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North West Leicestershire District Council

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Dear Joanne

North West Leicestershire District Council GTAA 2022

In response to the request from the Council for Opinion Research Services (ORS) to prepare a formal note regarding the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) that was completed by ORS in 2022 I can provide you with the following.

The Council have requested that ORS provide an update on the 2022 GTAA:

- To take account of any changes to the site and yard baseline since the GTAA was published;
- To take account of changes to the PPTS Planning Definition of a Traveller in December 2024;
- To extend the GTAA time period by 1 year to 2041/42; and
- To confirm that the updated GTAA still provides a robust local evidence base for North West Leicestershire.

Changes to the Site and Yard Baseline

Since the GTAA was completed the Council have confirmed that there have been a number of changes to the site and yard baseline in North West Leicestershire. In summary these changes are:

- 2 additional unauthorised pitches have been developed at 46 Bardon Road, Coalville, to meet a need from 2 doubled-up households that was identified in the 2022 GTAA. These pitches are the subject of a Retrospective Planning Application (24/00531/FUL) that was validated in June 2024 and is still to be determined. At this time the new application does not change need identified in the GTAA for this site (2 x doubled-up in 2022 are now 2 x unauthorised in 2026), but if it were to be granted permission it would reduce need by 2 pitches.
- 12 permitted pitches that were included in the GTAA at Whitney Park, Moira, were granted planning permission as a Residential Caravan Park in April 2024 (18/01127/FUL). This site is no longer considered to be a Traveller site and has been removed from the GTAA baseline. At the time of the GTAA there were no Travellers living on the site so it did not generate any current or future need.
- 6 unauthorised pitches at Aylesbury Gardens, Swepstone, were granted permission at appeal in December 2023 (3174630). This has reduced need identified in the GTAA by 6 pitches.

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- 12 unauthorised pitches at Whitegate Stables, Packington, were granted permission at appeal in July 2023 (3292588/3292599/3292751). This has reduced need identified in the GTAA by 12 pitches.
 - 8 unauthorised pitches at Midsummer Stables, Hemington, were granted a Certificate of Lawfulness in April 2018 (17/01702/CLE). These were mistakenly included in the GTAA as unauthorised pitches. Only 1 is occupied by Travellers so this has reduced need in the GTAA by 1 pitch given that the site is now lawful.
 - Travelling Showpeople living on 4 tolerated plots at White Gates Farm, Ravenstone, have now vacated the yard and have moved to another established Travelling Showpeople yard in North West Leicestershire at Kelham Wood. There are no occupancy restrictions on the yard at Kelham Wood so this does not change the need figures in the GTAA. White Gates Farm has been removed from the GTAA baseline as it did not have planning permission.
 - A Travelling Showpeople yard at Fair Oak, Oakthorpe, is no longer in use and has been removed from the baseline. It was recorded as unoccupied in the 2022 GTAA so did not generate any current or future need.

Changes to the PPTS Planning Definition of a Traveller in December 2024

The North West Leicestershire GTAA was completed following a robust methodology based on industry standards as set out in a range of Legislation and Government Guidance at the time of its completion in 2022. The study supported the requirements of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015, and also the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, and the Housing and Planning Act (2016).

Whilst the PPTS planning definition of a Traveller has changed since the GTAA was completed (in 2023 and again in 2024) the outcomes of the GTAA do still meet the requirements of these changes to the planning definition as it included a full assessment of need for all Travellers – but simply reported them separately as required by the 2015 PPTS definition at the time.

As a result of these changes the revised need figures have been consolidated to comply with the reporting requirements in the 2024 PPTS which now considers that all Travellers meet the planning definition.

Changes to the GTAA Time Period

The outcomes of the 2022 GTAA have been adjusted to take account of a change to the plan period by 1 year from 2040/41 to 2041/42.

The implication of the changes has been a very low increase in future household formation for the extended 1 year period of 1 pitch for Gypsies and Travellers. There is no change for Travelling Showpeople.

Revised GTAA Outcomes March 2026

The 2022 GTAA identified the following levels of need for Gypsies and Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople.

Gypsies and Travellers (G&T)	2022/23-2040/41
Meet Planning Definition	39
Undetermined	2
Do not meet Planning Definition	6
TOTAL PITCHES	47
Travelling Showpeople (TSP)	2022/23-2040/41
Meet Planning Definition	25
Undetermined	1
Do not meet Planning Definition	0
TOTAL PLOTS	26

Following the changes to the site and yard baseline, and the extended plan period, the March 2026 GTAA outcomes are as follows.

Gypsies and Travellers (G&T)	2022/23-2041/42
Meet Planning Definition	29
Undetermined	2
TOTAL PITCHES	31
Travelling Showpeople (TSP)	2022/23-2041/42
Meet Planning Definition	25
Undetermined	1
TOTAL PLOTS	26

This represents a reduction in levels of identified need for Gypsies and Travellers of 16 pitches and no changes to the levels of identified need for Travelling Showpeople.

When broken down by 5-year periods the revised March 2026 need figures are shown in the tables below.

G&T	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2022/23-26/27	2027/28-31/32	2032/33-36/37	2037/38-41/42	
	15	6	6	4	31

TSP	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2022/23-26/27	2027/28-31/32	2032/33-36/37	2037/38-41/42	
	18	3	3	2	26

Conclusions

ORS consider that, subject to the amendments set out above, the updated assessment of need for North West Leicestershire continues to be robust.

Subject to the amendments set out above the GTAA still provides a credible evidence base which can be used to aid the preparation and implementation of Local Plan Policies and the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the period to 2041/42 - exceeding the 15 year period required by the PPTS in Paragraph 10.

ORS would also note that their GTAA methodology has been repeatedly found to be sound and robust, including through Local Plan Examinations in Bedford, Brentwood, Bristol, Cambridge, Castle Point, Central Bedfordshire, Charnwood, Cheltenham, Colchester, Cotswold, Daventry, Ealing, East Hertfordshire, Elmbridge, Gloucester, Kings Lynn, Leicester, Maldon, Milton Keynes, Newark and Sherwood, Newham, Runnymede, Rutland, South Cambridgeshire, South Northamptonshire, South Staffordshire, Spelthorne, St Albans, Tewkesbury, and Waverley.

ORS have discussed in detail with the Council whether there have been any substantive changes to the Gypsy, Travelling and Travelling Showpeople population living on sites and yards in North West Leicestershire since the GTAA was completed in 2022. The outcomes of the 2022 GTAA have subsequently been adjusted to take account of these changes. This has resulted in a reduction of need for Gypsies and Travellers of 16 pitches. There are no changes to the need identified for Travelling Showpeople.

Whilst the PPTS planning definition of a Traveller has changed since the GTAA was completed (in 2023 and again in 2024) the outcomes of the GTAA do still meet the requirements of these changes to the planning definition as it included a full assessment of need for all Travellers.

The extension of the GTAA time period by 1 year has resulted in a very low increase to new household formation for the year 2041/42 of 1 pitch for Gypsies and Travellers, and no changes for Travelling Showpeople.

Regards



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