officer: Travelling Ahead - Save the Children;
- Chair of Regional Gypsy & Traveller Multi-Agency Forum (Swansea Bay);
- Representative from 'Voices Have Spoken' – Swansea Bay Regional Equality Council;
- Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator (Swansea, NPT and Bridgend).

4.1.2 The Gypsy & Traveller Steering Group was fundamental in delivering the Study and in ensuring the process was informed by all available expertise to produce the most effective assessment possible. The Group were fully consulted on the GTAA before, during and after the Assessment; providing maximum opportunity for feeding back.

4.2 Study Methodology

4.2.1 Following deliberation with Council colleagues as to whether to appoint external researchers in undertaking Neath Port Talbot Council's Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment, it was agreed that the Study would be undertaken 'In-House' for the following two reasons:

- A low success rate of responses were received by the consultancy service who undertook Neath Port Talbot's previous Gypsy & Traveller Study (2012);

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- The Council could utilise the knowledge and skills of its staff; as well as build on the good relationships made with local Gypsy & Traveller community members, particularly those members living on existing Council-run sites in Neath Port Talbot.

4.2.2 It was agreed that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Planning Policy and Housing Strategy officers would undertake the full Project Management of the Gypsy & Traveller Survey; this included the co-ordination of a Gypsy & Traveller Project Steering Group and the production of an Assessment Report which would provide calculation of the level of Accommodation Needs - to be submitted to Welsh Government on completion. The Council's Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer(s) would assist in promoting the study to known households, conducting the Accommodation Survey seeking to interview each 'known' Gypsy & Traveller household within the County Borough (up to 3 times as per Welsh Government Engagement Checklist / Guidance) and deal with any queries posed at the time of interview or when on-site.

4.2.3 A 'far and wide' approach was undertaken in completing this assessment including;

Information Sharing Group

4.2.4 An Information Sharing Group was organised and held in late July (2015); consisting of the following representatives working with the local Gypsy & Traveller Community(ies):

- Neath Port Talbot Council's Housing Strategy Team;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Planning Policy Team;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officers;
- Neath Port Talbot Council's Consultant Social Worker, Childcare Team and Traveller's Rights;
- Senior Programme Officer: Travelling Ahead - Save the Children;
- ABMU Health Board Health Visitors for the Gypsy & Traveller Community;
- Representative from 'Voices Have Spoken' – Swansea Bay Regional Equality Council.

4.2.5 The purpose of this pre-meeting was to provide an overview of the assessment exercise and to give the opportunity of sharing with key partners, who were most likely to have access to the local Gypsy and Traveller Community, all relevant information relating to the exercise including a viewing of the film footage provided by Welsh Government. This meeting also enabled discussion concerning nominations for membership on the Project Steering Group including members of the Gypsy and Traveller community as well as confirmation of those partners who would be able to offer support to Community Members where necessary.

4.2.6 The pre-meeting was very well received by those in attendance and provided good links to the local community and to other key partners who had not been invited to attend in the first instance and who (it was felt) should form part of the Gypsy & Traveller Project Steering Group.

4.2.7 The agenda also touched upon the importance of identifying any Gypsy and Travellers living within bricks and mortar accommodation that may require (due to a psychological aversion to such accommodation) to live within a mobile home on a Gypsy and Traveller site.

4.2.8 Two separate key partners were unable to attend the Information Sharing Group meeting. Instead two separate face-to-face meetings were arranged and held with representatives from Neath Port Talbot Council's Traveller Education Service and the Council's RSL Partner, NPT Homes (stock transfer organisation) to identify any Gypsy & Traveller households living in their existing housing stock (bricks & mortar). Both meetings followed the same agenda as the Information Sharing Group.

Community Involvement

4.2.9 In forming the Steering Group, the Authority used various means to publicise the study to the Gypsy and Traveller Community and encourage their participation.

4.2.10 At the 'Information Sharing Group' held in July 2015, prior to the first steering group meeting held in September 2015. Partners and organisations working with the Gypsy and Traveller Community were invited and asked to publicise the study and the steering group to Community members.

4.2.11 Since the Local Authority regained full management responsibilities of all three sites in September 2013, the Authority's Gypsy Liaison Officer has built up a good relationship with the Community. Using this positive relationship, the Liaison Officer visited each household living on the authorised sites to explain the purpose of the study to residents and answered any queries. During these visits, Welsh Government posters advertising the study, a copy of the Welsh Government's DVD 'Sites – Your Say, Your Future' and a letter explaining the study were delivered. Residents were asked if they wished to partake in the steering group setting out dates of the next meeting together with contact information encouraging community members to contact us if they wished to get involved in the steering group or speak to a member of the team about the study or meet separately to discuss the survey.

4.2.12 The vast majority stated that whilst they were willing to answer the questionnaire with the Liaison Officer, they did not want to be involved in the steering group, a small number of Community members expressed an interest in attending the Steering Group, informing their consultant social worker working with the community, and the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer that they may attend. However, they later chose not to attend the meetings and just answer the questionnaire survey. The only members of the Gypsy and Traveller Community that attended the Steering Group were the 2 Site Wardens.

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4.2.13 Given the lack of Community participation in the Steering Group, the study group ensured contact was maintained with the Gypsy and Traveller community throughout the study process, including publicising the results of the GTAA, hand delivering letters to all the residents who took part in the study to inform them of the findings, the next steps of the process and contact details of the study group if they had any queries about the study / study findings.

Neath Port Talbot Councillor Briefing Session

4.2.14 The Councillor 'Briefing Sessions' were held with those Councillors whose work impact on the Gypsy & Traveller Community. The purpose of which was to explain the Welsh Government's Guidance including an overview of the Study and the process the Authority would be undertaking, and to enable a direct face-to-face response to any questions Councillors had concerning the Study and the impact on the Communities involved. The first of which was held in mid September which provided an introduction / overview of the Study and a work programme. The second was held in mid December and provided a progress update.

Internal Meetings

4.2.15 Regular fortnightly meetings were held and attended by representatives from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Planning Policy, Housing Strategy, Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Team and Councillors who had responsibility for areas within the Borough where Council-run Gypsy & Traveller Sites were located. The purpose of these meetings were to develop and progress the project plan and allocating tasks, as well as enabling the opportunity to problem solve, where necessary.

Email Communications

4.2.16 Electronic messaging was utilised to communicate with all relevant key partners including frontline support agencies and homelessness services to make organisations aware of the Study and to request their assistance in identifying Gypsy & Traveller community members so that we could reach as many community members as possible including those in bricks and mortar housing.

4.2.17 All Welsh-based and UK community support organisations providing a service to Gypsy & Traveller Communities (listed in **Annex 1** of the Welsh Government's '*Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments - Guidance*'), were contacted via email in September to request their help in locating any members of the Gypsy & Traveller Community who were residing in the Neath Port Talbot Borough - 'beyond' those living on established Council-run sites. Organisations including the Gypsy Council, the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups and The Unity Project (Pembrokeshire) were contacted. No communications were received from those Organisations except for The Showmen's Guild who met with the Council's Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer to discuss their accommodation needs.

Survey Timeline

4.2.18 Following consultation with members of the Gypsy & Traveller Project Steering Group, it was agreed that no alterations would be made to the universal questionnaire and that the Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officers who would be undertaking the survey exercise would follow the format of the questionnaire in chronological order and would only change the order that the questions were asked if it was deemed appropriate in engaging the Interviewee.

4.2.19 The Survey was undertaken over a period of 8 and a half weeks from Monday 21st September to Wednesday 25th November inclusive. In that time, 59 face-to-face interviews were carried out with Gypsy & Traveller households - some households had to be visited more than once in order to obtain contact (and in meeting Welsh Government's Engagement Checklist).

Engagement with other Local Authorities

4.2.20 Neath Port Talbot adjoins the following Local Authority areas, Bridgend, Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Powys, and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT). Dialogue has been undertaken with these Authorities in order to discuss the GTAA process and understand the regional context of the Gypsy and Traveller Community. The GTAA was included as a topic of discussion at a Regional Housing Strategy Meeting held in early September, which was attended by other Local Authority Colleagues in the region. Discussion was had on the type of information held by each Local Authority and agreement sought on what could be obtained and shared with others, for consistency purposes.

4.2.21 Each Local Authority within the region has varying levels of accommodation provision and management arrangements. Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches, with one public site and 4 private sites. Neath Port Talbot is the only Local Authority to only have public sites run by the Local Authority, with Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Powys, and RCT all having both public and private sites. There are unauthorised, but tolerated sites in RCT, Swansea and Powys and there is currently a large transit site in Powys, of approximately 100 pitches, which provides accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller Community during the Royal Welsh Show. Aside from this transit site, there are no other transit sites in the region. The need for transit provision will be assessed by each Authority as part of this study. There are currently 3 sites for Travelling Showpeople in RCT and in Swansea. Bridgend, RCT and Neath Port Talbot all have annual fairs which see Travelling Showpeople visit their area.

4.2.22 A number of Authorities indicated that there is likely to be a number of Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation, however, exact numbers and the reasons for families living in this type of accommodation is unknown. In terms of community cohesion, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Bridgend have travelling education services who work with Gypsy and Traveller families. General responses suggest that several families are well integrated into the existing community and access schools, GP services and have access to a number of support groups and networks. However, one Authority stated there has been some hostility in certain areas and opposition protests to new sites.

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4.2.23 Each Authority is at varying stages of their LDP, with some Authorities having an adopted plan, with others yet to commence their examination process. For the current GTAA, Swansea and RCT are undertaking their study in-house, whilst Bridgend, Carmarthenshire and Powys are commissioning external consultants to either undertake part, or all of the assessment.

List of Organisations Consulted

4.2.24 As stated within paragraphs 4.2.11 and 4.2.12 all frontline support agencies and homelessness services working with the Local Authority were contacted as part of this consultation process; as well as all Welsh-based and UK community support organisations providing a service to Gypsy & Traveller communities.

4.2.25 Information Sharing Group Representatives (as per point 4.2.4) and Project Steering Group members and their organisations (Section 4.1) were consulted by email and through organised meetings as previously stated.

4.2.26 All other partners were consulted via email communication to inform them of the study should they wish to participate / provide input or comment, including the following organisations (not full list):

- All 6 RSL partners who hold social housing stock within the Neath Port Talbot;
- Neath Port Talbot Credit Union;
- Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service;
- Neath Port Talbot Supporting People Team;
- Neath Port Talbot Citizens Advice Bureau;
- Shelter Cymru;
- British Red Cross;
- Mid and West Wales Fire Service;
- Public Health Wales;
- Gofal;
- Port Talbot Women's Aid;
- Caer Las Cymru;
- Dewis Housing.

Identifying Households in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

4.2.27 The previous 2012 GTAA, was unable to identify any families in Neath Port Talbot living in bricks and mortar accommodation. However, the 2011 Census indicates that there are a number of households living in conventional housing who have identified themselves within the Gypsy and Traveller ethnic group. Therefore, as part of the study, extensive engagement was undertaken to try and identify as many households living in bricks and mortar as possible.

4.2.28 A number of organisations were consulted and engaged in the process and asked if they worked with any Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar. The Steering Group was made up of a number of representatives who work with the community, such as social workers, health visitors and site wardens. Members of the group, and also members of the Information Sharing Group were asked if they were aware of any families living in bricks and mortar, and if these families could be engaged in the GTAA process and to publicise the study to these households. Contact was also made with all housing associations operating within the Neath Port Talbot Borough and the Authority's Traveller Education Service. In addition, the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer visited both sites to hand deliver DVDs and speak to all residents, where possible, to advise them of the GTAA; during these discussions and during the interview process, residents were asked if they were aware of any friends or family living in bricks or mortar.

4.2.29 A total of 10 families/individuals were identified as living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Six families were identified through the Traveller Education Service records and having cross-referenced this data with NPT Homes (the largest social housing provider within Neath Port Talbot), and the site waiting list, it was confirmed that 2 of the 6 families were tenants of NPT Homes and one family was on the site waiting list. A further 4 tenants were identified through NPT Homes' social housing database, 1 household was identified through an Interviewee and 1 household was identified through the site waiting lists (in addition to the household on the waiting list who were identified by Traveller Education).

4.2.30 Due to data protection issues, organisations were unable to directly pass on names and contact details for households, and instead organisations contacted the households on the Authority's behalf. A range of consultation methods were used, including letters, phonecalls and household visits. Of the 10 families identified, 2 agreed to be interviewed, 5 expressed no interest in being involved and no contact was received from the remaining 3 households. Of the 3 households who did not make contact, the Authority did not have names or contact details for 2 of these households, as they were identified by external organisations and therefore details were unable to be passed on due to data protection. The Authority was therefore unable to make any follow up calls or visits over and above the contact made by the identifying organisation. The third family were on the site waiting list and the household was therefore known to the interviewer. The interviewer made 3 visits to the property, however, was unable to make any contact. The interview log for this household is within appendix 2.

'Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' - Engagement Checklist

4.2.31 In compliance with the Engagement Checklist and in demonstrating that Neath Port Talbot Council has reached as many households as viable:

- **Item 1: 'Visit every Gypsy and Traveller Household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary'.** A 100% response rate was achieved collectively on the 3 public sites within the County Borough during this Study - with some households being visited more than once to complete the interview(s).
- **Item 2: 'Publish details of the GTAA process, including contact details to allow Community Members to request an interview, on the Local Authority Website, Travellers Times Website and World's Fair Publication'.** An array of communication methods were utilised including those listed within **Chapter 3 'Study Methodology'** as well as:
 - Adverts placed on the Council Website and the Neath Port Talbot 'Housing' Website;
 - Adverts placed on internal (Civic Centre) TV Screens;
 - Letters were produced and hand delivered to every household on the three Local Authority run Gypsy & Traveller sites - along with a copy of the Welsh Government DVD film footage regarding the study, (which was deemed useful for those with lower literacy skills);
 - Posters advertising the Study were displayed around both Local Authority run Gypsy & Traveller sites, as well as QR Codes - which could link Community members with smart phones directly to the Welsh Government's website where details of the Study could be found;
 - News article was included on the Traveller Times website and within the World Fair publication - undertaken by officers at Welsh Government.
- **Item 3: 'Consult relevant Community Support Organisations'.** As per **4.2.11** and **4.2.12**, all those Community Support Organisations listed in **Annex 1** of the Welsh Government's '*Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments - Guidance*' were contacted via email to outline the Study itself and respond to any specific queries they had, as well as request their help in locating any members of the Gypsy & Traveller community who were residing in Neath Port Talbot - 'beyond' those living on established Council-run sites. An update on the progress made was sent via email to members of the GTAA Project Steering Group in early December and members were given the opportunity to raise questions relating to the study as well as sharing this information with local Gypsy and Traveller community members that they supported, as they saw appropriate.

- **Item 4: 'Develop a Local Authority Waiting List for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members'.** The Local Authority Site's waiting list is held and managed by the Site Wardens and is fully accessible to the community. Chapter 6 (Assessing Accommodation Needs) looks at the waiting list in more detail.
- **Item 5: 'Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA Project Steering Group'.** Gypsy and Traveller representatives (Site Wardens) attended the GTAA Steering Group and again as Item 3, were provided with an update report on the progress made within the Study and members were able to share this information with local Gypsy and Traveller community members - as they saw fit.
- **Item 6: 'Ensure contact details provided to the Local Authority by Community Members through the Survey Process are followed up and needs assessed'.** Responses to the survey, and details passed to the researcher were followed up through the process. One respondent identified her daughter as requiring her accommodation needs assessed; this individual was already on the waiting list and during the interview process a pitch became vacant which was then allocated to this household. Respondents who indicated they had family members who wished to join the waiting list were provided with details and follow up discussions have taken place.
- **Item 7: 'Consider holding on-site (or nearby) GTAA information events to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the Local Authority'.** An array of communication methods were used as described in Item 2 of this section and letters were produced and hand delivered to each individual household on the three Local Authority run Gypsy & Traveller sites - along with a copy of the Welsh Government's DVD film footage regarding the study. The Local Authority's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer also spoke to as many households as possible at the time of hand delivering the letters to help reduce any concerns/fears over the Study.

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5 Survey Findings

5.1 Household Interviews

5.1.1 In order to gather all relevant data required to assist the Local Authority in assessing the accommodation needs of the Gypsy & Traveller Community, the detailed survey (questionnaire) comprised of 5 sections entitled: A Your Home; B Your Family; C Your Plans; D Family Growth; and E Transit Sites.

5.1.2 The survey aimed to identify current households with housing needs and to assess likely future household formation from within existing households to help determine the need for future site provision(s).

5.1.3 All surveys were undertaken through face-to-face interviews by the Local Authority's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer with a member of each known Gypsy & Traveller household who were willing to participate and who lived within the Neath Port Talbot Borough.

Study Results

5.1.4 In total, **59** completed interviews with Gypsy & Traveller Households were achieved as part of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

5.1.5 This data represents:

- 56 interviews (a 100% response rate) from those households living on the three existing Local Authority Run Sites in the Cae Garw and Briton Ferry areas;
- 2 interviews with Households living in bricks and mortar accommodation (out of a total of 10) in which 1 interview was following a response to written correspondence requesting assistance with the Study and the other a referral from an Interviewee;
- 1 interview with a household situated on an unauthorised encampment (who has since moved into private rented accommodation).

5.1.6 Data from Key Partners and Stakeholders working with Gypsy Traveller families in bricks and mortar Accommodation, revealed that there were a further 8 Households known to be part of the Gypsy & Traveller Community however, after contact through various communication forms including telephone, face-to-face and written letter, 5 confirmed that they did not wish to take part in this study, stating reasons including they were happy within their existing accommodation or they did not foresee a move to a site. No response was received from communication attempts with the remaining 3 households.

5.1.7 The person responding to the survey will be referred to as the 'Respondent' (total of 59) and in questions which refer to all people in the Household, they will be referred to as 'Household Members' (total of 190).

5 . Survey Findings

Local Connection

5.1.8 The study results reveal that 45 out of a total of 59 Respondents (76%) had a local connection with the Neath Port Talbot Area (either through family or work), a further 13 Respondents (22%) stated that there was no alternative authorised pitch available and 1 Respondent (2%) stated during their interview that they could not find a house to move into.

Length of Residence

5.1.9 In terms of length of residence, 42 Respondents (72%) had lived on their current site for over 5 years. This is in contrast with 3 Respondents (5%) who had been resident on the site for less than a month. The remaining data reveals 9 Respondents (15%) having been resident from a period of 1 month to 2 years, and 5 Respondents (9%) resident for a period of between 2 and 5 years.

Previous Residence

5.1.10 10 Respondents (17%) indicated that they had moved within the last year. Of those 10:

- 1 Respondent indicated they were residing **within** the Neath Port Talbot Borough in a 'House' prior to entering onto the Local Authority's Authorised Site(s);
- 8 Respondents confirmed that they had been living **outside** of the Local Authority's Borough prior to entering onto the Local Authority's Site(s);
- 1 Respondent indicated that they were residing **between** 2 Local Authority Boroughs (Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend) in a 'Caravan and a House'.

5.1.11 Of the 8 Respondents who had confirmed they had been living **outside** of the Borough:

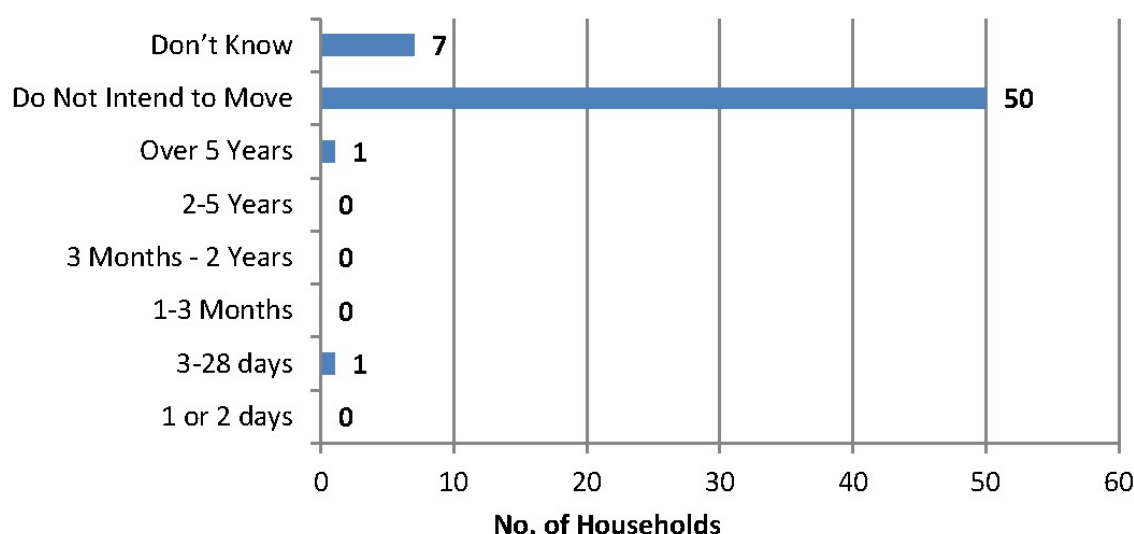
- 2 Respondents had indicated the type of accommodation they had been living in was a house;
- 3 Respondents had indicated they had been living on caravan sites and therefore presumably in caravan accommodation;
- 2 Respondents indicated they were living on the roadside and therefore we can assume they were in caravan accommodation;
- 1 Respondent had not indicated the type of accommodation they had been living in prior to entering the Neath Port Talbot County Borough.

Length of Stay

5.1.12 Respondents were asked how long they planned to stay in the Neath Port Talbot area.

5.1.13 The following bar chart highlights the responses received:

Figure 5.1 Length of Stay



5.1.14 All Respondents answered this question with 50 Respondents (85%) stating that they were not intending to move from their existing site, 7 Respondents (11%) did not know how long they would stay on site, 1 Respondent (2%) indicated that they intended to stay for 3-28 days (unauthorised encampment) until alternative accommodation had been secured (the Respondent has since moved into private rented accommodation) and 1 Respondent (2%) indicated that they intended to stay for over 5 years.

5.2 Demographic Profile

5.2.1 The Gypsy & Traveller Household Study has provided the Local Authority with a better picture of the local population by establishing the family household structure including age, gender, ethnicity and any additional needs.

Age and Gender Profile of Respondents

5.2.2 Of the 59 Survey Respondents, 90% (53) of interviews took place with Female interviewees and 10% (6) were Male interviewees.

5.2.3 The youngest Respondents were 19 years of age – in which there were 2; 1 Male and 1 Female. The oldest Respondent was a Female 80 years of age.

Household Profiling

5.2.4 Survey data from 59 Respondents indicate a total Gypsy & Traveller Population of **190** people. When compared against the Neath Port Talbot total Population Census (2011) of 139,812; the Gypsy & Traveller Population makes up less than 1% (0.14%) of the Population. However, this should be taken as a caveat as we are aware of a further 8 Gypsy & Traveller Households living in Bricks and Mortar accommodation (5 of which expressed no interest in being involved and no contact was received from the remaining 3 households) and there may be even further households within the Borough who are living under the radar. Therefore the Population is likely to be higher than the figure of 190.

5.2.5 2011 Census Data indicated that at the time of the Census Study, there were 125 people in Neath Port Talbot who were of Gypsy or Irish Traveller Ethnicity. This shows an increase of 65 people to the Gypsy and Traveller Population in the last 4 years. However, again this should be taken as a caveat when calculating the local Gypsy & Traveller population; as not all Gypsy & Travellers will indicate their ethnicity within the Census Study and therefore will go under-represented alongside the general population.

5.2.6 44 of 59 Respondents indicated that they had at least 1 or more family member living with them. This is in contrast to 15 Respondents who had indicated that they had no other person living with them, of which 12 were Female and 3 were Male.

5.2.7 The following is a breakdown of Household size:

Table 5.2.1 Survey Findings: Breakdown of Household Size.

1 Person Household	2 Person Household	3 Person Household	4 Person Household	5 Person Household	6 Person Household	7 Person Household	8 Person Household
15	14	9	2	8	7	2	2

N.B. Respondent forms part of the Household make-up.

5.2.8 Overall, 15 Respondents stated they had no other family members living with them; 18 out of 59 Respondents had a Partner living with them – either a Husband or Wife, Fiancé or Fiancée; 25 Respondents did not have a Partner living with them however did have a Son(s) and/or Daughter(s); 1 Respondent had no Partner however did have a sibling living with them.

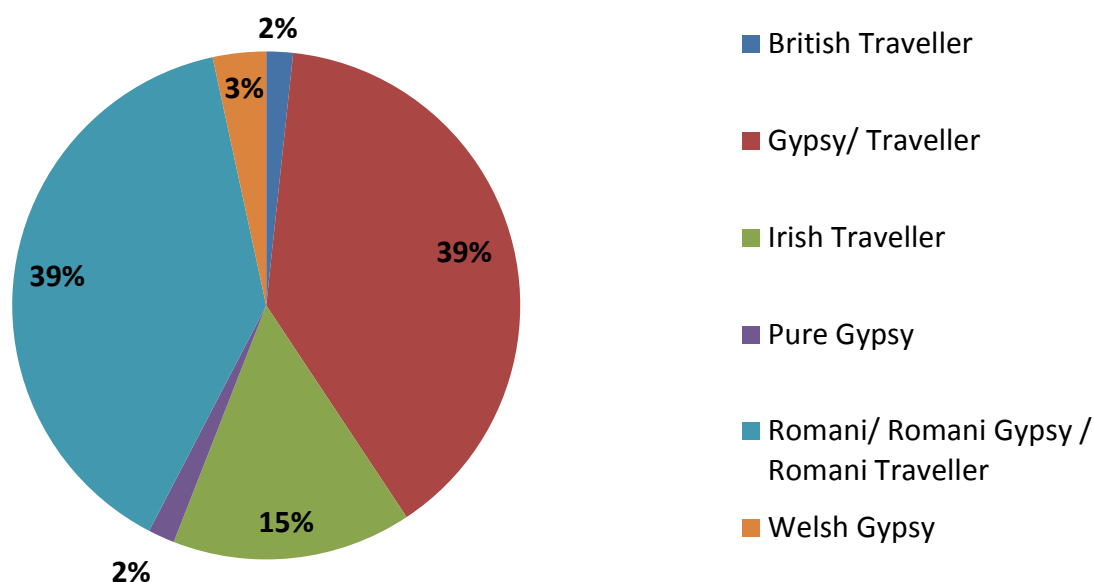
5.2.9 Based on the information provided by Respondents it would indicate that the average household size is 3.2 persons.

Household Ethnicity

5.2.10 Respondents were able to self-ascribe how they saw their identity. The purpose of this was to provide information to the Local Authority of the various cultural or ethnic groupings which exist within the local Gypsy & Traveller Population; of which may have some bearing on the eventual size and configuration of existing or future sites.

5.2.11 All Respondents indicated their ethnicity and break down of ethnic groups as follows:

Figure 5.2 Ethnicity (Self-Ascribed)



5.2.12 For ease of reference, the following table indicates actual numbers:

Table 5.2.2 Ethnicity (Self-Ascribed) - Table of Figures

Ethnicity (Self-Ascribed)	Total No.	%
British Traveller	1	2
Gypsy / Gypsy Traveller	23	39
Irish Traveller	9	15
Pure Gypsy	1	2
Romani/ Romani Gypsy/ Romani Traveller	23	39
Welsh Gypsy	2	3
TOTAL	59	100%

5.2.13 From both pie chart and table, it is clearly evident that the majority of Respondents 23 (or 39%) saw themselves as 'Romani, Romani Gypsy or Romani Traveller' and a further 23 Respondents (39%) saw themselves as 'Gypsy/ Gypsy Traveller'.

5.2.14 This is in contrast to 1 Respondent (2%) who saw their identity as a 'British Traveller' and a further 1 Respondent (2%) who identified themselves as a 'Pure Gypsy'.

5.2.15 Respondents were also asked to self-ascribe the ethnicity/identity of their family member(s), all but 2 Interview Respondents held the same ethnicity/ identity as their Family Members (whom they were living with - ie. Romani, Irish Traveller, New Traveller, Gypsy

5 . Survey Findings

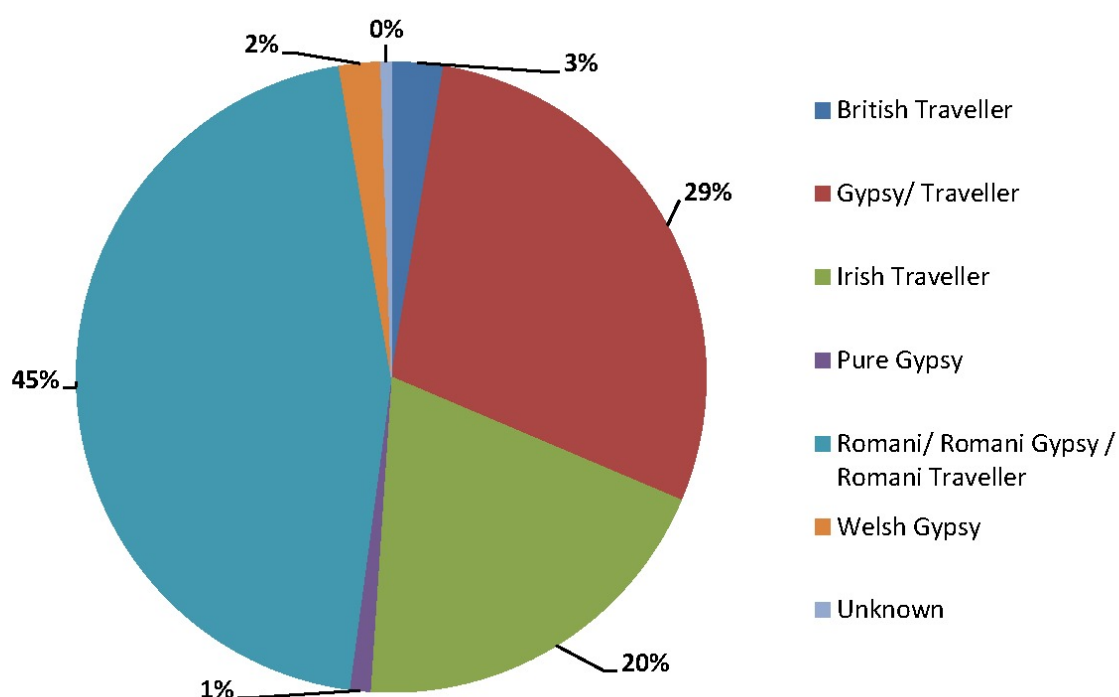
etc). 1 interview Respondent described their ethnicity/identity as a Romani Gypsy, however, they described 1 of their household members as a 'House Dweller' and a further interview Respondent described their ethnicity/identity as a Romani Gypsy and their household members as 'Irish Travellers'.

Table 5.2.3 Ethnicity for Total Household Population (Self-Ascribed) - Table of Figures.

Ethnicity (Self-Ascribed)	Total No.
British Traveller	5
Gypsy / Gypsy Traveller	54
Irish Traveller	38
Pure Gypsy	2
Romani/ Romani Gypsy/ Romani Traveller	86
Welsh Gypsy	4
Unknown	1
TOTAL	190

5.2.16 The following pie chart provides a pictorial image of the ethnicity of the Local Gypsy & Traveller Community:

Figure 5.3 Ethnicity for Total Household Population (Self-Ascribed)



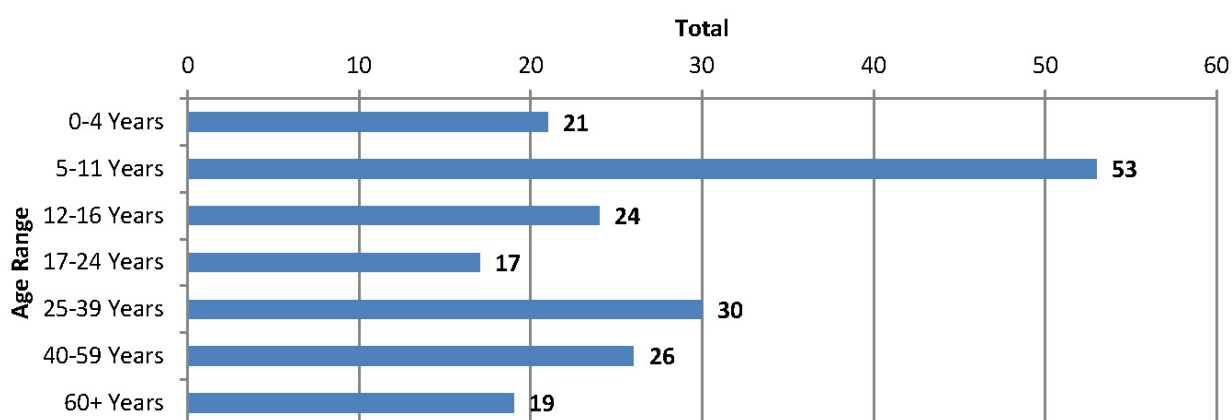
5.2.17 From both the pie chart and the table, it is evident that the majority of the population (45%) are identified as 'Romani, Romani Gypsy or Romani Traveller'. This is followed by 28% of Respondents identifying themselves and their household members as 'Gypsy / Traveller'. This is in contrast to only 1% of the Local Community identifying themselves as a 'Pure Gypsy'.

Household Age Profiling and Gender

5.2.18 From a total population of 190, 48% of households were aged 17 years or over and 52% of households contained children 16 years or under.

5.2.19 The following bar graph provides a breakdown by household age groups:

Figure 5.4 Household Age Profiling



5.2.20 From the bar graph it is clear that the most common age range of household members is that of children aged between 5 and 11 years (28%). This is in contrast to the least-common age range of household members; of which shows that only 9% of the total number of households are aged between 17-24 years.

5.2.21 The gender split of the local community obtained from the Study is 118 Females and 72 Male.

5.3 Suitability of Current Accommodation

5.3.1 Respondents were asked if they were satisfied with their current accommodation and 8 out of 59 Respondents (14%) reported during their interview that they were 'not satisfied' with their current accommodation; whilst the remaining 51 Respondents (86%) were satisfied.

5.3.2 Those Respondents 'not satisfied' with their current accommodation were asked how their accommodation could be improved and the following suggestions/points were made (please note Respondents could state more than 1 item):

- 3 Respondents stated they felt the accommodation blocks were too small and should be larger;

5 . Survey Findings

- 2 Respondents indicated that the road (on-site) was too narrow;
- 1 Respondent felt that caravans were too close together;
- 1 Respondent felt that there was no privacy on-site;
- 1 Respondent was not happy with the fencing;
- 1 Respondent felt the sheds were too small;
- 1 Respondent who was privately renting bricks & mortar accommodation stated that they had no garden, there was not enough room in their current property and that it was in disrepair;
- 1 Respondent who was privately renting bricks & mortar accommodation confirmed that they did not want to live in this type of housing and that they wanted to live by their family;
- 1 Respondent indicated that they were 'not satisfied' with their current accommodation, however, were in the process of moving into bricks and mortar housing.

5.3.3 Respondents were asked details of their family structure and given the opportunity to highlight any reasons why their household/ or members of their household could not continue to occupy their current accommodation. This could include cultural aversion to a particular type of accommodation or other issues they felt should be considered by the Local Authority.

5.3.4 5 Respondents (8%) gave their reasons why they felt they could no longer continue to live in their current accommodation:

- 2 reported an issue with their 'Lack of Privacy' (one of which reported that their Husband could also not continue to live in their current accommodation with them due to the same problem);
- 1 reported because of 'Health issues';
- 1 stated that they did not want to live in a house;
- 1 stated there were issues with the size of the house they were living in (currently residing in bricks & mortar housing within the private rented sector).

Overcrowding

5.3.5 There is no legal definition of overcrowding in the context of a mobile home. However, the Bedroom Standard, which is used within a conventional housing context can be adapted for use in these circumstances.

5.3.6 The Bedroom Standard is defined in this guidance as requiring a separate sleeping area for each:

- a. Adult Couple (Married or Cohabiting);
- b. Any other Adult aged 16 or over;
- c. Pair of Children aged under 16 of the same sex;
- d. Pair of Children aged under 10 regardless of sex;
- e. Any other Child,

5.3.7 Respondents were asked '*Are there enough sleeping areas for all residents?*' A total of 56 responses were received, of which, 51 indicated 'Yes' and 5 indicated 'No'.

5.3.8 The household make-up of the 5 Respondents who indicated 'No' are as follows;

- 1. Family of 7 comprising of a Mother, 4 Daughters aged 14 years, 10 years, two of 8 years and 2 Sons aged 15 and 12 years;
- 2. Family of 6 comprising of a Husband, Wife and 4 Sons aged 11 years, 9 years, 7 years and 3 years;
- 3. Family of 5 comprising of a Mother, 3 Daughters aged 10 years, 8 years and 7 years and a Son aged 5 years;
- 4. Family of 5 comprising of a Mother, 2 Daughters aged 11 years and 2 years, and 2 Sons aged 8 and 6 years;
- 5. Family of 5 comprising of a Mother, 2 Daughters aged 7 and 2 years, and 2 Sons both aged 5 years.

5.3.9 Respondents were also asked if there was room on their pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding and of the 5 Respondents who had indicated there was not enough sleeping areas for their family (residents) 2 indicated 'No' and 3 'Yes'.

Waiting List Applications

5.3.10 Respondents were asked whether anyone in their family would like to join the Local Authority's waiting list for pitches or housing and of the 57 Respondents who answered this question, 11 (19%) confirmed that 'Yes' a family member(s) would like to join the Waiting List and 46 (81%) stated 'No'.

5 . Survey Findings

5.3.11 Of those identified, 6 were already on the Local Authority waiting list, which included the 2 households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation that were interviewed, and the daughter of one respondent who has since been allocated a pitch in Neath Port Talbot. There were also two family members identified who stated they were already on a waiting list in another Local Authority area.

5.3.12 Of those identified who were not already on the waiting list, where addresses were provided by respondents, these have been followed up by the Authority. Some respondents did not wish to provide addresses for their family members, in such circumstances, the interviewer ensured the respondent was aware of the Authority's waiting list and the process for joining, to allow family members to place themselves on the waiting list. The Authority's waiting list is further considered in Chapter 6 (Assessing Accommodation Needs).

5.4 Accommodation Aspirations

5.4.1 This area of the Survey enquires about accommodation aspirations and plans. The responses given will help the Local Authority to consider what type of accommodation is likely to be required to meet the needs of future households.

Future Planned Moves

5.4.2 Respondents were asked the Question '*Are you planning to move into other accommodation?*' and 5 (9%) out of 59 Respondents indicated 'Yes' they were planning to move. The remaining 54 Respondents (91%) confirmed they were not planning to move.

5.4.3 Of those 5 Respondents who had stated they were planning to move:

- 3 (60%) were planning to move within the Local Authority;
- 1 (20%) was planning to move to another Local Authority (indicating Swansea as their preferred choice of location);
- 1 (20%) was planning to move somewhere else in the UK,

5.4.4 Respondents were asked '*Why are you planning to move?*' and the 5 Respondents who indicated they were planning to move – gave the following reasons (please note more than 1 answer could be given):

Table 5.4.1 Responses to Question C3 - Why are you planning to move?

Reasons for Moving	Total No.
Need more space	1
Need different facilities	1
Local connection (family or work)	2
Need to be closer to services (ie. Schools)	0

Employment opportunities	0
Other	3

5.4.5 The 3 Respondents who indicated ‘Other’ as reasons for moving, specified the following:

- Privacy;
- Privacy / Family;
- Temporary Home (Eviction Pending).

5.4.6 Respondents were then asked ‘*What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?*’ to which the following answers were received:

Table 5.4.2 Responses to Question C4 - What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?

Planned Move: Type of Accommodation	Total No.
Site: Council/ Social Rented	3
Site: Private Owned by Self	0
Site: Private Owned by Other	0
Bricks & Mortar: Owner Occupied	0
Bricks & Mortar: Rent from Housing Association	1
Bricks & Mortar: Rent from Private Landlord	1

5.4.7 From the table above it is evident that the largest number of planned moves are to Council/ Social Rented Sites – of which 2 of the 3 responses were from those currently living in Bricks & Mortar Accommodation (both privately renting). The 3rd response was a planned move to another site somewhere else in the UK (location not specified).

5.4.8 All 5 Respondents who were planning moves did not own land in the Local Authority area which could be considered as a possible future site.

5.4.9 The 3 Respondents who planned to move within the Local Authority all confirmed that they would be happy to live on a site managed by the Local Authority if offered an authorised pitch.

5 . Survey Findings

5.4.10 The same 3 Respondents were then asked the Question *‘If an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority, would you consider moving there?’* to which 2 Respondents said ‘No’ and the 3rd Respondent said ‘Yes’ and would be willing to move to any other Local Authority apart from 1 area (which was noted).

5.5 Household Growth

5.5.1 It is intended that this section of the survey will help the Local Authority plan for the future demand of accommodation. Questions under this section relate to anticipated family growth and the needs which will arise from new households forming during the next 5 year period.

5.5.2 Respondents were asked *‘Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?’* to which 86% (51) replied ‘No’ and the remaining 14% (8) indicated ‘Yes’.

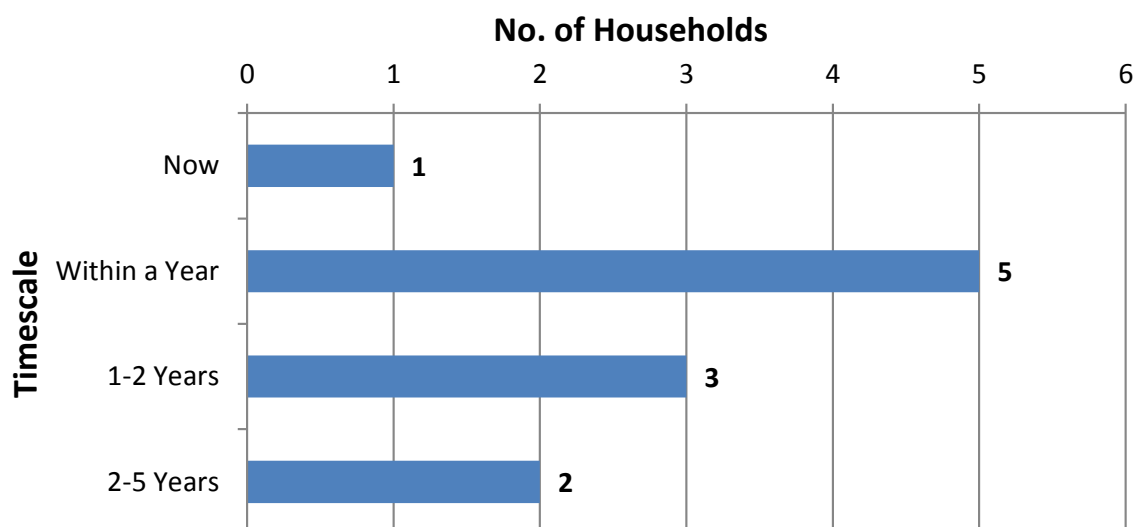
5.5.3 All 8 of those Respondents who answered ‘Yes’ to this question, also stated that the households wanted to move within this Local Authority.

5.5.4 A total of 11 Households were identified by the 8 Respondents:

- All 11 Households were seeking accommodation on a Local Authority Site and
- All 11 Households were made up of 2 Persons

5.5.5 The following bar chart provides a time frame of when these newly arising Households will be requiring their own accommodation:

Figure 5.5 Timeframe of New Households Requiring Accommodation



5.5.6 From the bar chart it is clear that 5 of the newly formed Households (45%) will be looking to move within the next year. This is in contrast to 1 Household who would be looking to move with immediate effect.

5.5.7 Respondents were also asked whether they had family members living outside of the area who camped in this Local Authority regularly. In total, 2 respondents indicated 'yes', 1 respondent indicated 'don't know', and the remaining 56 respondents indicated 'no'. The 2 respondents who answered 'yes' were then asked question D5, whether they would want to provide contact details for the family member to be interviewed. Only 1 of the 2 respondents passed contact details to the researcher. However, in the time between receiving the contact details and the interviewer making contact, the family member had secured a permanent plot on the Local Authority's residential site and were then interviewed as a site resident.

5 . Survey Findings

6 Assessing Accommodation Needs

6.1 Residential Unmet Needs

6.1.1 The information compiled in sections 3 and 5 of this report, gathered through secondary and primary data respectively, has enabled the Authority to undertake a comprehensive assessment of future need of the Gypsy and Traveller population. This chapter explores in detail the planned residential supply; the level of future need; assess the requirements for permanent residential pitches; transit provision; and sites for Travelling Showpeople.

Current Residential Supply

6.1.2 The first element of the calculation (which is presented in Table 6.1.1 - An Estimate of Need for Residential Site Pitches) needs to consider the existing residential supply, and the level of current occupation. There are 56 authorised Local Authority pitches, all of which have full planning consent and are currently all occupied. There are no private pitches or sites in Neath Port Talbot and therefore the figures input in Rows A and B are 56 and 0 respectively.

Planned Residential Supply

6.1.3 Whilst Rows A and B provide the current residential supply, it is also important to understand the planned residential supply, such as levels of current vacancies, pitches expected to become vacant and any planned new pitch provision.

6.1.4 Row C represents the number of vacant pitches in Neath Port Talbot. During the interview process, a total of three pitches became vacant, however, all 3 were let to new tenants from the waiting list immediately, and therefore a figure of zero has been attributed.

6.1.5 Row D of the calculation indicates the number of pitches that are expected to become vacant over the next year. To calculate the anticipated rate of new vacancies, the Welsh Government guidance⁽²⁾ states that site management records for the last 5 years should be reviewed and an average over that period input into Row D. As referenced in Chapter 2, there has been a change in site management over recent years; whilst the pitches are all owned by the Local Authority, prior to 2013, the management was undertaken by the Gypsy Council on the Local Authority's behalf. The Authority do not hold any records from when the Gypsy Council managed the sites, and only have records from when the Authority regained full site management responsibilities from September 2013. Therefore, the Authority are only able to analyse pitch turnover data for a 2 year period, which equates to an annual rate of 10 pitches.

2 Welsh Government Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, May 2015, Paragraph 151

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

6.1.6 Using information obtained from questions A6-7 and Section C of the survey, Row D may also indicate those with aspirations to leave the site for another Local Authority area or those who wish to move into conventional housing. Responses from these questions have therefore been considered and assessed to determine whether any additional vacancies above the 10 pitches per annum from pitch turnover records can be expected.

6.1.7 In terms of responses to Question A6, *'How long do you think you'll stay here?'*, the majority of Respondents (50) stated that they did not intend to move. Of the remaining 9 Respondents interviewed, 7 stated 'don't know', (of which 5 lived on a Local Authority site and 2 in bricks and mortar accommodation); 1 Respondent stated 'over 5 years' (living on a Local Authority site), and 1 respondent stated '3-28 days', (this response was from the unauthorised encampment who has since moved to bricks and mortar accommodation).

6.1.8 Responses to Question A2 indicate that 8 Respondents are not satisfied with their current accommodation, of which 5 were Local Authority site residents, 2 in bricks and mortar and 1 unauthorised encampment referred to previously. Of those site residents who are dissatisfied with their current accommodation, the Authority has over the past two years liaised with site residents and has discussed and implemented a variety of improvements, through the Welsh Government's Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant. The Authority will continue regular dialogue with residents and will, where possible, continue to make adaptations and improvements to sites and pitches. However, it should be noted that some responses indicated blocks were too small and meeting these accommodation aspirations would be more difficult for the Authority.

6.1.9 Referring to responses to Section C, 5 Respondents indicated that they intended to move to alternative accommodation. Whilst these responses suggest there are some residents that are considering alternative accommodation, the Authority is unable to demonstrate that these households will definitely secure alternative accommodation over the next 5 years.

6.1.10 The responses to Sections A and C, therefore, indicate to the Authority that there are households considering alternative accommodation, however, as no meaningful conclusions can be drawn from this information, a '0' figure has been attributed and if these residents do secure alternative accommodation, it is envisaged they would be included within the anticipated annual turnover rate of 10 pitches.

6.1.11 Row E indicates the total number of new local authority and private pitches with planning permission. Currently, there are 11 Local Authority pitches being built through an extension to the Cae Garw site, and are scheduled to be completed in March 2016. The 11 pitches were identified by the Authority's previous GTAA (2012)⁽³⁾, which projected 11 pitches would be required to meet the level of need over the period 2012-2022.

3 Neath Port Talbot Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Study, Opinion Research Services, December 2012

Current Residential Demand

6.1.12 The information obtained through the survey and other data sources provide sufficient detail to accurately assess the level of current residential demand. When reviewing and analysing responses, it is important that the distinction between need and demand/preference is fully understood to ensure those who are in 'need' have their needs adequately assessed through this process. Paragraphs 166-170 of the guidance⁽⁴⁾ considers that the three main areas when considering the distinction between needs and preferences include: i) assessing cultural aversion in conventional housing; ii) community members who claim a need for mobile home pitches in a different Local Authority area than the one undertaking the assessment; and iii) those on unauthorised sites. This has been considered in further detail below.

6.1.13 Rows F and G should contain the number of unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments. One household was interviewed on an unauthorised encampment during the interview process, however, this family indicated that they were there on a temporary basis whilst waiting for a move into bricks and mortar accommodation and were stationed in the Authority due to family connections. A number of Local Authority departments have worked and liaised closely with this household and as the family has successfully moved into bricks and mortar accommodation, through their own preference since the interview, a figure of '0' has been attributed to both Rows.

6.1.14 Row H assesses the residential demand from overcrowding within existing households, and should include those where there is insufficient space for family members within its mobile home accommodation and insufficient space available on their pitch to safely station an additional mobile home. A total of 5 Respondents indicated that there were not enough sleeping areas for all family members, with 3 of these households stating that there was sufficient room for additional trailers on their pitch. As the remaining 2 households stated there was insufficient space to accommodate an additional trailer or mobile home, a figure of 2 has been attributed to Row H.

6.1.15 Row I is the count of those in conventional housing who display a need for a pitch, which will include: i) those with a cultural aversion to conventional housing; ii) those experiencing overcrowding or iii) those who have reached adulthood and want to move out of the family home and live on a site. There were 2 interviews undertaken with families in bricks and mortar, and from these interviews, whilst both families expressed a desire to move onto a site, there were no signs of cultural aversion. That said, both of these households are currently on the waiting list for pitches and as these households will feature in Row J, the Authority is confident their needs have been adequately accounted for within the study. One household stated that they had a son aged 17 who wanted to move on to a site and occupy his own pitch, and as the son is close to reaching adulthood, this constitutes a need of 1 pitch and has been included within Row I.

6.1.16 Row J should feature anticipated demand from new households expected to arrive, and is derived from an analysis of current waiting lists, caravan count or partnership working with other Local Authorities. There are currently two separate waiting lists held, one for Cae Garw and one for Wharf Road, with households able to place their name on

4 Welsh Government Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, May 2015.

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

both lists if they so wish. From a review of the waiting lists, there are a number of families currently on the Cae Garw waiting list who already occupy a pitch on site but have included their names on the waiting list as they wish to be allocated a new pitch on the site once the extension to Cae Garw is complete. These households have been discounted from the calculation from the waiting list for the purpose of assessing Row J, as it is not an actual 'need'. After discounting these households, there is currently a combined total of 10 households on the lists, with 2 of these households currently living on authorised pitches in other Local Authority areas. Whilst these households have displayed a desire to occupy a pitch in Neath Port Talbot, there is no known reason why these households should not continue to occupy their permanent accommodation, and therefore whilst this is a demand, this would not constitute a need. A figure of 8 has therefore been attributed to Row J.

Future Household Growth

6.1.17 It is widely suggested that the rate of household growth within the Gypsy and Traveller community is greater than that of the wider settled community, this is generally due to factors such as the relative youthfulness of the population, higher birth rates and younger fertility age. Whilst we can generally assume the rate of household formation will be higher, it is important that household formation rates applied to local Gypsy and Traveller communities are based on robust local evidence and provide an up to date assessment. The Welsh Government Guidance states that Authorities should analyse the demographic data provided by community members and based on data compiled within previous Gypsy and Traveller assessments, the Welsh Government suggest a growth range of 1.5-3% per annum.⁽⁵⁾

6.1.18 In 2003, a study on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister⁽⁶⁾ suggested a household growth rate of 2-3% is appropriate when projecting future formations. On this basis, a figure of 3% has been widely used in assessments since publication of the study, even though the study suggests that individual assessments should use local evidence for future household formation rates.

6.1.19 In 2013, Opinion Research Services (ORS), within their 'Household Formation Rates for Gypsies and Travellers' Technical Note, suggested that there is little statistical evidence to support a rate of 3%, stating, '*A growth rate of 3% has been commonly used in assessments, but no statistical evidence exists to support households growing this quickly*'.⁽⁷⁾ Based on their modelling of the population, ORS state the rate of population growth may be as low as 1.25% and the formation rate between 1.5% and 2.5% per annum, with a 3% growth rate only applying in exceptional circumstances and would require clear justification and statistical support before being used, concluding, '*Therefore, a household growth figure not far in excess of 1.25% per annum is plausible and a 3% is highly implausible*'.⁽⁸⁾

5 Welsh Government Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, May 2015, paragraph 203.

6 Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller Sites in England, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2003

7 Opinion Research Services, Household Formation Rates for Gypsies and Travellers Technical Note, November 2013, paragraph 1.26

8 Opinion Research Services, Household Formation Rates for Gypsies and Travellers Technical Note, November 2013, paragraph 1.24

6.1.20 ORS have, more recently, released a further Technical Note providing additional analysis from the 2013 Technical Note stating, *'Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that new Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2% per annum nationally. The often assumed 3% per annum net household growth rate is unrealistic and would require clear statistical evidence before being used for planning purposes.'*⁽⁹⁾

6.1.21 Section D of the questionnaire suggests that 11 households will require a pitch within the next 5 year period, which represents a 3.86% gross growth per annum:

11/5 years = 2.2 pitches

2.2 pitches divided by existing households (57), $2.2 / 57 \times 100 = 3.86\%$.

6.1.22 Within the context of published research and the range suggested by the Welsh Government guidance, the Authority considers a growth rate in excess of 3% to be unrealistic, and has therefore explored the appropriate level of growth in Neath Port Talbot in more detail.

Household Growth in Neath Port Talbot.

6.1.23 When assessing household formation rates, it is important to consider not only the level of new household formation, but the loss of any households through dissolutions. Whilst the Welsh Government guidance ⁽¹⁰⁾ states that dissolution of households should be included within row D of the calculation, row D only features the pitch turnover data for a one year period. If migration and dissolutions are not considered for the remainder of the 5 year period, then the assessment of household formations would only be focusing on growth in households and would not consider losses.

6.1.24 This would result in a gross household formation rate, rather than net household formation rate, which would be artificially inflated. To achieve an accurate household formation rate, a reduction in the number of households due to dissolutions, movements out of the area and transfers into other forms of housing need to be considered. Indeed, ORS have stated, *'...It is a matter of concern that many Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments have not distinguished gross and net growth rates nor provided evidence for their assumed rates of household increase. These deficiencies are particularly important because when assumed growth rates are unrealistically high, and are compounded over a number of planning years, they can yield exaggerated projections of accommodation needs and misdirect public policy.'*⁽¹¹⁾ On this basis, the Authority further looked into other demographic components of the survey, not focusing on section D in isolation.

9 Opinion Research Services, Technical Note, Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates, March 2015, paragraphs 3 and 4
10 Welsh Government, Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, May 2015, paragraph 208
11 Opinion Research Services, Technical Note, Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates, March 2015, paragraph 7

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

6.1.25 The results from Section D of the survey indicate the gross household formation (family growth), this gross growth needs to be off set against the dissolution of households to provide a net household formation rate. ORS further state, '*...the gross rate if household growth is moderated by reductions in households through dissolution and/or by households moving into bricks and mortar housing or moving to other areas. In other words, even if 3% is plausible as a gross rate, it is subject to moderation through such reductions in households through dissolution or moves. It is the resulting net household growth rate that matters for planning purposes in assessing future accommodation needs*'.⁽¹²⁾

6.1.26 In terms of migration, ORS ⁽¹³⁾ have looked at the levels of migration within the Gypsy and Traveller community. The research found that there is little evidence of international migration, but in relation to local migration, there are often movements between Local Authorities, generally with each case finding that in-migration to one area is matched by out-migration from another area. On this basis a nil migration to/from an area is assumed by ORS, and in the absence of any plausible data, the Authority has also used a nil migration based on the conclusions by ORS. Transfers to other forms of housing, such as bricks and mortar can also have an impact the household formation rate, however, there is no statistical data to suggest at what rate this may occur and therefore no allowance has been made for this.

6.1.27 Considering the level of dissolutions, a study by Parry et al (2004) ⁽¹⁴⁾ , found Gypsies and Travellers are less likely than average to live beyond 68 to 70 years, 10-12 years lower than the life expectancy across the whole population of the UK. ORS assume an average life expectancy of 72 years within their modelling, to provide a more cautious approach than the study by Parry et al. In our analysis, we have followed the approach by ORS and assumed 72 years as the life expectancy rate to provide a degree of caution.

6.1.28 When the age profile of the community, from the survey findings, is compared to results from the 2011 census, there are a higher proportion of Gypsy and Traveller residents aged over 65 years old in Neath Port Talbot than the average for the Gypsy and Traveller population in England and Wales, as illustrated in the following table:

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- 12 Opinion Research Services, Technical Note, Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates, March 2015, paragraph 10.
 - 13 Opinion Research Services, Technical Note, Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates, March 2015, paragraph 22
 - 14 Parry et al, The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers: Report of Department of Health Inequalities in Health Research Initiative, University of Sheffield, 2004

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Table 6.1.1 Age Profile of Residents aged 65 and above

Age Range	Number (NPT)	Percentage (NPT)	Percentage (England and Wales)
65-69	4	2.11%	2%
70-74	6	3.16%	2%
75-79	4	2.11%	1%
80-84	1	0.53%	0.5%
85+	0	0%	0.5%
Total	15	7.91%	6%

Source: 2011 Census and NPTCBC 2016 GTAA Questionnaire Survey

6.1.29 Based on the survey results, 15 residents will be over 72 years old by the end of the 5 year study period, with a total of 7 households where all persons within the household would be aged 72 and over (5 are single person households and 2 households with 2 members). If all households dissolve over the period, the annual rate would be 1.4 pitches per year.

6.1.30 Whilst dissolutions and migration should be factored into the household growth rate to achieve the net growth rate, before factoring in this element to the calculation, the Council has reviewed previous dissolution rates and vacancy rates and the use of the assignment policy. This analysis will provide a local context and determine whether pitches that have become vacant have been assigned.

6.1.31 Over the 2 year period used to determine an annual pitch turnover rate (row D of the calculation), a total of 20 pitches became vacant. In addition to these 20 pitches, a further 2 became vacant shortly after the questionnaire element of the study was completed. An analysis of these 22 pitches has been undertaken to determine the impact the assignment policy has within Neath Port Talbot.

6.1.32 Of the 22 pitches that have become vacant, 16 (73%) have not been assigned and have been let to those on the waiting list. Of the 6 pitches that were assigned, 4 of these pitches were assigned to residents who were already living on the site on a pitch with parents / other family members. Of the remaining 2 pitches that were assigned, one was assigned to a family living in bricks and mortar within the County Borough and one to a family living in a neighbouring Local Authority area. Consequently, only 1 pitch of 22 has been assigned to a family living outside of the administrative area.

6.1.33 The household growth rate is used to determine the future growth within the existing community. Given, only 6 out of 22 pitches have been assigned, and given that 83% of all assignments that have taken place have gone to family members already living in Neath Port Talbot, the evidence shows that assignments are either not taking place

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

locally, or that when assignments do occur, they are assigned to existing site residents. The strong family connections in Neath Port Talbot are also evident from the survey, where 76% of respondents stated they lived in Neath Port Talbot due to local connections (i.e. family or work).

6.1.34 Acknowledging the level of assignments may change over a period of time, the Council considers that whilst it is appropriate to factor in a level of dissolutions to achieve a net household growth rate, an element of flexibility should be added into the end growth rate that would allow for an element of assignment.

Net Household Growth Rate

6.1.35 To achieve the net household growth rate, the evidenced dissolution rate will need to be off set against the gross household growth rate established from Section D of the survey.

Gross Growth Rate = 3.86%

11 (evidence from section D) / 5 years = 2.2 pitches

2.2 / 57 households x 100 = 3.86% gross

Net Gross Rate

Annual Dissolution Rate = 1.4 pitches (7 pitches over 5 years = 1.4 pitches)

The dissolutions for 1 year are potentially counted in Row D of the calculation, to avoid double counting these should be removed 7 – 1.4 = 5.6 pitches.

11 pitch requirement (Section D) – 5.6 pitch dissolution = 5.4 pitches

5.4 pitches / 5 year = 1.08 pitches

1.08 / 57 households = **1.9% net household growth rate.**

Rounded to 2%, plus a 0.25% flexibility rate = **2.25% net household growth rate**

6.1.36 The Authority therefore concludes that a net household growth rate of 2.25% is appropriate for the area as it is based on robust local evidence, and therefore is fully compliant with the Welsh Government guidance.

An Estimate of Need for Residential Site Pitches in Neath Port Talbot

6.1.37 Using the information collated above, the following table assesses the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Neath Port Talbot over the next 5 years, and for the remainder of the Plan period (upto 2026).

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

Table 6.1.2 An Estimate of Need for Residential Site Pitches

Row	Current Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
A.	Occupied Local Authority pitches	56
B.	Occupied authorised private pitches	0
	Total	56

	Planned Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
C.	Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant private pitches	0
D.	Pitches expected to become vacant in near future (see note 1)	10
E.	New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	11
	Total	21

	Current Residential Demand	
F.	Unauthorised encampments	0
G.	Unauthorised developments	0
H.	Overcrowded pitches	2
I.	Conventional housing	1
J.	New households to arrive	8
	Total	11

	Current Households	Future Households (at year 5)	Future Households (Plan Period)
K.	57	64	71
L.	Additional household pitch need	7	14

	Unmet Need	Need arising	Need Accommodated
M.	Current residential demand	11	-
N.	Future residential demand (5 year)	7	-
O.	Future residential demand (plan period)	14	-
P.	Planned residential supply	-	21

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

	Unmet Need	Need arising	Need Accommodated
Q.	Unmet need (5 year)	- 3 pitches	
R.	Unmet need (plan period)	4 pitches	

Travelling Showpeople

6.1.38 As part of the GTAA process, the Showman's Guild have been contacted by the Authority. No response was received to initial email communications made to the Guild, however, on follow up correspondence by the Authority, a meeting was arranged.

6.1.39 The Guild have previously built up good relations with the Authority and have a long standing connection with the area through the annual Fairs. Outside of visiting the area for annual Fairs, there are no permanent Travelling Showpeople residing in Neath Port Talbot and there is no history of regularly residing in or resorting to the area for their accommodation needs. That said, the Guild have previously enquired with the Authority about the possibility of finding suitable land within the County Borough to develop a residential site and/or winter quarters. Discussions in this regard have taken place over previous years, with the Authority discussing potential options with the Guild at various points in time. It is understood that the Guild have also made enquiries with other Local Authorities in this regard.

6.1.40 During the meeting held with the Guild, the GTAA process was discussed and explained. The Guild advised they had been contacted by other Authorities and Guild members had completed interviews in other Local Authorities where members currently reside. The Guild explained that they did not wish to undertake any interviews with Neath Port Talbot, however, would possibly wish to consider a site in the future and would like to continue discussions with the Authority. The Guild were advised that whilst the Authority they were willing to continue previous dialogue, without individual member interviews, their need could not be accurately assessed in Neath Port Talbot as part of the GTAA study, this position was understood and accepted. As Guild members do not regularly reside or resort in Neath Port Talbot, and in the absence of interviews, no need has been identified through the GTAA process, however, it has been agreed further discussions will take place between the Authority and the Guild outside of the remits of this GTAA.

6.2 Transit Unmet Needs

6.2.1 This Section of the Survey addresses the issue of the need for transit provision in the area and other Local Authority areas. It will help the Local Authority to understand whether there is a need for transit site accommodation in the area.

6.2.2 Respondents were asked the Question '*Have you camped by the roadside/ on an unauthorised encampment/ on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?*' – to which 57 (97%) of Respondents replied 'No' and the remaining 2 Respondents (3%) claimed 'Yes' they had camped.

6.2.3 Both Respondents who confirmed they had camped, stated the Local Authority areas in which they camped:

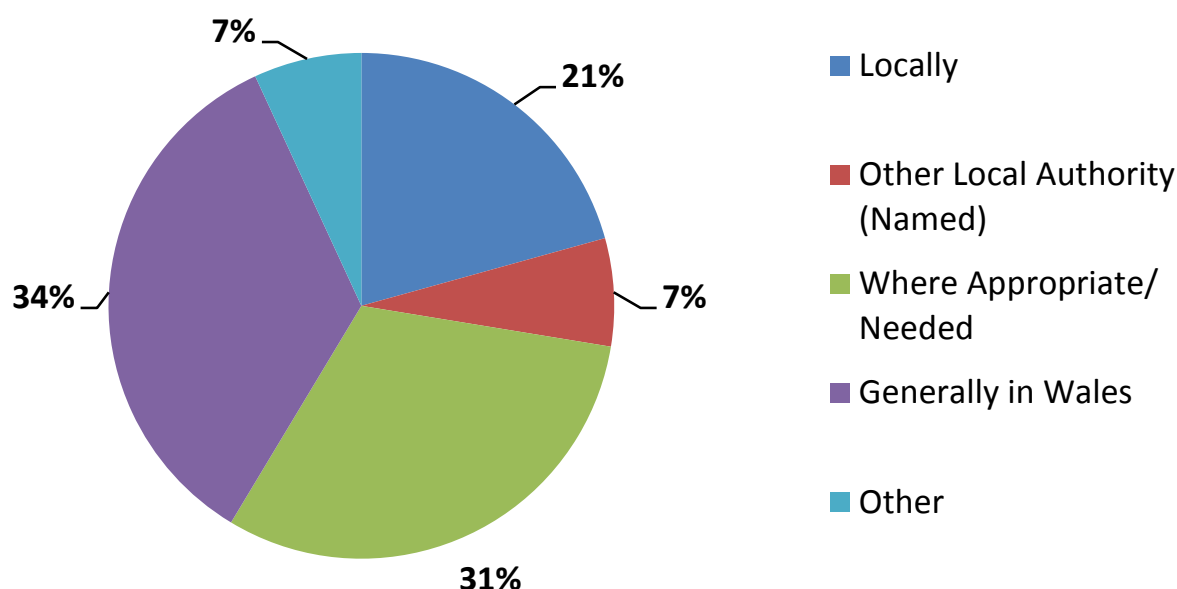
- In Neath Port Talbot County Borough; and
- In the City and County of Swansea.

6.2.4 Neither Respondent made comments on their length of stay in the area(s) they had camped. The respondent who indicated they had camped within Neath Port Talbot was, at the time of the interview, on an unauthorised encampment whilst awaiting a move to bricks and mortar accommodation, which has since taken place.

6.2.5 From the responses to Question E1, it is evident that there has been very limited travel movements of Neath Port Talbot's Gypsy and Traveller population over the past year. As 97% of households have not travelled, it would suggest that the community is relatively settled, with little indication of regular travelling movements, at least within the last 12 month period.

6.2.6 Question E4 asks respondents '*Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?*' to which 49% (29) stated 'No' and 48% (28) stated 'Yes' with a further 3% '*Preferring not to say*'. Of those 28 Respondents who stated 'Yes', the survey then asked where they were needed, responses are illustrated below.

Figure 6.1 Transit Site needs



6.2.7 Of the 28 responses, 34% (10) felt that Transit Sites were required 'generally in Wales', 31% (9) stated 'where appropriate/required' and 21% of Respondents (6) felt that Transit Sites were required 'locally'. Whilst 48% of households stated they think there is a need for more transit provision in Wales, only 1 respondent named a location, naming 'Bridgend/Swansea'. Despite probing from the Interviewer, no other locations were identified

6 . Assessing Accommodation Needs

through the survey, which may be due to the fact that 98% of residents have not travelled within the past year, and therefore may not have a specific preference/view on where provision is required.

6.2.8 Whilst we can conclude that there is a general presumption for further transit pitches in Wales, no meaningful conclusions can be drawn from the data obtained from the survey over possible locations for a Transit site.

7 Conclusions

7.1 Conclusions

7.1.1 The calculation setting out the estimate of need for residential site pitches is contained within Table 6.1.1. It concludes that in the next five year period, the need for new pitches in Neath Port Talbot is a figure of minus 3. Given the relatively large Gypsy and Traveller Population in Neath Port Talbot, generally there would be an assumption that there would be a future need, therefore at first view this may seem like a questionable figure. However, there are a number of reasons why a potential oversupply has been identified in the calculation.

7.1.2 The current extension to Cae Garw, which is due to be completed in March 2016, will increase the pitch supply by 11 pitches. Based on the results of the Authority's 2012 study ⁽¹⁵⁾ this extension of 11 pitches was anticipated to meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Neath Port Talbot up to 2022, with this 11 feeding into the supply element of the calculation.

7.1.3 When the 2012 study was undertaken, there were 54 permanent public residential pitches in the County Borough. There were 2 decommissioned pitches at one of the Wharf Road sites, which had been out of use for a number of years, and were unable to be let as they were in an uninhabitable condition. In March 2015, the Authority, using the Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant, rebuilt elements of the utility blocks and brought the pitches back into habitable use. These pitches were let to families on the waiting lists upon completion and resulted in an additional increase in supply that was not envisaged or factored in to the 2012 Study. The actual supply in Neath Port Talbot over the period 2015-2016 has therefore been 13 pitches. This additional supply of 2 has not been factored into the calculation in Table 6.1.1 as the pitches were occupied after completion and residents of the pitches have been interviewed as part of this study.

7.1.4 In addition, the 11 pitches currently being built at Cae Garw were anticipated to meet the need up to 2022, which is a further year beyond the timescales of this GTAA. Therefore, based on the conclusions of the current GTAA study, it would appear that the need identified in the recent 2012 Study was reasonably accurate.

7.1.5 The creation of 11 new pitches at Cae Garw and the 2 recommissioned pitches at Wharf Road will increase the supply from 54 pitches at the commencement of Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act (25th February 2015) to 67 pitches on scheduled completion of the Cae Garw extension (31st March 2016). This represents a total pitch increase of approximately 24% between the period February 2015 and March 2016. The increase in supply of 13 pitches is the result of need identified as part of the previous GTAA study and allocated within the Authority's LDP, and as part of on-going dialogue and communications with the Welsh Government and site residents to utilise the Welsh Government's Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant.

15 Neath Port Talbot Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Study, Opinion Research Services, December 2012

7 . Conclusions

7.1.6 This current GTAA study has further analysed the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community and assessed the current residential supply and demand. Based on the recent increase in supply and the results of the calculation, the Authority is satisfied that there is sufficient pitch provision in Neath Port Talbot to meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community over the next 5 years, 2016-2021.

7.1.7 With regard to Transit Sites and Temporary Stopping Places, from reviewing the responses from the survey findings and the absence of any need identified for Neath Port Talbot by neighbouring Local Authorities, there is no clear evidence to accurately support or justify development of any transit provision within Neath Port Talbot.

7.2 Next Steps

Monitoring

7.2.1 Following the adoption of the LDP, the Council has a statutory obligation under Section 61 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to keep all matters under review that are expected to affect the development of its area. Monitoring is a crucial part of the development process, providing a key mechanism for developing a fuller understanding of the issues that impact upon communities and the extent to which existing policies are meeting their stated objectives.

7.2.2 In accordance with Regulation 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, the Authority is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covering the preceding financial year from 1 April to 31 March. It must be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31 October each year and published on the Authority's website.

7.2.3 The LDP was adopted on 27 January 2016, therefore the Authority's first AMR will cover the 2016/17 financial year from 1 April to 31 March respectively and must be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31 October 2017. Any future plan review and policy development should be underpinned by the findings in the monitoring framework.

7.2.4 The LDP Monitoring Framework contains a number of indicators specifically relating to the Gypsy and Traveller Community that will be kept under review. These include:

- The number of additional pitches provided at Cae Garw;
- The number of proposals for Gypsy and Traveller sites permitted annually;
- The number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments reported annually;
- The need for additional Gypsy and Traveller provision as identified within a GTAA.

7.2.5 Each of the above indicators will be monitored on an annual basis and reported to the Welsh Government through the AMR. The AMR will ensure that the Gypsy and Traveller provision identified within the LDP and required by any subsequent GTAA is

provided and will allow any potential changes, such as an increased need for pitches or an increase of unauthorised encampments to be monitored, reported annually and if necessary addressed through a review of the Plan.

Timescales for Updating LDP policies

7.2.6 Once the Authority receives confirmation from the Welsh Ministers that the GTAA has been approved, the Study findings will be incorporated into the AMR. The full list of relevant indicators will be monitored throughout the 2016/17 financial year and reported to the Welsh Government by 31 October 2017. The Authority will consider the findings of the AMR and if required will resolve to revise the LDP to address any identified shortcomings through the Review process.

7 . Conclusions

Appendix 1: Glossary

Definition of Key Terms

Gypsies and Travellers	<p>(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and 2. Members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and <p>(b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.</p> <p>Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p>
Residential Site	<p>A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>
Temporary residential site	<p>These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).</p>
Transit Site	<p>Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time.</p> <p>Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>
Temporary Stopping Place	<p>Also known as a 'stopping place', 'Atchin Tan', or 'green lane', amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed.</p> <p>Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.</p>
Residential pitch	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.</p>
Transit pitch	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months.</p> <p>Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites, however, this is not recommended.</p>

Appendix 1: Glossary

Unauthorised encampment	Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.
Unauthorised development	Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.
Current residential supply	The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.
Current residential demand	Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments; • an inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development; • households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch; • households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion; • new households expected to arrive from elsewhere.
Future residential demand	The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5 year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.
Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need, which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall residential need will capture the needs across the 5 year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.
Planned residential pitch supply	The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due to open or private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.
Household	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
Concealed or 'doubled-up' household	This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household. This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.
Household growth	In this guidance household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.

Appendix 2: Interview Log

The Authority achieved a very high success rate for interviews, with a 100% response rate from residents of the authorised public sites, 2 families living in bricks and mortar accommodation and 1 unauthorised encampment. An additional family living in bricks and mortar were identified from the site waiting list, however, an interview could not be conducted with this family.

Phone numbers were not held for the family, and residents of official site, who know the family, informed the liaison officer that family were currently travelling for family reasons. Whilst no interview conducted, family are on site waiting list and therefore are counted in Row J of the Calculation.

The interview log for this family is below.

Table .0.1 Interview Log

Address	Type of Tenure	Interview Attempts	Engagement	Questionnaire Completed	Reason for Refusal
'A'	Bricks and Mortar	19/11/2015 23/11/2015 25/11/2015	House Visits	Unable to make contact	N/A

Appendix 2: Interview Log

