

BASILDON BOROUGH GYPSY, TRAVELLER & TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE POSITION STATEMENT, AUGUST 2020

Scale of Need – Revised Publication Local Plan (RPLP) 2018

The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2018 concludes that the overall level of additional need for those Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) households who meet the planning definition is 54 pitches. Of these, 15 pitches are needed to meet current needs; 33 pitches are required for future needs; and an allowance of 6 pitches has been made for the borough's unknown households. There is however a supply of 1 pitch arising from households moving away from the borough which results in a **net need of 53 pitches**, while the additional need for those households who meet the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson is for **3 additional plots**, over the plan period.

GTAA Update Report 2020

Given the passage of time since the GTAA 2018 was originally prepared, Basildon Borough Council (BBC) has considered it necessary to establish a revised assessment of need for the Local Plan period to 2034 and for the South Essex Plan period to 2038. In addition, there were some concerns about the relatively high numbers of 'unknown' households where it was not possible to complete an interview, and how the GTAA 2018 dealt with need from these households. While the GTAA 2018 assumed that 10% of the Borough's unknown households could meet the planning definition, recent Local Plan examinations and planning appeal decisions across the country are pushing towards a higher average of 30%.

BBC has therefore completed an update to the GTAA which includes new sites and pitches that have been granted planning permission or have been allowed on appeal since the baseline date for the GTAA 2018 Report. The GTAA 2020 update also includes some amendments to the planning status of sites; sites that were not included in the 2018 GTAA baseline; and additional unauthorised sites. The report then uses supporting information from planning applications; details from Appeal Statements; and additional household interviews to determine an up-to-date assessment of need. In addition, the GTAA 2020 reflects a more up-to-date national average for unknown households that are likely to meet the planning definition. This has taken the total need for households that met the planning definition to **85 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers**, if it is assumed that approximately 30% of the borough's unknown household needs could meet the planning definition. There is a need of **3 plots for Travelling Showpeople** households that met the planning definition.

RPLP G&T Accommodation Strategy

A total of 15 pitches are currently allocated within the RPLP across 4 new sites. In addition to the new G&T allocations, Policy H3 anticipates that appropriate unauthorised sites within the Green Belt that are currently occupied by Gypsies and Travellers for at least 3 months as of the 18 October 2018, could be regularised and permitted for use by 'travelling' Gypsies and Travellers, subject to meeting specified design and location criteria as set out in policy H24. This is expected to contribute to delivering a minimum of 29 new pitches. In total the RPLP allocates a minimum of 44 pitches, leaving a potential shortfall of 41 pitches (previously 9 pitches) to be identified from alternative sources of supply.

Table 1 – Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Provision within the Local Plan

Source of Supply	Gypsy & Traveller Pitches		Travelling Showpeople Plots	
	GTAA 2018	GTAA 2020	GTAA 2018	GTAA 2020
RPLP Allocation	15	15	3	3
Capacity from existing Unauthorised Sites and Temporary Sites	29	29	-	-
TOTAL SUPPLY	44	44	3	3
Scale of Need	53	85	3	3
Potential Shortfall	9	41	0	0

Recognising the shortfall in Gypsy and Traveller pitches to meet the identified need, Policy H3 of the Revised Publication Local Plan 2018 states that the Council will work closely with the neighbourhood areas, where the community includes Gypsy and Travellers to ensure that growth arising from within these areas is accommodated within their Neighbourhood Plans. The Council will also continue to work with neighbouring authorities to identify a strategic approach to meeting the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in accordance with the requirements of national policy.