

# Member Briefing

**Number: 1201**

**Title:** Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2018

**Summary:** The purpose of this briefing note is to inform members that the sub-regional partnership between Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Halton and Warrington borough councils has completed a new GTAA.

The Council has a duty to carry out an assessment of the need for Traveller accommodation in its area. In 2014, the Cheshire Partnership completed a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), which has been used in the preparation of the Local Plan. It has helped to determine planning applications and to inform housing strategies. The GTAA identifies needs for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and plots for Travelling Showpeople. The term Traveller does apply to both groups.

In August 2015, the Government published a Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), which replaced previous planning guidance and included a change to the definition of Travellers for planning purposes. The revised planning guidance says that those who no longer travel permanently don't fall under the planning definition of a Traveller. This is for the purposes of assessing accommodation need. As a result of this revised guidance and to keep this evidence up-to-date, it was agreed by the partnership between the authorities that the GTAA needed to be reviewed. The GTAA 2018 has now been completed and will be used to identify and update the five-year land supply for Traveller sites, as required by the PPTS. It will also be used as part of the evidence base for the Traveller Development Plan Document that will identify site requirements.

The GTAA 2018 sets out a requirement for additional permanent pitches to meet the needs of those meeting the planning definition of Travellers. The figures for each of the partnership areas are shown below.

Authority area	Number of additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches required	Number of additional Travelling Showperson plots required
Cheshire West and Chester	21	3
Cheshire East	32	5
Warrington	14	13
Halton	4	0

*Please note: figures for Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East are for the period 2017-2030, while figures for Halton and Warrington are for the period 2017-2032. This reflects Local Plan periods for the different authority areas.*

The need for Cheshire West and Chester to put in place 21 additional pitches and three plots will be met by identifying sites in the Traveller Development Plan Document.

The GTAA also identifies a requirement for a new transit site of between five and 10 pitches in each of the Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington council areas. There is an existing transit site with 12 pitches in Halton.

The basis for the GTAA was interviews with Travellers to see whether they met the Government definition in the PPTS. Despite the best efforts of the study team, it was not possible to record the status of all the Traveller households in the borough either because they did not want to take part in the study or were not on site. As it is not possible to be sure whether these Travellers meet the definition, the study identifies a possible need of between zero to 54 pitches and one plot, but it does not recommend any additional site allocations. Any applications would be determined using criteria-based policies.

The GTAA also identifies households that do not meet the Government's planning definition. It has concluded that 56 pitches would potentially be required, but that this requirement would be addressed as part of general housing need through separate Local Plan policies.

The [GTAA](#) is available to view online.

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**Responsible Committee, Cabinet Member:** Councillor Brian Clarke

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