

Flintshire

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016

Flintshire County Council

Final Report
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Please note that in this report some of the tables include rounded figures. This can result in some column or row totals not adding up to 100 or to the anticipated row or column 'total' due to the use of rounded decimal figures. We include this description here as it covers all tables and associated textual commentary included. If tables or figures are to be used in-house then we recommend the addition of a similarly worded statement being included as a note to each table used.

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1. Policy context

Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2015, arc⁴ were commissioned by Flintshire County Council to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to identify the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers from across Flintshire.
- 1.2 The objective of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment is to provide data which will identify Gypsy and Traveller pitch needs, separate from wider housing need, demand and aspiration as analysed through a Local Housing Market Assessment. Once approved by Welsh Ministers, the approved Flintshire GTAA report will be published by the Local Authority to inform the local housing strategy and Gypsy and Traveller site provision policies in the Development Plan.
- 1.3 The overall aims of the GTAA are to:
- Assess the overall accommodation (pitch) requirements for the County, undertaken in a manner which conforms with national guidance;
 - Establish any current or future need for Gypsy and Traveller sites and pitches in the County, including the need for transit provision, over the next five years and over the Plan Period;
 - To establish size, trends and characteristics of the Gypsy and Traveller population, households and their accommodation, including an assessment of drivers of need and demand;
 - Identification of key criteria for new provision, including broad locations, and optimum site size and number of pitches.
- 1.4 The assessment comprised of several stages, which are set out below:
- 1) Establishment of a GTAA steering group to oversee the project;
 - 2) Analysis of background literature and existing (secondary) data;
 - 3) Key stakeholder engagement and online questionnaire survey;
 - 4) Conducting a census of sites and household interview survey (primary data collection);
 - 5) Data analysis, needs assessment calculation and report production; and
 - 6) Dissemination of results and feedback.
- 1.5 The report is structured as per the template set out in Annex 4 of the Welsh Government Guidance document, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (May 2015):
- **Chapter 1 Policy context:** provides an introduction to the report and sets out the legislation, guidance and policies that govern the undertaking of a GTAA in Wales;
 - **Chapter 2 Background and analysis of existing data:** presents the findings of any previous GTAA reports, along with secondary

- data relating to population, Caravan Counts and current accommodation provision for Gypsies and Travellers;
- **Chapter 3 Methodology:** provides details of the GTAA’s research methodology;
 - **Chapter 4 Survey findings:** looks at the findings of the primary research undertaken as part of the GTAA;
 - **Chapter 5 Assessing accommodation needs:** reviews current and future supply, demand and growth, identifying both residential and transit unmet need; and
 - **Chapter 6 Conclusions and recommendations:** concludes the report, identifying headline issues and recommending the next steps.
- 1.6 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:
- **Appendix A** Key stakeholder online consultation;
 - **Appendix B** Fieldwork questionnaire; and
 - **Appendix C** Fieldwork interview log.

Legislation and guidance

- 1.7 In September 2011, the Welsh Government launched the UK’s first Gypsy and Traveller strategy, entitled *Travelling to a Better Future: A Gypsy and Traveller Framework for Action and Delivery Plan*. Setting out the policy direction for the Welsh Government and its partners, the framework seeks to ensure that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are assessed, planned for and implemented in a more strategic way. It recognises the cultural differences which have often led to the social exclusion of Gypsy and Traveller groups. It seeks to ensure that Gypsy and Traveller communities are heard and provided for in service delivery. The framework focuses on several key policy areas which affect the way Gypsies and Travellers access services including accommodation, health, education, participation and planning and other barriers facing Gypsies and Travellers.
- 1.8 The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (Part 3) made the assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, statutory requirements:
- Section 101 requires local authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to its area at least every five years;
 - Section 102 requires local authorities to submit their GTAA reports to the Welsh Ministers for approval;
 - Section 103 sets out the duty on local authorities to meet the assessed needs; and
 - Section 104 gives Welsh Ministers power to direct local authorities to utilise their functions to provide the necessary sites (if they are satisfied that local authorities are not complying with their duties).

- 1.9 The Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 (Section 56) provides the power for local authorities to provide sites where mobile homes may be brought, either temporarily or for use as permanent residences.
- 1.10 The Welsh Government's *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (May 2015) is statutory guidance published under Section 106 of the Housing Act 2014. It has been produced to assist local authorities in undertaking Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments and discharging their duties under Part 3 of the 2014 Act. Providing a clear and comprehensive guide to every aspect of undertaking Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment, this Guidance has been heavily drawn upon in each stage of this GTAA project for Flintshire County Council.
- 1.11 Alongside the Government Guidance on assessments (May 2015), two other documents were published:
- *Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites* (May 2015) guidance provides advice to help local authorities design Gypsy and Traveller sites; and
 - *Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales* (July 2015) gives advice to local authorities to help them manage sites well.
- 1.12 Welsh Assembly Government Circular 30/2007 (*Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*) provides guidance on the planning aspects of finding sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It states that local housing market assessments provide the key source of information for local authorities to assess the level of Gypsy and Traveller provision that is required when preparing Local Development Plans. Where there is an assessment of unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, local authorities should allocate sites in their Local Development Plans (LDPs) to ensure that the identified pitch requirement for both residential and transit sites can be met.
- 1.13 Welsh Office Circular 78/91 (*Travelling Showpeople*) gives advice to local authorities regarding planning considerations relating to Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.14 In respect of unauthorised encampments, relevant guidance comprises of: Welsh Office Circular 76/94 (*Gypsy Sites Policy and Unauthorised Camping*) and Welsh Government Guidance on *Managing Unauthorised Camping* (2013). The latter replaces previous National Assembly for Wales Circular 04/2005 (*Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping*).
- 1.15 The Welsh Government's *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites* (November 2008) is a guide for Gypsies and Travellers on planning their caravan sites. It sets out the GTAA and development plan processes that are relevant to Gypsies and Travellers so that they can engage in relevant consultations. It also provides guidance on submitting planning applications for a caravan site.

Local Development Plan policies

- 1.16 The Flintshire Unitary Development Plan (FUDP) was adopted in September 2011. It forms the development plan for the County for the 15-year period 2000 to 2015. It provides a framework to guide development and for the determination of planning applications.

1.17 UDP Policy HSG14, *Gypsy Sites*, sets out the criteria against which any proposals for a new Gypsy and Traveller site in Flintshire will be assessed. It relates to Gypsy and/or Traveller sites that are intended for long term permanent residential accommodation. Policy HSG14 states that:

“Development of new permanent gypsy sites will only be permitted where:

- *there is a demonstrable need;*
- *there are no suitable alternative sites either with planning permission or allocated for such uses;*
- *there is natural screening, or the site can be screened adequately;*
- *services can be provided at reasonable cost;*
- *there is no unacceptable impact on the amenity and character of surrounding areas due to noise, pollution, traffic or parking problems; and*
- *such sites should be within reasonable distance of main social and shopping facilities.”*

1.18 The UDP acknowledges the requirement for development plans to make adequate provision for the accommodation needs of gypsy families. It highlights the existence of a residential site for Gypsies on land adjacent to the Queensferry bypass and states that it is not proposed to allocate land for a further site at this time. The UDP sets out that the need for a permanent gypsy caravan site in a particular location should be proven as the demand for such uses changes over time. Reference is made to an assessment of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, being carried out across North Wales on behalf of all North Wales Local Authorities, as this information will be used as part of the evidence base against which to assess proposals for the development of new sites.

1.19 The UDP states that sites should be located on or close to main Gypsy travelling routes for ease of access, and should be capable of being serviced by new drainage and other necessary services without extensive new infrastructure works. Preferred locations for such sites should be near main towns where there is a nucleus of facilities capable of servicing Gypsy sites.

1.20 The County Council is preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the area. The Delivery Agreement was approved by the Welsh Government in February 2014 and consultations relating to sites, key stakeholders and a variety of topic papers have been undertaken. Topic Paper Number 9, *Health, Community Wellbeing and Cohesion* (February 2015) includes reference to providing for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as a key objective in the LDP. The allocation of land for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation is identified as a potential land use policy.

1.21 The Flintshire Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017, *A Quality Home for Everyone*, sets out the Council’s vision for the direction and co-ordination of housing-related activities in Flintshire. The ambitions for housing are set out within three themes or objectives:

- More housing, more choice;
- Improving homes and communities, and

- Better services to improve people’s lives.
- 1.22 The Flintshire Local Housing Strategy highlights the following in relation the Gypsy and Traveller provision:
- “The January 2012 Caravan Count showed that Flintshire is the most significant provider in North Wales with 58% of authorised pitches. This is 15% of the total for Wales. The North West Wales Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment asked where new pitches should be located. It found a demand for sites along the main travelling route through North Wales. No new locations were requested in Flintshire. Flintshire will continue to develop Gypsy and Traveller services:*
- *Managing Riverside Caravan Site;*
 - *Managing Unauthorised Encampments;*
 - *Coordinating Support & Welfare Services to Gypsy and Traveller community.*
- 1.23 Wrexham and Flintshire have undertaken a joint Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (August 2015) to consider the amount and type of housing needed during the plan period. Undertaken by arc⁴, this study was based on a household survey across the two local authority areas along with a range of secondary data.
- 1.24 This Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment will supplement the LHMA, providing specific information relating to the housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community within Flintshire. It will form another key part of the Council’s evidence base in the emerging LDP.

Definitions of key terms

- 1.25 This report adopts the definition of ‘Gypsies and Travellers’ set out within Section 108 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014:
- a) *“Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:*
- 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 organized 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.”*
- 1.26 Likewise, this report uses the definition of ‘mobile home’ set out in Section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013:
- “(1) In this Act “mobile home” means any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle designed or adapted for human habitation, but does not include:*
- a. *any railway rolling stock which is for the time being on rails forming part of a railway system, or*

b. any tent.

(2) A structure designed or adapted for human habitation which:

- a. is composed of not more than 2 sections separately constructed and designed to be assembled on a site by means of bolts, clamps or other devices, and*
- b. is, when assembled, physically capable of being moved by road from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer),*

is not to be regarded as not being (or as not having been) a mobile home for the purposes of this Act by reason only that it cannot lawfully be moved on a highway when assembled.

(3) For the purposes of this Act “mobile home” does not include a structure designed or adapted for human habitation which falls within subsection (2)(a) and (b) if its dimensions when assembled exceed any of the following limits, namely:

- a. length (exclusive of any drawbar): 20 metres,*
- b. width: 6.8 metres, and*
- c. overall height of living accommodation (measured internally from the floor at the lowest level to the ceiling at the highest level): 3.05 metres.”*

1.27 A number of terms are used to define the pitches, sites and other locations used by Gypsies and Travellers. These are set out in Table 1.1, as defined in the Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (May 2015).

Table 1.1 Definitions of pitches, sites and other Gypsy and Traveller locations	
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>
Unauthorised encampment	<p>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.</p>
Unauthorised development	<p>Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.</p>

Source: *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, Welsh Government Guidance, May 2015

1.28 Terms used in the assessment of housing need relating to households, demand, supply and need are set out in Table 1.2. Likewise, for continuity and clarity, these are the same as those adopted in Welsh Government Guidance.

Table 1.2 Definitions of households, demand, supply and need	
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.
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 on private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.

Source: *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, Welsh Government Guidance, May 2015

2. Background and analysis of existing data

Previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment findings

- 2.1 A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) was undertaken by the University of Bangor on behalf of a consortium of five authorities in north Wales (Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Ynys Mon) and the Snowdonia National Park Authority. The study was managed by a steering group comprising of representatives of the local authorities, the University of Bangor and members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 2.2 Published in March 2013, the GTANA found that most Gypsies and Travellers in Wales are concentrated along the key transport routes. In the study area the following were identified: 78 authorised pitches; four caravans on unauthorised developments and 10 vehicles on a tolerated (unauthorised) encampment. The GTANA could not provide a reliable estimate of the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar in the study area, but the survey conducted identified a significant number, distributed between the local authorities. It states that these households occupy private rented, social rented and owner occupied bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 2.3 In terms of characteristics, the GTANA 2013 found that:
- 24% identified as Romany Gypsy, 58% as Travellers (of whom 34% were Irish Travellers), 17% as New Travellers and 1% as Travelling Showmen;
 - Mean household size was 4.37 persons and median size was four persons with a predominance of younger families. The survey did not contact any persons aged 65 or over; and
 - Most respondents described themselves as local to the area.
- 2.4 The study identified an overall shortfall of 62 pitches across the North Wales study area by 2016, as set out in Table 2.1 by authority area. A shortfall of 36 residential pitches was identified within Flintshire over the period 2011-16.

Authority	Current Provision	Total Additional Residential Pitch Requirement (2011-16)	Total Additional Transit Pitch Provision (2011-16)
Ynys Mon	0	11	28 (shared)
Conwy	0	3	
Denbighshire	0	2	
Flintshire	66	36	
Gwynedd	12	10	
Study Area	78	62	

Source: University of Bangor, March 2013

- 2.5 The study identified that there was no transit site located within the study area; part of the Gypsy and Traveller site at Llandegai (in Gwynedd) had previously been used as a transit site, but this was discontinued in 2005. The calculation of transit site requirements was based on encampment data across the study area. This found that, proportionately, around 37% of encampments in the study area are recorded in Flintshire local authority area. The GTANA suggested that the local authorities work together to consider three or four transit sites, each accommodating up to seven caravans. It was recommended that the authorities work jointly to identify appropriate sites for temporary accommodation, which may be transit sites (with full facilities for stays of up to three months) or temporary stopping places (with more restricted provision where stays may be limited to 28 days).
- 2.6 This GTAA report provides an up-to-date account of existing Gypsy and Traveller site provision in Flintshire. Set against a comprehensive assessment of Gypsy and Traveller need, Chapter 5 provides an updated calculation of pitch shortfall in the study area.

Population data

- 2.7 This section looks at the current picture in terms of the population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers across the study area before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the area.
- 2.8 Whilst it is recognised that some families may not identify themselves as Gypsies or Travellers in Censuses, in the 2011 Census¹, a total of 95 people were identified as having a 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' (WGoIT) ethnicity, living in 38 households in Flintshire (Table 2.2). This results in a rate of 0.623 per 1,000 people and 0.596 per 1,000 households.

	Total Population	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller proportion (rate per 1,000)
Flintshire			
Population	152,506	95	0.623
Households	63,781	38	0.596
Average household size (persons per household)	2.39	2.5	-

Source: 2011 Census

¹ Census 2011. Tables were commissioned by ONS to cover the ethnicity and several data sets were produced and made available on the ONS website on the 21st January 2014. See Tables CT0127 and CT0128. Main article: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census-analysis/what-does-the-2011-census-tell-us-about-the-characteristics-of-gypsy-or-irish-travellers-in-england-and-wales-/index.html>

- 2.9 In terms of household size, Table 2.2 compares WGoIT with the population as a whole. This indicates an average household size among WGoIT of 2.5 persons per household, slightly higher than the average for the whole population of Flintshire, at 2.4 persons per household.
- 2.10 Table 2.3 explores accommodation type information, as made available through the 2011 Census. Of the 38 Gypsy and Traveller households identified, 81.6% lived in bricks and mortar accommodation (30 in a house/bungalow and one in a flat/maisonette/apartment). 18.4% were living in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure.

Table 2.3 WGoIT households by accommodation type				
Flintshire	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Total WGoIT Households
Number	30	1	7	38
Percentage (%)	78.9	2.6	18.4	100%

Source: 2011 Census

- 2.11 In terms of tenure (Table 2.4), almost two-thirds (65.8%) of those identifying as WGoIT in the Census lived in owner occupied or shared ownership housing. This compares with 21.1% in social renting and 13.2% in private rented accommodation.

Table 2.4 WGoIT households by tenure				
Flintshire	Owned or shared ownership	Social rented	Private rented	Total WGoIT Households
Number	25	8	5	38
Percentage (%)	65.8	21.1	13.2	100%

Source: 2011 Census

- 2.12 Table 2.5 identifies the number of households by age group. This is derived from the Household Representative Person (HRP). Households aged under 35 account for 21.1% of all households with most households (60.5%) being in the 35 to 64 age bracket. 18.4% of households are aged 65+.

Table 2.5 WGoIT households by age group							
All Age Groups	Age 24 & under	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 to 74	Age 75 to 84	Age 85+
38	2	6	13	10	5	1	1

Source: Census 2011

Caravan Count

- 2.13 The Welsh Government publish a biannual report, the *Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count*. This includes information on authorised and unauthorised sites based on survey data collected by individual local authorities on a specified day twice per year.
- 2.14 A major criticism levelled at the caravan counts is the non-involvement of Gypsies and Travellers themselves. However, the counts are the only systematic and regular source of information on the number and distribution of Gypsy and Traveller caravans or trailers. The counts include caravans (or trailers) on and off authorised sites (i.e. those with planning permission) but do not relate necessarily to the actual number of pitches (i.e. capacity) on sites.
- 2.15 The most up-to-date information is from the January 2016 Caravan Count, based on data collected on 16 January 2016. This found²:
- There were 931 caravans on 108 sites across Wales.
 - Compared with the January 2015 count a year earlier, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans had decreased by 8.7% (89 caravans) and the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) had increased by 8% (8 sites).
 - Of total caravans, 84% (782 caravans) were on authorised sites. Of these, 580 (74%) were on local authority sites and 202 (26%) were on private sites.
 - There were 371 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by local authorities. Of these, 370 were residential pitches and 1 was a transit pitch. 99% of the residential pitches were occupied.
 - The total number of caravans on unauthorised sites was 15% (26 caravans) lower in the January 2016 count compared to the January 2015 count.
- 2.16 The figures for the last six caravan counts for Flintshire are set out in Tables 2.6 and 2.7. No data is available for the count that took place in January 2014, so the averages are based on five-count averages between July 2013 and January 2016.
- 2.17 Table 2.6 provides the results of the caravan count, including caravans and trailers on both authorised (social rented and private) and unauthorised sites. This shows an average of 87 caravans over the five counts. The majority of these are on authorised sites, with an average 37 caravans on social rented sites (42.4% of all caravans) and an average 47 caravans on private sites (54.6% of all caravans). In terms of caravans on unauthorised sites, these accounted for 3.0% of all caravans over the five counts. There were no caravans recorded on unauthorised Gypsy-owned sites until the July 2015 count, which identified four caravans on a tolerated site owned by Gypsies. Three caravans on a tolerated Gypsy-owned site were identified in January 2016. On sites that are unauthorised and not owned by Gypsies and Travellers, two caravans were recorded in three

² <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2015/150917-gypsy-traveller-caravan-count-july-2015-en.pdf>

out of the five counts, giving an average of 1.2 caravans over the five-count period.

Table 2.6 Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, July 2013 to July 2015							
Flintshire County	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised pitches without planning permission				Total
	Social Rented	Total Private	Gypsies own land		Land not owned by Gypsies		
			Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	
July 2013	26	47	0	0	0	2	75
January 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July 2014	45	53	0	0	0	0	98
January 2015	42	44	0	0	0	2	88
July 2015	37	44	4	0	0	2	87
January 2016	34	49	3	0	0	0	86
Five-Count Average	36.8	47.4	1.4	0	0	1.2	86.8
Five-Count % Average	42.4%	54.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	100.0%

Source: Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

2.18 Table 2.7 presents the results of the pitch count on sites provided by the local authority in Flintshire County over the same five-count period (excluding the January 2014 count). This shows an average of 20.2 occupied pitches on residential site(s) provided by the local authority. No vacant residential pitches are recorded during the four counts. Likewise, no transit pitches are identified, either occupied or vacant.

Table 2.7 Number of pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by local authorities, July 2013 to July 2015

Flintshire County	Residential		Transit		Total
	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	
July 2013	20	0	0	0	20
January 2014	-	-	-	-	-
July 2014	21	0	0	0	21
January 2015	20	0	0	0	20
July 2015	20	0	0	0	20
January 2016	20	0	0	0	20
Five-Count Average	20.2	0	0	0	20.2
Five-Count % Average	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

Notes: One pitch may include multiple caravans. Does not include authorised private sites.

- 2.19 It should be noted that there may be more than one caravan or trailer per pitch, and in the case of households doubling up on pitches there could be several caravans or trailers. For obvious reasons Gypsies and Travellers living on sites may not be present on the days on which the counts are conducted.

Current accommodation provision

- 2.20 Data on the current provision of sites considers both authorised and unauthorised sites across Flintshire.
- 2.21 The detailed definitions of terms used to describe Gypsy and Traveller sites are set out in Chapter 1. Broadly speaking, authorised sites are those with planning permission and can be on either public or privately owned land. Authorised sites include the following:
- **residential sites**, which are permanent;
 - **temporary residential sites**, which have planning permission or a licence for only a limited time period;
 - **transit sites**, which have permanent facilities but are designed for short-term use; and
 - **temporary stopping places**, which are designated by the local authority to meet short-term needs.
- 2.22 Unauthorised sites include **unauthorised encampments**, whereby Gypsies and Travellers occupy land without the owner's permission and/or without planning permission, and **unauthorised developments**, where sites are occupied by the owner but without planning permission.

2.23 Council data on current Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Flintshire is set out in Table 2.8 and summarised in Table 2.9. This shows that there are a total of 68 pitches in Flintshire, of which:

- 20 pitches are on a residential (permanent authorised) Council-owned site;
- 26 pitches are occupied on residential (permanent authorised) private sites; a further 7 are under development and 3 are vacant;
- 7 pitches are on a temporary residential private site; and
- 5 pitches are on unauthorised sites.

2.24 In summary, there are 46 occupied authorised pitches, 3 vacant authorised pitches, 7 authorised pitches under development, 7 pitches on a temporary residential site and 5 pitches on unauthorised sites.

Table 2.8 Current Gypsy & Traveller pitches on sites in Flintshire				
Site	Tenure	No. pitches available	No. pitches occupied	Comments
Riverside, Queensferry	Local Authority Site	20	20	-
Corbetts/Lyons Yard, Sandycroft	Private Site	5	5	Originally 22 pitches but site being closed for redevelopment. Five pitches occupied.
Mitford Caravan Site, Mounds, Gwespyr	Private Site	14	14	-
Gwern Lane, Hope	Private Site	4	1	3 pitches are currently vacant and there are no personal permission conditions
Ewloe Barn Wood, Magazine Lane, Ewloe	Private Site	5	0	Planning permission granted 10 April 2014. Site under development.
Huntley Yard, Chester Road	Private Site	6	6	Planning permission granted 23 April 2014.
1 Old Paper Mill Lane, Oakenholt, Flint	Private Site	2	0	App 053290 permitted at appeal 8 October 2015 for 2 residential gypsy/traveller pitches to include 2 static caravans and 2 touring caravans with parking for 2 vehicles to each pitch. Site under development.
Dollar Park, Bagillt Road, Holywell	Private Site (Temporary)	7	7	Planning App. 053163 for the continuation of use of land as residential site accommodation 9 families on 7 pitches with a total of 13 caravans (no more than 7 static caravans) was granted temporary permission for five years on 7 April 2016. This site therefore remains a temporary residential site.
Dundas Sidings, Factory Road, Sandycroft, Deeside	Private Site (Unauthorised)	3	3	Planning application pending (051208) for change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation with associated hard standing, fencing and 2 shared utility blocks and septic tank (retrospective).
Sister's Yard, Station Road, Sandycroft	Private Site (Unauthorised)	1	1	Planning application pending (054442) for Use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes, together with the formation of hardstanding and utility/dayrooms.
Land at Bron Eifion, Ffynnongroyw, Tanlan	Private Site (Unauthorised)	1	1	App 052754 for change of use of land to a gypsy and traveller caravan site, siting of 4 static caravans, 4 touring caravans, amenity building alteration of existing vehicular access, formation of parking area. Application refused 27 May 2015.

Total Pitches	-	68	58	3 pitches are vacant and 7 pitches are under development.
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Source: Flintshire County Council 2016, fieldwork survey 2016

Table 2.9 Summary of Gypsy & Traveller pitches on sites in Flintshire				
Type of Site	No. Sites	No. Available Pitches	No. Occupied Pitches	No. Vacant Pitches
Local Authority residential (authorised permanent)	1	20	20	0
Private residential (authorised permanent)	6	36 (of which 7 pitches are under development)	26	3
Private temporary residential	1	7	7	0
Private unauthorised	3	5	5	0
Total	11	68	58	3*

Source: Flintshire County Council 2016, fieldwork survey 2016

3. Methodology

Project steering group composition

- 3.1 A steering group to oversee the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was set up, as recommended in the Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (May 2015).
- 3.2 This steering group included representatives from the following: (para. 56)
- Flintshire County Council Housing and Planning Departments,
 - Other relevant services including Traveller education services, Gypsy and Traveller liaison officers.
- 3.3 The steering group fulfilled the following responsibilities, as advised in Government Guidance³:
- Recommending the survey area – the steering group decided that the GTAA should include Flintshire County;
 - Design the study aims and outcomes – as set out in Chapter 1 of this report;
 - Appoint the researchers – the steering group appointed arc⁴ to undertake the GTAA, with primary data collection to be conducted by Home Space Sustainable Accommodation (HSSA) who are themselves members of the Gypsy and Traveller community;
 - Publicising the study to stakeholders – the engagement of key stakeholders in an online consultation was led by the steering group;
 - Providing local knowledge to the researchers – through a series of formal meetings and ongoing communication, the steering group provided both arc⁴ and HSSA with local information to assist in the research;
 - Providing feedback to consultation participants and stakeholders and ensuring results are taken seriously and acted upon – the steering group will ensure that the draft and finalised assessment findings are reported to relevant parties.

Study methodology

- 3.4 In order to deliver the requirements of Government Guidance, the methodology for this study has comprised three main components⁴:
- An analysis of existing data sources;
 - Conducting a specialist survey; and
 - Assessing accommodation needs.

³ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 62

⁴ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 84

- 3.5 In addition, the steering group decided to undertake a survey of key stakeholders, to obtain their views and opinions on a range of matters relating to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Flintshire County. This key stakeholder survey is therefore also included within the study methodology, which is set out below.

Analysis of existing data sources

- 3.6 This phase comprised a review of available desktop information, including legislative background and best practice guidance and available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers.
- 3.7 Relevant Welsh, regional and local information has been collected, collated and reviewed, including information on:
- The legislative and policy context;
 - Current policies towards Gypsies and Travellers in the County (drawn from Local Authority policy documents, planning documents, housing strategy, etc); and
 - Previous assessments or studies into the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
- 3.8 Existing secondary data sources that have been used in the preparation of this GTAA include the following:
- 2011 Census;
 - Caravan Count;
 - Local authority planning records – including planning applications submitted, approved and refused;
 - Other relevant local authority data and local knowledge.
- 3.9 This secondary data is useful in providing a baseline picture of the Gypsy and Traveller population and accommodation provision in an area. In the case of Flintshire County, this has been set out in Chapter 2 of this GTAA report. However, there is general acknowledgement that many Gypsies and Travellers may not identify as such in surveys such as the National Census. Similarly, the bi-annual Caravan Count is only a snapshot and would exclude Gypsies and Travellers who are travelling or not present on the day of the Count. Existing secondary data is therefore not considered sufficient to provide a comprehensive or detailed assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.

Key stakeholder survey

- 3.10 The steering group membership included some of the key stakeholders involved in the ongoing monitoring and assessment of Gypsy and Traveller activity in Flintshire County. However, in order to provide an opportunity for the wider engagement of those who have direct contact with and knowledge of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the area, the steering group decided to undertake a formal survey of key stakeholders.

- 3.11 The survey was conducted by means of an online questionnaire, the content of which was designed by arc⁴ and discussed and approved by the steering group. The survey questions and the responses received are included at Appendix A.
- 3.12 The feedback received from key stakeholders via the online consultation has been analysed and the findings are set out in Chapter 4.

Conducting a specialist survey

- 3.13 As set out in the Government Guidance⁵, an in-depth census or primary data survey is required to properly assess the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities, due to their small population size and particular accommodation needs. In order to comply with the Government Guidance, and ensure a robust assessment of needs, this GTAA has included a range of primary data collection, in addition to a review of the available existing data.
- 3.14 The Government Guidance requires local authorities to ensure that the various communities within the scope of the definition of Gypsies and Travellers are included within the assessment. The Guidance states that this may include, but is not limited to, Romany/Romani Gypsies, Irish Traveller, New Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. It must also include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers on authorised sites, unauthorised sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation⁶.
- 3.15 In addition, the Guidance states that:
- “Local Authorities will need to identify known Gypsies and Travellers in their area and seek to survey each household’s accommodation needs. It is crucial those undertaking the assessment endeavour to include all known Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to the area to ensure the assessment is seen as legitimate by all and provides the most accurate assessment of unmet need.”* (paragraph 90)
- 3.16 The emphasis of the Guidance is therefore on seeking to include all Gypsy and Traveller households in the survey, from every ethnic background and every type of home. Whilst acknowledging that some household representatives may not wish to be included in the survey, the steering group recognised the need for an inclusive approach and set the objective of contacting every known Gypsy and Traveller household in the Flintshire County area.
- 3.17 The steering group were conscious of the cultural sensitivities that surround the undertaking of surveys of Gypsy and Traveller sites, as also acknowledged in Government Guidance⁷. They therefore decided to have the site census and household survey fieldwork undertaken by trained personnel who are familiar with working among the Gypsy and Traveller community. The primary data collection was undertaken by fieldworkers, managed and monitored by arc⁴ staff and overseen by the steering group. Using fieldworkers to conduct the census and survey research helps to secure a good response rate, ultimately delivering a more comprehensive assessment of need.

⁵ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 20-22

⁶ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 23-24

⁷ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 108-113

- 3.18 The fieldworkers adopted a research strategy to directly engage as many members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Flintshire as possible through:
- Liaison with key stakeholders and support organisations;
 - A census of sites reviewing total number of pitches, number of pitches occupied and vacant, number of caravans and total number of households; and
 - Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers on authorised sites, unauthorised sites and living in bricks and mortar accommodation, using the questionnaire recommended in Government Guidance⁸ and included at Appendix B of this report.
- 3.19 The overarching aims of the fieldwork were:
- 1) to confirm information on current pitch provision and activity across the study area through site census; and
 - 2) to maximise the number of interviews secured from Gypsy and Traveller households across Flintshire. Consulting with stakeholders ensured that the fieldwork team had a good understanding of the local issues facing Gypsies and Travellers and helped to maximise the community's participation in the study.
- 3.20 The 2011 Census found that around 76% of Gypsies and Travellers reside in bricks and mortar accommodation but local housing records are unlikely to identify who or where they are⁹. This creates a significant challenge in seeking to conduct primary research amongst the entire Gypsy and Traveller population of an area. The need for local knowledge and information relating to the Gypsy and Traveller community living within bricks and mortar accommodation is therefore obvious. This was carefully considered by the fieldwork team in their background research, survey preparation and undertaking of fieldwork.
- 3.21 The fieldworkers were very aware that the cultural needs of Gypsies and Travellers differ from those of the rest of the population and consideration of culturally specific requirements – such as the need for additional permanent caravan sites and/or transit sites and/or stopping places (or improvements to existing sites) – are key to this study. The research has therefore explicitly sought information and views from Gypsies and Travellers from across the study area living in different types of accommodation.
- 3.22 Another factor that the researchers were aware of during site censuses and interview surveys was the potential presence of concealed or 'doubled up' households on Gypsy and Traveller sites. This occurs where more than one household is sharing a pitch. However, it is not always clear from the number of mobile homes, caravans or trailers present. The census of one particular site can therefore realistically find that the number of pitches, the number of caravans and the number of households are all different.
- 3.23 Site census and household surveys were carried out over the period October 2015 to March 2016. As recommended in Government Guidance¹⁰, the research

⁸ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, Annex 2

⁹ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 86

¹⁰ Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 97

team kept a log of appointments and interviews conducted with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. This includes a record of when community members have declined to participate in the interview survey and, if relevant, reasons for non-participation¹¹.

3.24 The Government Guidance sets out an ‘engagement checklist’ for local authorities to follow to ensure that they reach as many households as possible through the GTAA process. It states that Welsh Ministers will check compliance with the checklist when assessing whether to approve the submitted report. The engagement checklist is set out in Table 3.1, including comments relating to the actions taken by the fieldwork team conducting this GTAA study in Flintshire.

Table 3.1 Engagement Checklist		Action taken in Flintshire
1.	Visit every Gypsy and Traveller household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.	✓
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.	✓ (achieved through direct conversations with Gypsies and Travellers)
3.	Consult relevant community support organisations, such as those in Annex 1.	✓
4.	Develop a Local Authority waiting list for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members.	✓ (Gypsies and Travellers can apply via the Housing Waiting List for Bricks and Mortar and the development of a pitch waiting list is a key action arising from this assessment)
5.	Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA project steering group.	✓
6.	Ensure contact details provided to the Local Authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed.	✓
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.	✓(was considered but information on the study was discussed with community members during fieldwork)

Source: Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, Table 2 – Engagement Checklist (page 23)

¹¹ From all the bricks & Mortar households identified no refusals took place.

Assessing accommodation needs

- 3.25 The assessment of pitch requirements has been calculated by utilising information on the current supply of pitches and the results from the key stakeholder and household surveys.
- 3.26 A detailed explanation of the analysis of pitch requirements is contained in Chapter 5 but briefly comprises analysis of the following elements:
- Current pitch provision, households living in bricks and mortar accommodation; households planning to move in the next five years, and emerging households to give total demand for pitches and plots; and
 - Turnover on existing pitches and total supply.
- 3.27 The approach used then reconciles the demand and supply data to identify overall pitch requirements.
- 3.28 To identify the need for transit provision, data on unauthorised encampment activity has been collated and analysed, the results of this analysis are assessed alongside other contextual information to identify an appropriate target for transit provision in Flintshire County.

4. Survey findings

Household interviews

- 4.1 Household surveys were initially carried out over the period October to November 2015. A further phase of interviews to verify the completed surveys was carried out in March 2016. As recommended in Government Guidance¹², the research team kept a log of appointments and interviews conducted with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. This includes a record of when community members have declined to participate in the interview survey and, if relevant, reasons for non-participation.
- 4.2 A total of 82 interviews were secured through the household survey fieldwork. Table 4.1 shows a breakdown by the type of site or accommodation, based on the findings of Question A1 of the questionnaire. 49 interviews were secured on residential (authorised) permanent sites, 8 on temporary (authorised) sites and five on sites currently without planning permission. 20 interviews were undertaken with Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation; of these one was in social rented (affordable) accommodation, 9 in private rented accommodation and 10 in owner occupied housing.

Table 4.1 Household interviews secured during fieldwork		
Type of site or accommodation	Number of interviews undertaken	Percentage of response
Council sites:		
Authorised residential (permanent) site	26	32%
Transit site	0	0%
Private sites:		
Authorised residential (permanent) sites	23	28%
Authorised temporary residential sites	8	10%
Unauthorised site	5	6%
Bricks and Mortar:		
Social rented	1	1%
Private rented	9	11%
Owner occupied	10	12%
Total Interviews	82	100%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016. Note 8 interview were achieved on the 7 pitch site at Dollar Park as two families were sharing a large pitch (but this was not doubling up)

¹² Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, para. 97

4.3 Table 4.2 sets out the ethnicity of those who responded to the household survey, based on the findings of Section B of the questionnaire. Based on 79 responses and the self-ascribed ethnicity of the respondent themselves (rather than the rest of the household). 51% identified as Gypsy, 25% as Irish Traveller, 9% as Romany/Romani, 6% as Traveller, 5% as English Traveller, 1% as Showperson, 1% as Other (Polish) and 1% said “not really a traveller”.

Table 4.2 Self-ascribed ethnicity of respondent					
Self-ascribed ethnicity		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	79	19	26	34
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
English Traveller	Count	4		1	3
	Col %	5%		4%	9%
Gypsy	Count	40	14	5	21
	Col %	51%	74%	19%	62%
Irish Traveller	Count	20	2	15	3
	Col %	25%	11%	58%	9%
Not really a traveller	Count	1		1	
	Col %	1%		4%	
Other - Polish	Count	1			1
	Col %	1%			3%
Romani	Count	1			1
	Col %	1%			3%
Romany	Count	6		3	3
	Col %	8%		12%	9%
Showperson	Count	1	1		
	Col %	1%	5%		
Traveller	Count	5	2	1	2
	Col %	6%	11%	4%	6%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

Demographic profile of population

4.4 The household survey asked respondents for some basic demographic information relating to themselves and the other people within their household, up to a maximum of 12 persons. This included their relationship to the respondent, age, gender, self-ascribed ethnicity and any reasons why they could not continue to live in their accommodation (Section B).

- 4.5 Table 4.3 shows the size of households, as identified by the age information in Section B of the household survey. The maximum number of people identified within any single household was five. The majority of households included two (26%) or three (32%) persons.
- 4.6 Using this information, the 82 households surveyed included a total of 240 people, giving an average household size of 2.93 persons.

Table 4.3 Size of households					
Number of persons in household		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	82	20	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
One	Count	11	1	2	8
	Col %	13%	5%	8%	22%
Two	Count	21	9	6	6
	Col %	26%	45%	23%	17%
Three	Count	26	6	7	13
	Col %	32%	30%	27%	36%
Four	Count	11	3	5	3
	Col %	13%	15%	19%	8%
Five	Count	13	1	6	6
	Col %	16%	5%	23%	17%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

- 4.7 Table 4.4 sets out the age profile of the respondents (from the base of 82). 21% of respondents were aged 17-25 years; 50% were aged 25-39 years; 23% were aged 40-64 years; and 6% were aged 65 years or more. The information shows some variation between different types of accommodation, with the vast majority (69%) of respondents from pitches on the Council site being aged 25-39 years. Respondents living in bricks and mortar had the highest proportion of younger respondents, with 35% aged 17-24 years.

Table 4.4 Age of respondents					
Age of respondent		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	82	20	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
0-16	Count	0	0	0	0
	Col %	0%	0%	0%	0%
17-24	Count	17	7	3	7
	Col %	21%	35%	12%	19%
25-39	Count	41	7	18	16
	Col %	50%	35%	69%	44%
40-54	Count	14	5	1	8
	Col %	0%	25%	4%	22%
55-64	Count	5	1	2	2
	Col %	6%	5%	8%	6%
65-74	Count	4	0	2	2
	Col %	5%	0%	8%	6%
75+	Count	1	0	0	1
	Col %	1%	0%	0%	3%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.8 Information provided through the household survey relating to gender suggests an even split of 50% female and 50% male from the total of 82 respondents. This data is set out in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Gender of respondents					
Gender of respondent		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	82	20	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Female	Count	41	12	14	15
	Col %	50%	60%	54%	42%
Male	Count	41	8	12	21
	Col %	50%	40%	46%	58%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

Suitability of current accommodation

4.9 The household survey asked respondents whether they were satisfied with their current accommodation. The findings are set out in Table 4.6. This shows that 95% of respondents are satisfied with their current housing and 2% are not satisfied (2% preferred not to say). None of the respondents in bricks and mortar or living on a pitch on the Council site reported that they are not satisfied with their accommodation (one respondent from each said that they would prefer not to say). However, two respondents (6%) from pitches on private sites said that they were not satisfied with the accommodation.

Table 4.6 Satisfaction with current accommodation					
Are you satisfied with your current accommodation?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	81	19	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	77	18	25	34
	Col %	95%	95%	96%	94%
No	Count	2			2
	Col %	2%			6%
Prefer not to say	Count	2	1	1	
	Col %	2%	5%	4%	

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

- 4.10 The household survey gave respondents the opportunity to explain what could be improved about their current accommodation, if they said that they were not satisfied. Two explanations were given; one said that they needed more mobiles on the site and one said that there were no amenities and bad facilities (kitchen and toilet).
- 4.11 Table 4.7 illustrates the reasons respondents gave for why they live in their present home. The majority of respondents (73%) said that they live in their current accommodation because of local connections, either family or work-related. This rose to a high of 89% for those in bricks and mortar accommodation, compared with 65% and 69% for those living on pitches on Council and private sites (respectively). 15% of all respondents said that they live in their current accommodation because no alternative authorised pitch was available. This rose to 23% of those living on a pitch on a private site.

Table 4.7 Reasons for living in current accommodation					
Why do you live here?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	80	19	26	35
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Local connections (family or work)	Count	58	17	17	24
	Col %	73%	89%	65%	69%
No alternative authorised pitch	Count	12		4	8
	Col %	15%		15%	23%
Can't find a house to move into	Count	1		1	
	Col %	1%		4%	
Health or age reasons	Count	1			1
	Col %	1%			3%
Prefer houses to caravans	Count	1	1		
	Col %	1%	5%		
Other	Count	7	1	4	2
	Col %	9%	5%	15%	6%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.12 The survey asked respondents how long they have lived in their current accommodation. Overall, 82% of respondents have lived in their current home for less than five years. 27% of those living on a pitch on the Council site have lived there for more than five years; this compares with 14% on a pitch on a private site and 15% in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Table 4.8 Duration of residence in current accommodation					
How long have you lived here?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	82	20	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Under 6 months	Count	8	1	2	5
	Col %	10%	5%	8%	14%
7-12 months	Count	24	6	6	12
	Col %	29%	30%	23%	33%
1-2 years	Count	25	7	6	12
	Col %	30%	35%	23%	33%
2-5 years	Count	10	3	5	2
	Col %	12%	15%	19%	6%
Over 5 years	Count	15	3	7	5
	Col %	18%	15%	27%	14%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.13 The household survey asked respondents whether, in the case that they have moved in the last year, their last home was in this Local Authority, namely Flintshire. As shown in Table 4.9, 23 people responded to this question. Of these respondents, 87% said that their last home was within Flintshire.

Table 4.9 Location of previous home (Flintshire or another local authority area)					
If you moved in the last year, was your previous home in this Local Authority?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	23	4	6	13
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	20	3	4	13
	Col %	87%	75%	67%	100%
No	Count	3	1	2	
	Col %	13%	25%	33%	

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.14 Key reasons for moving within the past year included to be closer to family (33% of respondents) and in order to obtain a permanent pitch (17%).

4.15 The household survey asked respondents how long they thought they would stay in their current accommodation and the findings are set out in Table 4.10. Overall, just under a third (28%) of respondents expect to move within the next five years. This varies, however, from 5% of respondents living in bricks and mortar, 32% of those living on a Council site and 38% of those living on a private site. 10% of all respondents expect to live in their current home for over five years. A further 33% do not intend to move; this varies from 28% of those living on the Council site, 30% living in bricks and mortar and 38% living on a private site. 29% of all respondents said that they do not know.

Table 4.10 Planned future duration of residence in current accommodation					
How long do you think you will live here?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	82	20	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
1-3 months	Count	3			3
	Col %	4%			9%
3 months - 2 years	Count	13	1	3	9
	Col %	16%	5%	12%	26%
2-5 years	Count	6		5	1
	Col %	8%		20%	3%
Over 5 years	Count	8		6	2
	Col %	10%		24%	6%
Do not intend to move	Count	26	6	7	13
	Col %	33%	30%	28%	38%
Don't know	Count	23	13	4	6
	Col %	29%	65%	16%	18%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.16 The respondents were asked if they would stay longer in their current accommodation if changes or improvements were made. Of 33 responses to this question, 58% of all respondents said that the site needs to be made bigger and 15% said that repairs were needed.

4.17 The household survey asked whether, if respondents were living in caravans, they have enough sleeping areas for all residents. 98% of respondents said yes. One respondent (living on a pitch on a private site) said no. Respondents were also asked if there is room on their pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding. The findings are set out in Table 4.11. This shows that 56% of respondents have space for additional trailers, including 70% of those living on a private site and 41% of those living on the Council-owned site.

Is there room on the pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	50	1	22	27
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	28		9	19
	Col %	56%		41%	70%
No	Count	22	1	13	8
	Col %	44%	100%	59%	30%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

- 4.18 The questionnaire included a question asking respondents whether anyone in their family would like to join the Local Authority waiting list for either pitches or housing. Of a total of 79 responses, three people indicated yes. When further analysis was undertaken none of these three people were intending to move within the 5 year period¹³.

Accommodation aspirations

- 4.19 Section C of the questionnaire asked about household accommodation aspirations and plans.
- 4.20 When asked whether they were planning to move into other accommodation, 90% of all respondents said no (Table 4.12). A total of three respondents (4%) said yes, of whom one lived on a pitch on the Council site and two lived on pitches on private sites. Five respondents (6%) preferred not to say.

Are you planning to move into other accommodation?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	82	20	26	36
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	3		1	2
	Col %	4%		4%	6%
No	Count	74	18	24	32
	Col %	90%	90%	92%	89%
Prefer not to say	Count	5	2	1	2

¹³ People identified at 4.18 have been included in the calculations made for table 5.1

	Col %	6%	10%	4%	6%
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Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.21 Some additional questions explored the plans of the three respondents who were planning to move, and found that:

- In terms of location, all three plan to move within the Local Authority area;
- Regarding their reason for planning to move, one indicated that they need different facilities; the other two specified ‘other’ reasons but did not provide details;
- In relation to the type of accommodation they plan to move to, one respondent from a pitch on a private site said that they plan to move to another private site (not owned by themselves); the other two respondents (one from a private site and one from the Council site) said that they plan to move into socially rented bricks and mortar accommodation;
- None of the three respondents own land in the Local Authority area which they would like to be considered as a possible future site;
- Only the two respondents living on pitches on private sites responded to the question asking whether, if looking for an authorised site, they would live on a site managed by the Local Authority if it was offered. One said yes and the other said no; and
- Only one respondent (from a pitch on a private site) answered the question asking whether, if an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority they would consider moving there. The respondent said no.

Household growth

4.22 Section D of the household questionnaire asked respondents about family growth and needs arising, to help the Local Authority to understand future demand for residential accommodation arising from existing households.

4.23 When asked whether anyone in the household is likely to want to move to a home of their own in the next five years, 84% of respondents said no, 9% said they didn’t know and 7% said yes (Table 4.13). Of the six respondents who said yes, one lives in bricks and mortar accommodation, three live on pitches on the Council site and two live on pitches on private sites.

Table 4.13 New household formation within the next five years					
Is anyone in your household likely to want to move into their own home in the next five years?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	81	20	26	35
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	6	1	3	2
	Col %	7%	5%	12%	6%
No	Count	68	16	21	31
	Col %	84%	80%	81%	89%
Don't know	Count	7	3	2	2
	Col %	9%	15%	8%	6%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

4.24 When asked whether this would be in this Local Authority, one said no, two preferred not to say and three respondents (one from bricks and mortar and two from the Council site) said yes. Some further information was obtained from the three respondents who indicated that newly-forming households would be arising and seeking accommodation with the Flintshire Local Authority area:

- A total of four newly-forming households were identified (two from one bricks and mortar household and two from two households living on pitches on the Council site);
- In terms of the size of the households, one comprised one-person, two included two people and one included four people;
- Table 4.14 sets out the information provided relating to the type of accommodation required by newly-forming households. Both newly-forming households emerging from an existing bricks and mortar household will require either a site or a house. Of the two newly-forming households emerging from two separate households living on pitches on the Council site, one said a mobile on a private site will be needed and the other said a static will be needed; and
- Table 4.15 sets out the timings of the new household formation. One will form within a year; two will form in one to two years; and one will form in two to five years.

Table 4.14 Type of accommodation required by newly-forming households					
Type of accommodation needed?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	4	2	2	
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	
Private Site Mobile	Count	1		1	
	Col %	25%		50%	
Site or House	Count	2	2		
	Col %	50%	100%		
Static	Count	1		1	
	Col %	25%		50%	

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

Note: 3 respondents indicated the formation of 4 new households within Flintshire in the next 5 years so a base of 4 is used in this Table

Table 4.15 Timing of new household formation					
When will new accommodation be needed?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	4	2	2	
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	
Within a year	Count	1		1	
	Col %	25%		50%	
1-2 years	Count	2	1	1	
	Col %	50%	50%	50%	
2-5 years	Count	1	1		
	Col %	25%	50%		

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

Note: 3 respondents indicated the formation of 4 new households within Flintshire in the next 5 years so a base of 4 is used in this Table

4.25 All respondents to the household survey were asked if they have family members living outside of the area who camp in Flintshire regularly. The findings are set out in Table 4.16. From a base of 81 responses, 53% said no, 11% said yes, 30% didn't know and 6% preferred not to say. Of the 11% (9 respondents) who said yes, this included four respondents from pitches on the Council site and five from pitches on private sites.

Do you have family members from outside Flintshire who camp here regularly?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	81	20	26	35
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	9		4	5
	Col %	11%		15%	14%
No	Count	43	11	13	19
	Col %	53%	55%	50%	54%
Don't know	Count	24	9	7	8
	Col %	30%	45%	27%	23%
Prefer not to say	Count	5		2	3
	Col %	6%		8%	9%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

Transit site need

4.26 The household survey asked whether respondents have camped by the roadside, on an unauthorised encampment or on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year. The findings are set out in Table 4.17. This shows that a total of four respondents (5%) said yes.

Have you camped by a roadside, unauthorised encampment or on a transit site in the last year?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	81	20	26	35
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	4		2	2
	Col %	5%		8%	6%
No	Count	76	19	24	33
	Col %	94%	95%	92%	94%
Don't know	Count	1	1		
	Col %	1%	5%		

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

- 4.27 In terms of which local authority areas respondents have camped in, two respondents said “on the way to the Royal Welsh” or other Christian missions. Two respondents mentioned the UK or Wales and England as a whole and did not provide specific locations. One said that they travel to a “different place in the Summer” and one stated “up North - Newcastle area”.
- 4.28 When asked how long they would usually stay in one place whilst travelling, a range of responses were given as shown in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18 Duration of camping

How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	7	3	2	2
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
1-2 days	Count	2		1	1
	Col %	29%		50%	50%
3 days - 1 week	Count	2		1	1
	Col %	29%		50%	50%
1-2 weeks	Count	1	1		
	Col %	14%	33%		
2 weeks - 1 month	Count	2	2		
	Col %	29%	67%		

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

- 4.29 The questionnaire asked all respondents whether they considered there to be a need for more transit sites in Wales. The findings are set out in Table 4.19. From a base of 80 respondents, 56% said yes, 30% said no and 14% preferred not to say.
- 4.30 Interviews were attempted with Travellers camping on unauthorised encampments during the study period but all those questioned declined to take part in the survey. These attempts are listed within the interview logs. However we have included at appendix C a list of unauthorised encampments for both the period of the study and also for a significant period in the lead up to the study.

Table 4.19 Need for more transit sites in Wales					
Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?		Accommodation type			
		TOTAL	Bricks and Mortar	Pitch on Council Site	Pitch on Private Site
TOTAL	Count	80	19	26	35
	Col %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	Count	45	13	13	19
	Col %	56%	68%	50%	54%
No	Count	24	5	8	11
	Col %	30%	26%	31%	31%
Prefer not to say	Count	11	1	5	5
	Col %	14%	5%	19%	14%

Source: Survey fieldwork response data, 2016

Stakeholder survey

4.31 Stakeholders were invited to participate in a survey aimed at identifying a range of information, including establishing the key perceived issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller and Showpeople community within Flintshire, and ways in which these need to be addressed. Stakeholders were asked to respond to any of the questions within the survey. A total of 11 separate responses to the stakeholder consultation were obtained from a range of representatives from local authorities, health and community organisations. Respondents were asked to answer only the questions that they felt were relevant to their knowledge and experience. This is a qualitative summary of the views expressed by stakeholders responding to the online survey.

Support for Gypsies and Travellers

4.32 Generally, respondents felt that there was insufficient understanding of the education, employment, health and support needs of Gypsies, travellers and Travelling Showpeople within the study area. A number of respondents felt that more could be done to address this, such as training and awareness-raising to tackle prejudice and provide information about Travelling communities.

4.33 Equally, respondents felt that the health, education, accommodation and support needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople were difficult to monitor and therefore most felt that these are unlikely to be accurately monitored. One respondent questioned whether there are resources available to resource increased monitoring.

4.34 Two respondents indicated that, in their opinion, additional support is required to assist Travellers within the study area. Again, issues around resourcing any new provision were identified.

- 4.35 Despite this, one stakeholder highlighted that if services are engaging with travellers, have an understanding of their needs and are providing services to support these needs, no additional support should be required.
- 4.36 The majority of respondents did not think that there was an adequate awareness of the cultural, support and accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area. Respondents suggested that elected members; decision makers and the wider community hold the lowest awareness of needs.
- 4.37 A range of suggestions were made to address this.
- Gypsy and Traveller awareness training should be compulsory training for employees in the public sector who work with members of the public and should be part of any professional training such as Housing Officers, Social Worker;
 - Positive messages from the statutory leads in local government to media and communities to ensure that there is inclusion and positive messages regarding the community and their needs set in the local context; and
 - Assessing the need for a community support service that is separate to the local authority with sufficient funding to make a difference to engagement.
- 4.38 Responses indicate some action undertaken to raise awareness of the cultural, support and accommodation requirements of Travellers in the study area. This is being done in the form of events, workshops and training. Yet, one respondent stated that due to budget constraints work with Gypsies and Travellers has not been a priority.

Provision of accommodation

- 4.39 Stakeholders were asked to respond to a series of questions relating to the need for new pitch provision (both permanent and transit), existing pitch provision, households living in bricks and mortar accommodation, and unauthorised encampment activity.
- 4.40 Only one respondent felt that there was sufficient provision of permanent pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area. Three respondents felt that there was insufficient provision.
- 4.41 In terms of locations for new provision, the following points were made by respondents:
- Sites should be located a reasonable distance from education, health and shopping facilities;
 - New sites should consider the views of community members;
 - Sites should be located not too close to existing sites but in similar areas;
 - Meeting the needs of local Gypsies and Travellers should be a priority; and
 - Understanding views of where Gypsies and Travellers would want sites is very important.

- 4.42 A number of respondents identified that opposition from the settled community to the provision of new sites will be an issue.
- 4.43 Respondents identified the following barriers to new provision:
- Lack of political will;
 - Misconceptions about Gypsy and Travellers' way of life from the settled community;
 - Community opposition and intolerance (entrenched and inaccurate views of Gypsies and Travellers from the settled community) and;
 - Negative publicity/press coverage, especially in relation to unauthorised encampments.
- 4.44 Five respondents felt that transit provision was needed in the study area; no respondent felt that it was not needed, although some were unsure. The main view was that transit sites are needed across North Wales, as it is a stopping off point for many Travellers, and there are consistent reports of unauthorised encampments.
- 4.45 The locations highlighted by respondents for unauthorised encampments were Greenfield, Holywell and Deeside.
- 4.46 Other respondents felt that there was religious significance of several sites in Flintshire for Irish Travellers especially, e.g. the religious significance of Holywell/St Winefride's Well. Thus, they believe that there is a need to provide transit provision in order to facilitate attendance, without disrupting traffic and the local community. The local community and where they are traditionally stopping will highlight the other significant areas that may require transit provision. They went on to add that traditionally, where there is already a permanent site located, transit provision supports family, social and religious connections and cuts down on impacts to positive community cohesion.
- 4.47 The majority of respondents felt that there were barriers to the provision of transit accommodation within the study area. Barriers identified were similar to those for permanent provision and include:
- Lack of positive messages around the travelling community;
 - A fear that transit sites will become permanent stopping places; and
 - Intolerance and prejudice of settled community.
- 4.48 Respondents had limited direct experience of existing Gypsy and Traveller sites in the study area. One respondent noted that they felt that the sites they were aware of complied with requirements. Another respondent felt that management of these sites needed to be more robust and that sites should be managed on a basis that is more consistent with other forms of social housing.
- 4.49 Tensions between Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community were identified by a number of respondents. Problems between Irish Travellers and Gypsies were also identified, including historical tensions and family disputes.
- 4.50 Respondents identified that there are Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation in the study area. A lack of available temporary sites was

highlighted as the main reason bricks and mortar accommodation was being used.

- 4.51 Stakeholders were asked whether additional pitches should be made available for Travelling families living in bricks and mortar accommodation. A number of respondents felt that this was for the fieldwork survey to inform, and that only those Travellers living in bricks and mortar will know the answer. One respondent felt that there is a need for more pitches due to an aspirational cultural amongst this demographic and a need to be resident on a Travellers site. This is due to people still wishing to adhere to their traditional cultural norms of trailer/caravan dwelling and so that their children do not lose out on their nomadic culture and heritage/traditions.
- 4.52 The majority of respondents did not know whether there was sufficient support available to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in settled accommodation in the study area to help them manage their housing effectively. One respondent noted: *“families we have worked with we initially signposted to local agencies but they came back for continued support...”*. They went on to add that they believe this is due to a lack of understanding about the needs and requirements of the Travelling community from support groups and services.
- 4.53 The majority of respondents did not know whether Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel safe in bricks and mortar accommodation in the study area. One respondent identified that *“no hate crime had been reported”* in the study area whilst another felt that some feel isolated in bricks and mortar accommodation which *“can often lead to issues with mental health”*.

Unauthorised encampments

- 4.54 Respondents did not feel that unauthorised encampments were problematic for their organisations.
- 4.55 A number of respondents identified how unauthorised encampments raise negative issues, generate prejudice and reinforce stereotyped perceptions of Gypsies and Travellers. These negative experiences then impact upon how the settled community views all Gypsies and Travellers, not just those occupying unauthorised encampments.

Planning policy

- 4.56 Respondents felt that planning policies had restricted the provision of Gypsy and Travellers sites. One respondent explained that *“the Green barrier policy in Flintshire's Unitary Development Plan has been used to refuse the provision of new sites but has on more than one occasion been overturned by a planning Inspector following an appeal(s) in each case on the basis of a lack of provision of sites”*. Another respondent noted that *“Clause 115 and its potential impact regarding ‘gypsy status’ and having to prove ‘nomadic status’ is already impacting on some planning decisions for the community, and this can only escalate in the future. There are many local authorities who are choosing to do nothing regarding Local Plans etc. in light of the changes, which adds to the impact as almost*

nobody will meet the new criteria and most planning is for temporary planning for private developments, so this will have an increasing impact”.

- 4.57 Responses about whether more could be done through planning policy to identify and bring forward new sites were limited. It was suggested that *“Gypsy [and] Traveller provision should be considered as affordable housing provision both locally and nationally by Welsh Government”*. One respondent felt that more could be done but that this should be part of the needs assessment and planning processes, whilst another felt that *“it should be fairly straightforward to identify and allocate suitable land for such sites in the Development Plan”*.

Cross-boundary issues

- 4.58 Given the locality of Flintshire County's existing sites, respondents from neighbouring local authorities were asked to advise how their recently updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment has taken this into account. One noted that they have not seen a final version of their authority's GTAA; another noted that two households from within Flintshire presented to Conwy as having a need through their GTAA process, but with no apparent local connection this has not been included.
- 4.59 Four respondents were aware of regular movements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from neighbouring areas into or out of the study area. Movements along the A55 were recognised, alongside movements *“primarily on an east/west axis through Flintshire from neighbouring authorities in Wales and England”*.
- 4.60 Respondents were unaware of any Gypsy and Traveller sites within their local authorities that straddle the boundary with Flintshire County. They were also unaware of any sites/locations close to the boundary of Flintshire County where difficulties have arisen in terms of sites, planning constraints or other issues in respect of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 4.61 Respondents identified the following as key outcomes for the study in relation to cross boundary issues:
- To raise awareness of need;
 - To establish a robust evidence base to inform the development plan - ideally to the extent that the quantum of provision can be identified and justified which can then assist in identifying appropriate land to be allocated in the plan rather than relying on a criteria based policy;
 - To consider the needs of those in bricks and mortar but aspiring to live on a site; and
 - To ensure that communities of interest are central consultees within any study.

5. Assessing accommodation needs

Introduction

- 5.1 The purpose of this Chapter is to present data regarding the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and the extent to which there is unmet need for residential and transit pitches.

Residential unmet need

- 5.2 Chapter 3 of the Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (May 2015), sets out the process to assess accommodation needs. The Guidance considers:
- Current residential pitch supply,
 - Planned residential pitch supply,
 - Current residential demand,
 - Future residential demand, and
 - Future household growth.
- 5.3 The GTAA data is used to identify the number of Gypsy and Traveller households which require additional pitches immediately, within 5 years and over the Development Plan period. This includes:
- The types of accommodation required to meet the need (i.e. residential or transit sites, specific sites for Travelling Showpeople or Romani Gypsies/Irish Travellers etc.);
 - The number of households already residing in the Local Authority in unsuitable accommodation (i.e. overcrowded, living in conventional housing with an aversion etc.);
 - The level of households on unauthorised developments or on authorised sites with temporary permission, which is likely to increase the unmet need if planning permission is not granted;
 - The likely rate of net household formation (i.e. young adults needing their own pitches, migration and dissolution of households etc.); and
 - The number of households with a realistic opportunity to move to preferred type of accommodation, which may free up spare pitches or bricks and mortar capacity.
- 5.4 The components of analysis are brought together in Table 3 of the Government Guidance and summarised in Table 5.1. This provides the framework for analysing the pitch requirements for Flintshire.

Table 5.1 An estimate of need for residential site pitches		
Current residential supply	Number of pitches	
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	A=20	
B. Occupied authorised private pitches	B=26	
TOTAL	A+B=46	
Planned residential supply	Number of pitches	
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant private pitches	C=3	
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	D=8	
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	E=24	
TOTAL	C+D+E=35	
Current residential demand	Pitch demand	
F. Unauthorised encampments	F=0	
G. Unauthorised development	G=12	
H. Overcrowded pitches	H=11	
I. Conventional housing	I=1	
J. New households to arrive	J=2	
TOTAL	F+G+H+I+J=26	
Current households	Future households (at year 5)	Future households (Plan period)
K. TOTAL K1 =64	K2=69	K3=92
L. Additional household pitch need	L1=5	L2=28
Unmet Need	Need arising	Need accommodated
M. Current residential demand	M=26	
N. Future residential demand (5 year)	N=5	
O. Future residential demand (plan period)	O=28	
P. Planned residential supply		P=35
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	Q=-4	
R. Unmet need (Plan period)	R=20	

Source: Welsh Government Guidance, *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments*, Table 3

Current residential supply (A and B)

5.5 The latest data on residential pitch supply has been provided by the Council and was presented in Chapter 2. In summary, there are:

- 20 occupied Council authorised pitches;
- 26 occupied private authorised pitches
- This results in a total supply of 46 occupied authorised pitches.

- 5.6 The Government Guidance states that *“some private owners may refuse interviewers access to the site, which may prevent the GTAA from identifying potential vacant pitches. If this occurs, the site should be taken to have full occupancy”* (paragraph 145). In the case of Flintshire, as access was granted to all sites, the number of occupied and vacant pitches on private sites could be established. Note, however, that current residential supply does not include households on ‘tolerated’ sites or sites with temporary planning permission.

Planned residential pitch supply (C to E)

- 5.7 When considering planned residential pitch supply, the Guidance makes reference to vacancies, turnover and new supply.

Vacancies (C)

- 5.8 The number of vacant pitches on Local Authority and private sites has been established through the fieldwork process. There are a total of 0 vacant pitches on the local authority site and there are 3 on private sites and as these do not have personal permission conditions they are included in the number of vacancies.

Turnover (D)

- 5.9 The Government Guidance states that *“to identify the number of authorised pitches which are expected to become vacant in the near future, Local Authorities should review their site management records to assess the annual pitch turnover over a 5 year period”* (paragraph 151). It requires that the average annual turnover rate should be used in analysis. The Guidance also states that *“in addition, Local Authorities should review survey responses to questions A6-7 and Section C. Responses from these questions are likely to provide optimistic aspirations of households intending to move...this information can be explored by Local Authorities to ascertain whether any of these aspirations can be agreed”* (paragraph 152). Where households have a desire to move to conventional housing and the local authority wishes to include the pitches currently occupied by these households as likely to become vacant in the near future, they must be able to demonstrate the household will definitely secure alternative accommodation (paragraph 153).
- 5.10 The Government Guidance states that *“current levels of satisfaction with existing accommodation will provide some indication of whether households are likely to stay in their accommodation”* (paragraph 154). Essentially improvements to the accommodation may mean the household no longer wants to move.
- 5.11 An analysis of moving intentions would suggest that 21 households on authorised pitches are planning to move in the next 5 years. This compares with a total of 40 households who have moved onto authorised pitches in the past 5 years, this is the annual pitch turnover over the 5 year period. Using the annual pitch turnover total for the 5 year period we can say that the average annual pitch turnover rate is 8 and this is the figure that has been inserted in row D

- 5.12 It is recommended that the Council regularly monitors turnover on both LA and private sites and update the model accordingly.

New supply (E)

- 5.13 The Government Guidance states that *“in addition to the assessment of existing authorised pitches, Local Authorities should consider how many additional pitches with planning permission are due to become available. This will include Local Authority and private site pitches, where these will be available to rent. These additional pitches should be included as part of the planned residential pitch supply”* (paragraph 157).
- 5.14 The model includes 24 pitches which could either be counted as existing vacant pitches or authorised new supply. Specifically these are on Corbitts/Lyons Yard in Sandycroft (there are 17 pitches on this site which are expected to be redeveloped and are currently vacant pending refurbishment), 5 pitches at Ewloe Barn Wood (these are currently being developed) and 2 pitches at Oakenholt (these are currently being developed).
- 5.15 According to the latest LA data, two applications have been submitted during 2015 and both of these have been refused.

Total planned residential supply

- 5.16 Total planned residential supply comprises:
- 3 vacant pitches (0 local authority and 3 private vacant pitches which are not subject to personal permission conditions);
 - 8 pitches through expected turnover;
 - 24 new private pitches which are being developed on authorised sites; resulting on a total of
 - 35 pitches over the next 5 years.

Current residential demand

- 5.17 Paragraph 164 of the Guidance states that:
- “Calculating the level of current residential demand will require Local Authorities to assess those:*
- a. on unauthorised encampments with a likely need for site accommodation;*
 - b. on unauthorised developments without planning permission;*
 - c. on existing sites whilst in overcrowded conditions;*
 - d. in conventional housing with a cultural aversion or overcrowded; and*
 - e. new households which are expected to arrive in the area.”*
- 5.18 Paragraphs 166 to 170 of the Guidance consider the issue of pitch ‘need’ and ‘preference’. The Guidance suggests that the consideration of needs versus preferences is likely to be focused around three major themes:

- a. Community members in conventional housing who claim a need for mobile home pitches due to a cultural aversion;
- b. Community members who claim a need for mobile home pitches in a different local authority area than the one undertaking the assessment; and
- c. Those on unauthorised sites who claim a need for mobile home pitches in the specific local authority undertaking the assessment.

On unauthorised encampments with a likely need for site accommodation (F)

- 5.19 The Council maintain good data on unauthorised encampment activity within Flintshire and this has been presented in Chapter 2. Over the period January 2013 to March 2015, there were 47 unauthorised encampments across Flintshire (see Appendix B). Of these:
- 11 were associated with a family who now live on a site in another local authority;
 - 10 were associated with Irish/Scottish travellers and some have family members with permanent accommodation in Cheshire;
 - 7 were associated with a group who have been found accommodation by the Council;
 - 4 in March 2015 were associated with a group who are believed to have moved from Harlow, Essex and have been served with an injunction preventing them from setting up sites in Harlow;
 - 15 were mainly small numbers of caravans staying for short periods, with the majority (11) comprising one or two caravans.
- 5.20 An analysis of available data would suggest that none of the households involved in unauthorised encampment activity have a need for a site in Flintshire.

On unauthorised developments without planning permission (G)

- 5.21 There are currently three sites which are occupied and do not have authorised planning permission.
- 5.22 Firstly, Dollar Park, Holywell is a private site with temporary planning permission (this was until 2016 and has been recently extended for 5 years). There are 7 occupied pitches on this site accommodating 9 families (with an assumed need for 7 pitches as an extended family is accommodated on a larger pitch on the site).
- 5.23 Secondly, there is a private site at Dundas Sidings, Factory Road, Sandycroft with 3 pitches. A planning application is pending and the household survey identified 5 households living on the site so there is overcrowding of 2 households.
- 5.24 Thirdly there is a private site at Sister's Yard, Station Road, Sandycroft with a planning application pending.

- 5.25 The Council identified two further sites where planning applications were submitted during 2015 which were both refused.
- 5.26 Firstly, at Bron Eifion, Ffynnongroyw, Tanlan, Holywell (4 pitches/8 caravans). Planning permission was refused on 27 May 2015 and an enforcement notice is to be served. No appeal has been submitted to date and 1 household was identified as living on the site but no interviews were achieved.
- 5.27 Secondly, a site at 1 Old Paper Mill Lane, Oakenholt, Flint (2 pitches/4 caravans) was refused planning permission and an enforcement notice has been served. However we understand planning permission was granted at appeal in October 2015 – at the time of the Informal Hearing at least one household including children were living on the site. For the modelling of need, we are assuming capacity for two households although the site was unoccupied and being redeveloped at the time of survey fieldwork.
- 5.28 Therefore, modelling of pitch requirements assumes a total of **12** households currently living on temporary authorised and unauthorised sites in Flintshire.

On existing sites whilst in overcrowded conditions (H)

- 5.29 The extent to which households are living in overcrowded conditions has been assessed with reference to the bedroom standard. The bedroom standard is defined in paragraph 196 of the 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.
- 5.30 Paragraph 197 to 198 comments “*within mobile homes, the Bedroom Standard should also apply. However, it should more accurately relate to separate sleeping areas, rather than bedrooms. Unlike in conventional housing, it may be possible to relieve any identified overcrowding through the addition of another mobile home on the pitch...without contravening the Fire Safety guidance included in the Welsh Government’s Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites guidance*”.
- 5.31 According to the analysis of households living on pitches, 40% require 1 sleeping area, 46.3% require two sleeping areas, 10% require 3 sleeping areas and 3.8% require 4 sleeping areas on their pitch. Question B2 asks if there are enough sleeping areas for all residents and all respondents living on pitches stated that they had enough sleeping areas. Survey evidence would therefore indicate that there were no households living in overcrowded accommodation.
- 5.32 However, there is evidence of **11** households having to ‘double up’ on pitches (9 on the Local Authority Site and 2 at Dundas Sidings/Bridge Yard). This is taken as need from households living in overcrowding conditions.

In conventional housing with a cultural aversion or overcrowded (I)

- 5.33 Paragraphs 171 to 182 of the Guidance consider the issue of cultural aversion of Gypsies and Travellers to live in conventional housing. Paragraph 173 comments that *“amongst the community members living in conventional housing, it is likely some experience what is known as a ‘cultural aversion’ to this type of accommodation. That is, community members who have a tradition of living in a mobile home or on sites and who struggle to adapt to living in conventional bricks and mortar accommodation.”* Paragraph 175 states that *“Local Housing Authorities will need to carefully consider whether those interviewed who have a stated preference for living on mobile home sites could also be said to have a cultural aversion to maintain their accommodation in conventional housing. This consideration should have reference to:*
- a. the cultural tradition of the household for living in mobile homes;*
 - b. the reason for moving into conventional housing;*
 - c. the likelihood of harm to the individual if they remain in conventional housing; and*
 - d. the developing case-law around the issue of cultural aversion.”*
- 5.34 A total of 20 households living in conventional housing were interviewed as part of the GTAA and survey Questions A2, A3 and A7 provide data which ascertains whether individuals believe they have a cultural aversion to conventional housing.
- 5.35 Of the 20 households interviewed, 18 were satisfied with their current accommodation, there was one refusal and one preferred not to say.
- 5.36 17 households had lived in their accommodation because of local connections (family or work), one preferred living in a house to a caravan, one chose to live there and there was one missing case.
- 5.37 Question A7 responses include ‘prefer to live in a caravan’ but no households stated this.
- 5.38 Evidence from the household survey would indicate that none of the households interviewed and living in conventional housing had a cultural aversion to living in that type of accommodation.
- 5.39 Regarding overcrowding, according to the analysis of households living in conventional housing, 35% require 1 sleeping area, 50% require two sleeping areas, 10% require 3 sleeping areas and 5% require 4 sleeping areas in their home. Question B2 asks if there are enough sleeping areas for all residents but this specifically relates to households living on pitches. That said, of all households living in bricks and mortar accommodation who responded, all stated there were sufficient sleeping areas for their family.
- 5.40 Therefore, it can be reasonably assumed that none of the households living in conventional housing were living in overcrowded conditions.
- 5.41 One household stated a preference for moving to a pitch and is therefore included in the pitch requirement calculation.

New households who are expected to arrive in the area (J)

- 5.42 As part of the assessment of residential demand, the analysis considers new households expected to arrive in the area. The Guidance recommends this is achieved through a study of waiting list data, caravan count or partnership working with Local Authorities. Additionally, the household survey can indicate the number of households who have moved into Flintshire over the recent past.
- 5.43 Over the past year, a total of 20 households have moved to their current pitch. Of these, 12 stated their previous place of residence, with 10 originating from Flintshire and 2 moving into the County. It is therefore estimated that at least 2 households moved into the County in the past year. There is therefore a minimum of 2 pitches required from households moving into Flintshire.

Future residential demand

- 5.44 Paragraph 203 of the Guidance states that *“anticipated future household growth should be identifiable by the answers provided by participants under Section D of the questionnaires. This will provide an estimate of additional households over the coming five year period.”*
- 5.45 The household survey identified a total of 5 households likely to form in the next 5 years. Of these households, 2 were planning to stay in Flintshire and one did not state a location preference and 1 preferred not to say. Of the two planning to stay in Flintshire, both stated a preference for living on a private site / in a static caravan.
- 5.46 The household survey also provided evidence of the demographic profile of households and this identified a total of 9 household members who could potentially require pitch accommodation in the next 5 years. Assuming that 50% of this number will form households (based on an equal split by gender and males remaining in the District and females moving elsewhere which reflects established trends in traveller behaviour) this would result in a need for 5 (4.5 rounded up) additional pitches. Based on a current total of 64 Gypsy and Traveller households (Row K), this would equate to an annual household growth rate of 1.5% which is in line with the annual growth range of 1.5% to 2.5% specified in paragraph 203 of the guidance.

Longer-term household growth

- 5.47 Paragraph 209 of the Guidance states *“as the estimate of household growth is based upon the aspirations of community members, it would be difficult to perfectly forecast growth in excess of 5 years. However, the GTAA is a crucial piece of evidence underpinning Local Development Plans (LDPs), which operate over a longer timeframe. To address this point, GTAA’s should apply the same estimated growth rate over the full LDP period to produce an additional figure of need arising in the Local Authority area.”* Paragraph 210 continues *“although this process will identify an indicative pitch need over the lifetime of the LDP, this longer-term figure is expected to be revised every time the GTAA is redone. This*

will ensure the forecasting of growth can be as accurate as possible and should limit the extent of changes needed to the LDP each time a GTAA is published.”

- 5.48 An analysis of the demography of households would suggest that over the period 2021-2030, a total of 47 residents may require a pitch which would equate to an additional 22 households living on pitches (after discounting the resident need by 50% to take account of gender). This results in an overall pitch need of 92 over the plan period. However, the guidance methodology for calculating longer-term suggests the use of growth rates over the first 5 years (1.52%) which over the period to 2030 would result in a lower need of 80 pitches.

Current and future household summary

- 5.49 The total future household data is summarised in rows K and L of the needs model. The baseline number of households (K) is 64. The total future households at year 5 is calculated as 69 and to the end of the plan period as 92 households. This results in an additional household pitch need of 5 pitches over the next 5 years (taken as 2016-2020) and a total of 28 pitches over the plan period (5 pitches in the period 2016-2020 and 23 pitches over the ten year period 2021-2030).

Overall need for additional residential pitches

- 5.50 Paragraph 212 of the Guidance states that *“the overall residential or unmet need for additional residential pitches can be found by adding the current residential demand and the estimated future additional pitch need, the subtracting the planned residential supply. The balance of these figures will provide the unmet need for the 5 year period (row Q) and over the plan period (row R).”*
- 5.51 Current residential demand (M) is for 26 additional pitches. Future residential demand (5 years) is for 5 pitches and over the plan period it is 28 pitches. Planned residential supply (O) is for 35 pitches.
- 5.52 Therefore, for Flintshire, the 5 year unmet need is -4 pitches and over the plan period there is a need for 19 additional pitches.

Further Recommendations

- 5.53 The level of five-year unmet need must be provided within the area as soon as possible. The longer term need should be provided during the lifetime of the LDP.
- 5.54 Analysis would suggest there is sufficient pitch capacity over the next 5 years assuming that planned residential supply is delivered over this period. The overall shortfall over the plan period is for 19 pitches.
- 5.55 However, there are 12 temporary and unauthorised pitches and if these were authorised, the plan period shortfall would reduce to 7 pitches. Additionally, there is a potential for additional pitches at Bron Eifion, Ffynnongroyw, Tanlan which could reduce this shortfall further.

Transit unmet need

- 5.56 A detailed analysis of the scale, location and duration of unauthorised encampments January 2013 to March 2015 has been carried out as part of this GTAA and reported earlier in this chapter. Information has been included on unauthorised encampments during the study period.
- 5.57 Analysis would suggest a requirement for small-scale transit provision for up to 5 caravans. Occupancy of any transit pitches would need to be enforced to ensure that households pulling onto transit pitches are only there for short periods.
- 5.58 Although attempts were made to interview Travellers on unauthorised encampments all those respondents declined to comment so no survey data was taken. The Council always attend unauthorised encampments and record data and it is felt that this data is sufficient to establish a need for Transit provision.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

GTAA objectives

- 6.1 The objective of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide data which will identify Gypsy and Traveller pitch needs, separate from wider housing need, demand and aspiration as analysed through a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA).
- 6.2 Flintshire County Council commissioned arc⁴ to undertake the GTAA on their behalf, under the direction and oversight of a steering group.
- 6.3 The GTAA has been prepared in the light of the legislative and policy context in Wales. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (Part 3) made the assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, statutory requirements. The Welsh Government's *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (May 2015) is statutory guidance published under Section 106 of the Housing Act 2014. It has been produced to assist local authorities in undertaking GTAAs and discharging their duties under Part 3 of the Act. This Guidance has guided every stage of the GTAA project for Flintshire County Council.

Existing Gypsy and Traveller population and accommodation

- 6.4 The 2011 Census identified a total of 95 people with a 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' (WGoIT) ethnicity, living in 38 households. Of these, 31 were living in bricks and mortar and seven were living in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure.
- 6.5 Analysis of Caravan Count data over the period July 2013 to January 2016 indicates an average of 87 caravans, 97.0% on authorised sites (42.4% social rented and 54.6% private). In terms of pitches, these averaged 20 residential pitches, with no vacant residential pitches identified over the same two-year period. No transit sites were identified, either occupied or vacant.
- 6.6 Flintshire County Council data and fieldwork survey in the study area show that there are a total of 68 pitches in Flintshire, of which:
 - 20 pitches are on a residential (permanent authorised) Council-owned site;
 - 26 pitches are occupied on residential (permanent authorised) private sites; a further 7 are under development and 3 are vacant;
 - 7 pitches are on a temporary residential private site; and
 - 5 pitches are on unauthorised sites.
- 6.7 In summary, there are 46 occupied authorised pitches, 7 authorised pitches under development, 3 vacant authorised pitches, 7 pitches on a temporary residential site and 5 pitches on unauthorised sites.

Household survey

- 6.8 The household survey sought to engage with as many of the Gypsy and Traveller population within Flintshire as possible. Following a rigorous methodology, face-to-face interviews with 82 households were conducted with Gypsies and Travellers living in a range of accommodation types:
- 49 living on a pitch on a permanent residential (authorised) site,
 - 8 living on a pitch on a temporary residential (authorised) site,
 - 5 living on unauthorised sites, and
 - 20 living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 6.9 In terms of ethnicity, 51% of respondents identified as Gypsy, 25% as Irish Traveller, 9% as Romany/Romani, 6% as Traveller, 5% as English Traveller, 1% as Showperson, 1% as Other (Polish) and 1% said “not really a traveller”.
- 6.10 In terms of the suitability of their existing accommodation, 95% of respondents said that they were satisfied with their current accommodation. The majority of respondents (73%) said that they live in their current accommodation because of local connections, either family or work-related. 15% of all respondents said that they live in their current accommodation because no alternative authorised pitch was available. This rose to 23% of those living on a pitch on a private site.
- 6.11 In relation to duration of residency, 82% of all respondents have lived in their current home for less than five years. 27% of those living on a pitch on the Council site have lived there for more than five years; this compares with 14% on a pitch on a private site and 15% in bricks and mortar accommodation. The household survey identified a low degree of mobility, with 87% of respondents stating that their previous home was also within Flintshire.
- 6.12 Regarding future plans, 28% of respondents expect to move within the next five years. This varies, however, ranging from 5% of respondents living in bricks and mortar, to 32% of those living on a Council site and 38% of those living on a private site. Respondents were asked if they would stay longer in their current accommodation if changes or improvements were made. 58% of respondents said that the site needs to be made bigger and 15% said that repairs were needed.
- 6.13 When asked if they were planning to move into other accommodation, a total of three respondents said yes (three preferred not to say). One currently lives on a pitch on the Council site and two live on pitches on private sites.
- 6.14 In terms of new household formation, six respondents confirmed that someone in their household is likely to want to move into their own home in the next five years (seven didn't know). Of these, three respondents said that the newly-forming households would need accommodation within Flintshire, including four new households in total. In terms of the size of the new households, one is expected to comprise one person, two are expected to include two people and one includes four people.
- 6.15 When asked if they have family members from outside of Flintshire who camp in the County regularly, a total of nine respondents (all living on pitches) said yes. In addition, four respondents (all living on pitches) confirmed that they have

themselves camped by a roadside, on an unauthorised encampment or on a transit site in the past year. 56% of respondents considered that there is a need for more transit sites in Wales; 30% said no; and 14% preferred not to say.

Stakeholder consultation

- 6.16 A total of eleven stakeholders took part in the online consultation questionnaire, answering questions that they felt appropriate.
- 6.17 In terms of support for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Flintshire, some stakeholders considered that more could be done to understand, monitor and support these groups. However, there was also an acknowledgement of resourcing and budget constraints.
- 6.18 In terms of site provision, several stakeholders expressed the view that transit sites are needed across North Wales.
- 6.19 The stakeholders recognised the role of the GTAA in informing the evidence base for the emerging development plan.

Assessment of accommodation needs

- 6.20 The GTAA includes an assessment of accommodation needs, following the methodology set out in the Welsh Government Guidance.
- 6.21 In terms of household numbers, the baseline number of Gypsy and Traveller households in Flintshire is 64. The total future households at Year 5 is calculated as 69 and to the end of the plan period as 92 households. This results in an additional household pitch need of 5 pitches over the next 5 years (taken as 2016-2020) and a total of 28 pitches over the Plan Period (5 pitches in the period 2016-2020 and 23 pitches over the ten-year period 2021-2030).
- 6.22 The assessment finds that current residential demand is for 26 additional pitches. Future residential demand over 5 years is for 5 pitches and over the plan period it is 28 pitches. Planned residential supply is for 35 pitches which includes vacant pitches, a small amount of turnover and re-occupancy of pitches on existing sites once they are redeveloped.
- 6.23 Therefore, for Flintshire, the five-year unmet need is -4 pitches and over the Plan Period there is a need for 19 additional pitches.
- 6.24 The level of five-year unmet need must be provided within the area as soon as possible. The longer term need should be provided during the lifetime of the LDP.
- 6.25 Analysis would suggest there is sufficient pitch capacity over the next 5 years assuming that planned residential supply is delivered over this period. The overall shortfall over the Plan Period is for 19 pitches.
- 6.26 However, there are 12 temporary and unauthorised pitches and if these were authorised, the plan period shortfall would reduce to 7 pitches. Additionally, there is a potential for additional pitches at Bron Eifion, Ffyynnongroyw, Tanlan which could reduce this shortfall further.

Recommendations and Next steps

- 6.27 The assessment will be sent to Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Housing Act and the Council will consider any feedback provided. A report on the assessment and its implications will be prepared and considered by the Council's Cabinet in due course, once Welsh Government have considered the assessment.
- 6.28 The Council's Gypsy and Traveller Working Group will monitor and implement the findings of the assessment, including the search for suitable potential transit sites/stopping places, bringing forward extant permissions and the refurbishment of authorised sites, and beginning a process to identify potential site options to meet the longer term need identified, within the LDP.
- 6.29 The Council's Local Housing Strategy will also be reviewed to reflect the findings of the assessment, to update the Council's overall strategy in relation to making provision for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and travellers.

Appendix A: Key stakeholder online consultation

A.1 *Which Local Authority areas do you work in? Please tick all that apply. If you work in an area outside the study area (such as a neighbouring local authority who is responding as part of the duty to co-operate guidance) then please detail where you are from by using the list below or by using the 'other' option.*

Area	Response percent
Flintshire	64%
Wrexham	27%
Denbighshire	27%
Powys	9%
Gwynedd	18%
Elsewhere in Wales	0%
Shropshire	0%
Cheshire West and Chester	9%
Cheshire East	0%
Other	27%

Other areas included:

- Anglesey,
- Conwy,
- Merseyside, and
- Lancashire.

A.2 *If you are interested do you want to be informed of the results of the study? If you do then we will keep a note of the contact details that you provided above and get in touch with any appropriate outputs.*

Response	Response percent
Yes, I would like to be kept informed of the GTAA such as results, reports or stakeholder events	100%
No, I would not like to be kept informed of the GTAA	0%

General questions

A.3 *Q1. Do you think that there is sufficient understanding of the education, employment, health and support needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling*

Showpeople within the study area? If not, what could be done to improve the current position?

- No. Greater joint working across the N. Wales Region.
- Possibly by the Local Authority but perhaps not by all residents of the County.
- No. Training for front line service staff in statutory and public sector roles in particular. There is no cultural awareness of Gypsy & Traveller issues or understanding of their religious requirements in relation to Holywell for example either. Councillors within local authority and other Organisational leaders should be working through the Equalities agendas to ensure that knowledge is embedded at all levels of organisations where there is a public duty. Sufficient and appropriately placed sites, permanent and transit, with a mixture of tenures and types is required.

A.4 *Q2. Are the health, education, accommodation and support needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople adequately monitored? If not, what more could be done?*

- Not known.
- Don't know - not my field of expertise.
- Housed families in particular are a hidden group, often facing racism within their settled neighbourhood communities if they are identified as Gypsy or Traveller and so they very rarely identify as Traveller. Those who are more visible by virtue of living in a caravan are reluctant to engage with statutory services due to the perception (often fact) that they are the agents who move them on, or refuse planning permission or threaten their cultural traditions. Having an organisation or set of workers who engage with the community and engender trust are the most appropriate way to engage with the community and link into services e.g. Cheshire West & Chester have a Gypsy Traveller Team from the local authority but the authority also funds community work which links and supports the community into appropriate services from a trusted organisation that is known to the communities.

A.5 *Q3. In your opinion, is additional support required to assist Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople families living within the study area? If yes, please expand.*

- Greater support is needed across N Wales.
- Don't know - not my field of expertise.
- Yes. ICC has Service Users coming to our Cheshire Service from Flintshire, through family connections and has supplied telephone support to others resident there. They all state that they wish "someone like you" was nearer. Our support includes literacy support, linking & liaising with and to dentists, doctors, Criminal Justice systems, support with benefits and finance and some planning/land information.

A.6 *Q4. Do you think that there is adequate awareness of the cultural, support and accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area? If not, what more could be done to raise awareness.*

- Greater awareness is needed across N Wales, Particularly amongst elected members and decision makers.
 - Probably there is not but I am not sure as to how best raise awareness. In my experience these groups are often wrongly thought of. In other words I think there is largely an unjustified amount of prejudice towards these people.
 - Absolutely not. Positive messages from the statutory leads in local government to media and communities to ensure that there is inclusion and positive messages regarding the community and their needs set in the local context. Assessing the need for a community support service that is separate to the local authority with sufficient funding to make a difference to engagement.
- A.7 *Q5. Has your organisation undertaken any action to raise awareness of the cultural, support and accommodation requirements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area? If so, please expand.*
- No.
 - Don't know.
 - We do not have the resources to work in this area unfunded, but offer support to people as they contact us directly or attend our other Drop In services in Liverpool, Wigan or Ellesmere Port.

Provision of Accommodation

Site Provision

- A.8 *Q6. Do you think that there is sufficient provision of permanent sites/pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the study area? Please give us your views.*
- Yes.
 - No.
 - No.
 - No, Flintshire households have approached Conwy for accommodation.
- A.9 *Q7. If new permanent sites/pitches are needed in the study area, where do you think that these should be located? Which location is best and why?*
- Not Known.
 - Within reasonable distances of education, health and shopping facilities.
 - The local community are best placed to identify their own needs so ensuring maximum inclusion for community members into any research is vital to ensure that sites are appropriately placed.
- A.10 *Q8. Do you think there are barriers to the provision of new permanent sites? If so, what do you consider the main barriers to be?*
- Yes, opposition to sites by settled community arising from perceived and actual concerns re: anti-social behaviour; littering; crime; lack of engagement

with authority. Lack of support for the statutory requirement by elected members.

- Peoples' prejudices towards Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling show persons.
- The lack of positive messages relating to Traveller communities and no positive steer from the local authority or other statutory agencies are the biggest barriers for the community as these messages are then picked up by the media and blown into fear-mongering and anti-Gypsy rhetoric and disincentivisation to provide sites. Other issues are lack of awareness of actual need, with many people doubled up on pitches and others living in houses or flats and no way of collating the actual data.

A.11 *Q9. Do you think that transit sites are needed in the Flintshire County? If so, why, and where do you think these should be located? Please note: Transit provision is a pitch or site intended for short-term use whilst in transit; such provision is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time that residents can stay there.*

- Yes, across North Wales
- Don't know. It is the users of such facilities that are better placed to answer this question.
- Yes. I raise the issue earlier of the religious significance of several sites in Flintshire for Irish Travellers especially, e.g. religious significance of Holywell/St Winefride's Well. There is a need to provide transit provision in order to facilitate attendance, without disrupting traffic and the local community. Many of the community make several days of religious observance either to pray for help or to say thank you for a positive outcome to their prayers. The local community and where they are traditionally stopping will highlight the other significant areas that may require transit provision. Traditionally, where there is already a permanent site located, transit provision supports the families' social and religious connections and cuts down on impacts to positive community cohesion.

A.12 *Q10. Do you think there are barriers to new transit site provision? If so, what do you consider the main barriers to be?*

- Yes, as above, but to a greater degree as transient encampments may be perceived to be less considerate of the settled community.
- As per question 8 above.
- Yes. Again the biggest problem locally is the lack of positive messages relating to Traveller communities led by the media and their picking up on community concerns without heed to a balanced view of the issues. This can include direct quotes from those with a public duty to promote equality and community cohesion, who have given interviews where their own opinions are quoted, or utilising only those opinions, which are anti-Traveller. The idea that Travellers are not local for example is common, but in our experience there are local connections for most of the Traveller community who require transit sites, in that the same families have a traditional circuit, which repeatedly incorporates the same geographical areas.

Existing Sites

- A.13 *Q11. What are your views on the standard of facilities on existing sites in the Flintshire County area?*
- Not known.
 - I have no knowledge of this.
 - Most of the work we have undertaken has been with housed families due to a lack of provision. We are aware of several private sites and these are compliant with requirements.
- A.14 *Q12. Do you have any views on how existing sites are managed in Flintshire County?*
- No.
 - No.
 - We have not been given any information on how sites are managed currently, due to our contacts mainly being in housing.
- A.15 *Q13. Are you aware of any issues/tensions between Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and the settled community, on existing sites within Flintshire County? If so, has your organisation addressed this in any way?*
- No.
 - No. I live (quite happily) in close proximity to the Dollar Park site on the edge of Holywell Town.
 - Yes. We have spoken with North Wales Regional Equality Network links in the past regarding issues with local settled communities and specific private sites to support. This organisation is very aware of issues locally within Flintshire for Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- A.16 *Q14. Do you know of any Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation in the Flintshire County area? Can you provide any additional information? We are happy to receive comments or data but we will talk to you about the use of such data as we cannot breach data protection and we need permission to use such addresses that you may be aware of.*
- Yes, please provide contact details and we can share the Conwy GTANA
 - No.
 - Yes; most of our links are with housed families in bricks & mortar due to the lack of sites. We also support other families (Service Users) who travel to St Winefride's Well on annual or other pilgrimage from surrounding areas where our Service is operating.

- A.17 Q15. *Do you think that additional provision of sites/pitches needs to be made to accommodate the requirements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople currently living in settled (i.e. bricks and mortar) accommodation across the Flintshire County area? Why do you think this?*
- Yes.
 - Don't Know – Not my field of expertise.
 - Yes; the vast majority of families that we have worked with from/in Flintshire have an aspirational cultural need to be resident on a Travellers site. This is due to people still wishing to adhere to their traditional cultural norms of trailer/ caravan dwelling and so that their children do not lose out on their nomadic culture and heritage/traditions. The problem is that the standard and availability of sited accommodation is not available.
- A.18 Q16. *Is there sufficient support available to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in settled accommodation to help them manage their housing effectively (i.e. help in dealing with practical tenancy issues, such as paying rent, bills and making benefit applications)?*
- Not known.
 - Don't know.
 - Families we have worked with we initially signposted to local agencies but they came back to us for continued support until their issues were completed. They have complained that the agencies who have been involved, such as floating support from housing providers, do not really understand their culture, nor are able to offer cultural solutions to problems. This leads to people disengaging from services that are set up to support particular issues. Generic services do not understand the depth of the issues relating to lack of literacy, or that this extends to clock literacy and numeracy, which impinges on all interactions, and are not trained to offer solutions to these problems. Mental health issues are not understood by generic health services or the cultural backgrounds that reinforce them.
- A.19 Q17. *Are you aware if Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel safe in settled accommodation? If you have any information please provide. Are their specific cultural needs given consideration by the local authority when offering conventional accommodation, in your opinion?*
- Not known.
 - Not my field of expertise.
 - We have experienced no hate crime reported to us by Service Users in Flintshire. The North Wales Regional Equality Network will be able to support with further data.

Both Bricks and Mortar and Pitches

- A.20 Q18. *If your organisation provides accommodation in the Flintshire County area, how many Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households have approached you for housing during the past five years?*

- No Responses

A.21 Q19. *If your organisation provides accommodation in the Flintshire County area, how many Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households have approached you for HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT during the past five years?*

- No Responses

Unauthorised Encampments

A.22 Q20. *If you are a local housing authority in Flintshire County how many unauthorised encampments do you have each year in your area? Please note: An unauthorised encampment refers to land where Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner's consent.*

- N/A
- Don't know - Planning Enforcement section may have some information regarding this.

A.23 Q21. *Are unauthorised encampments problematic for your organisation? If so, please expand.*

- N/A.
- Not sure other than to say the Council would be likely to receive complaints from members of the public and residents living close by to any unauthorised encampments.
- No.

A.24 Q22. *Have you a view on how unauthorised encampments affect local perceptions?*

- Not in Flintshire.
- Perhaps leads to the perception that " these groups " of people appear to do what they want when they want without having due regard to the proper channels and procedures.
- Yes. Unauthorised encampments in themselves are not the problem; the management or lack thereof is the problem in most cases. ICC has regularly negotiated with Travellers and local authorities to find solutions, which has been really positive in most cases, and in Leeds there is a negotiated stopping policy which means that unauthorised encampments are not a surprise but part of the managed response of the authority, in conjunction with engagement from Leeds Gypsy & Traveller Exchange, the voluntary sector organisation for Gypsies and Travellers in that region. Again the media carry a lot of responsibility for not reporting encampments with any balance too, which has a negative effect on the relations between locals and Travellers. Whatever their reasons for travelling through the area, there is no reporting of duty, welfare needs or the lack of accommodation/site provision as a UK as well as a local issue.

Planning Policy

A.25 *Q23. Are there any areas within planning policy that you consider have restricted the provision of new sites/pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople? If so, can you think of any way in which this can be overcome in the future?*

- Gypsy traveller provision should be considered as affordable housing provision both locally and nationally by Welsh Government.
- The Green barrier policy in Flintshire's Unitary Development Plan has been used to refuse the provision of new sites but has on more than one occasion been overturned by a planning Inspector following an appeal(s) in each case on the basis of a lack of provision of sites.
- Clause 115 and its potential impact regarding "gypsy status" and having to prove 'nomadic status' is already impacting on some planning decisions for the community, and this can only escalate in the future. There are many local authorities that are choosing to do nothing regarding Local Plans etc. in light of the change, which adds to the impact as almost nobody will meet the new criteria and most planning is for temporary planning for private developments, so this will have an increasing impact.

A.26 *Q24. Do you think that more could be done through planning policy to identify and bring forward new sites for the provision of pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople? If so, please expand.*

- Welsh Government should take the lead in planning transit provision so that they can ensure adequate and rationally distributed provision. Considering compulsory purchase where site identification is an issue and the use of their own land.
- No. I think it is or it should be fairly straightforward to identify and allocate suitable land for such sites in the Development Plan. In my view the biggest hurdles to overcome are objections from locally elected members and the constituents they represent.
- Rescind clause 115. The community itself is never going to trust enough to bring forward land where there may be negative judgements made about them. Build trust relationships within the community long term to engender communication.

Cross Boundary issues

A.27 *Q25. For neighbouring Local Authorities, given the locality of Flintshire County's existing sites (map attached), please can you advise how your recently updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment has taken this into account i.e. migration between the authorities?*

- Two households within Flintshire presented to Conwy as having a need through the GTAA process. There was no apparent local connection so these have not been included within our assessment.

- Have not seen a final version yet.
- A.28 *Q26. Are you aware of any regular movements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from neighbouring areas, in or out of the Flintshire County area? If Yes which routes have you noted?*
- No.
 - Along the A55 corridor.
 - Primarily on an east/west axis through Flintshire from neighbouring authorities in Wales and England.
 - A55 corridor and across from Oswestry as well as down from Wrexham/Queensferry. Key routes are to and from the ferry at Holyhead.
- A.29 *Q27. Do any Gypsy and Traveller sites within your local authority straddle the boundary with Flintshire County? If yes has the landowner expressed an interest in expanding the site into Flintshire County?*
- N/A
 - Not aware of any.
- A.30 *Q28. Are you aware of any sites/locations close to the boundary of Flintshire County where difficulties have arisen in terms of sites, planning constraints or other issues in respect of Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople?*
- No.
- A.31 *Q29. What do you think should be the key outcomes of this study?*
- To raise awareness of need.
 - From my perspective as a policy planner - a robust evidence base to inform the Local Development Plan - ideally to the extent that the quantum of provision can be identified and justified which can then assist in identifying appropriate land to be allocated in the plan rather than relying on a criteria based policy.
 - Sites, both permanent and temporary are definitely required, consideration needs to be taken of the bricks & mortar aspirational needs as sites have been not available for so long. Communities of interest need to be the central consultants within any study - nothing about me, without me!

Appendix B: Fieldwork interview questionnaire

Flintshire Council – Gypsy Traveller Assessment 2015

Site Name:

Pitch number (this must tie in with the Excel spreadsheet numbering). For example if this is pitch one on site A the write this in. We need to be able to understand the layout on each site visited. It is important to know the number of households/families and also the number of occupied and vacant pitches as well as how many dwellings there are on each pitch:

How many caravans are there on this pitch? If there are, for example, 2 caravans on the pitch tell us which caravan this interview relates to so it can be separated from interviews in the second caravan on the pitch:

How many families/households are there on this pitch:

If possible, please take a photo of the site or at least the site entrance so there is a photographic record that the interviews have taken place/been attempted

Draw a quick sketch of the site showing a birds eye view of the site and location of the pitch where the interview took place. This helps us if there any particular issue to cover after the survey is completed. It helps if you can include the exit/entrance to the site and then a rough site shape and location of the pitch you are interviewing on:

SECTION A – YOUR HOME

A1 Where do you live now?

Local Authority (“Council”) residential site	
Council transit site	
Private site with planning permission	
Private site currently without planning permission	
Unauthorised encampment	
Bricks and Mortar – Socially Rented	
Bricks and Mortar – Privately Rented	
Bricks and Mortar – Owner Occupied	

A2 Are you satisfied with your current accommodation?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

If ‘no’ please explain what could be improved:

A3 Can you tell me why you live here?

Local connections (family or work)	
No alternative authorised pitch	
Can't find a house to move into	
Health or age reasons	
Prefer houses to caravans	
Other:	

A4 How long have you lived here?

Less than 1 month	1–6 months	7 – 12 months	1 - 2 years	2-5 years	Over 5 years

A5 If you have moved within the last year, was your last home in this Local Authority?

YES / NO

Please give details below:

Type of accommodation	Did it have planning permission?	Which Local Authority was it in?	Why did you leave?

A6 How long do you think you'll stay here?

1 or 2 days	3 – 28 days	1 – 3 months	3 months – 2 years	2 – 5 years	Over 5 years	Do not intend to move	Don't know

A7 Would you stay longer if changes or improvements were made to your current accommodation?

(Note: The Local Authority may not be able to make these improvements but understanding the problems with your accommodation may help)

YES

NO

Reason	Tick
Repairs needed	
Site made bigger	
Accommodation made safer	
Planning permission granted	
Adaptations needed (please state below)	

Reason	Tick
Just passing through	
Want authorised pitch in other area	
Want to move into housing	
Relationships broken down	
Prefer living in caravan	

Other:

SECTION B – YOUR FAMILY

	Relationship to respondent (eg. Spouse, son/daughter etc)	Age	Gender	Romani / Irish Traveller / New Traveller / Showperson / Roma / Other (Self-ascribed)	Are there any reasons why you cannot continue to live in this accommodation? (give details)
Respondent					
Person 2					
Person 3					
Person 4					
Person 5					
Person 6					
Person 7					
Person 8					
Person 9					
Person 10					
Person 11					
Person 12					

If not living in caravans proceed to B4.

B2 If living in caravans, are there enough sleeping areas for all residents?

YES / NO

B3 Is there room on the pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding?

(Note: guidance suggests that there should be 6 metre gap between trailers and 3 metre gap to boundaries to be safely accommodated on pitch)

YES / NO

If yes, how many additional sleeping areas can be added?

B4 Would anyone in your family like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing?

YES / NO

Please provide address for application pack to be posted to below:

Please state if already on a waiting list and which.

SECTION C – YOUR PLANS

C1 Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Yes	<i>Go to C2</i>	
No	<i>Go to D1</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D1</i>	

C2 Where are you planning to move to?

Within the Local Authority	
Another Local Authority in Wales – please state which:	
Somewhere else in the UK	

C3 Why are you planning to move?

Need more space	
Need different facilities	
Local connection (family or work)	
Need to be closer to services – schools etc (Please give details below)	
Employment opportunities	
Other (Please specify below)	

Services:

Other:

--	--

C4 What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?

1. Site	
Council / Social rented	
Private site owned by self	
Private site owned by other	

2. Bricks and Mortar	
Owner / occupied	
Rent from Council / Housing Association	
Rent from private landlord	

C5 Do you own land in the Local Authority which you would like to be considered as a possible future site?

(Note: Interviewer to explain that there is no guarantee that the site will be allocated or developed but planning officers may contact respondent to discuss their situation and offer support)

Yes	<i>Give details below</i>	
No	<i>Go to C6</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to C6</i>	

If you like the Local Authority to discuss these plans with you, provide contact details below:

		YES	NO
C6	If you are looking for an authorised pitch, would you live on a site managed by the Local Authority if offered one?		
C7	If an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority, would you consider moving there? If ' yes', which Local Authorities?		

SECTION D - FAMILY GROWTH

D1 Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?

Yes	<i>Go to D2</i>	
No	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Don't know	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D4</i>	

D2 Will this be in this Local Authority?

Yes	<i>Go to D3</i>	
No	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D4</i>	

D3 How many new households will there be and when will these be needed?

	Type of accommodation (LA site; private site; B&M housing)	No. of people	Now	Within a year	1-2 years	2-5 years
Household 1						
Household 2						
Household 3						
Household 4						

D4 Do you have family members living outside this area who camp in this Local Authority regularly?

Yes	<i>Go to D5</i>	
No	<i>Go to E1</i>	
Don't know	<i>Go to E1</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to E1</i>	

D5 If they would like to be interviewed about the need for pitches, provide their contact details and Local Authority where they currently live below:

SECTION E - TRANSIT SITES

E1 Have you camped by the roadside / on an unauthorised encampment / on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?

(Prompt: this information is only to be used to understand if more transit sites are needed)

Yes	<i>Go to E2</i>	
No	<i>Go to E4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to E4</i>	

E2 In which Local Authority areas have you camped?

Prefer not to say	

E3 How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?

1 – 2 days	3 days – 1 week	1 – 2 weeks	2 weeks – 1 month	1 – 3 months

E4 Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?

Yes	<i>Go to E5</i>	
No	<i>Questionnaire ends</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Questionnaire ends</i>	

E5 Where are they needed?*(Probe for Local Authorities and specific locations)*

Prefer not to say	

Questionnaire ends.**List of stakeholders consulted during the GTAA**

Andy Roberts	Flintshire County Council
Mel Evans	Flintshire County Council
Andrew Lewis	Flintshire County Council
Emma Hancock	Flintshire County Council
Russell Price	Flintshire County Council
Sara Davies	Flintshire County Council
Mike Jenkins	Wrexham County Borough Council
Angela Loftus	Denbighshire County Council
Irish Community Care	Irish Community Care
Gary Robertshaw	North Wales Police
Andrew Jamieson	Chester West and Chester Council
Cllr Bernie Attridge	Flintshire County Council

Appendix C: List of unauthorised encampment activity

The following is a detailed list of unauthorised encampment activity across Flintshire January 2013 to March 2015 as recorded by the Council. Some entries are colour-coded as they relate to particular groups of travelling households. Colours are referenced at the end of the table

We have also included a list of unauthorised encampment activity during the survey period October 2015 to March 2016. The interview log det

Date	Location	Duration (days)	Family/household details	Number of caravans
17.01.13	Connah's Quay			5
21.01.13	Shotton			7
05.02.13	Greenfield		English/Welsh Gypsies	5
21.02.13	Shotton		Irish/Scottish Travellers	2
11.04.13	Deeside Leisure Centre		English Gypsies	10
18.04.13	Chester Business Park		Irish/Scottish Travellers	3**
01.05.13	Greenfield		Irish Travellers	1
23.05.13	Greenfield		Irish/Scottish Travellers	1**
03.06.13	Greenfield Business Park		Irish Travellers	1
26.06.13	Deeside Industrial Park		Irish/Scottish Travellers	2**
06.06.13	Greenfield		English/Welsh Gypsies	9*
19.07.13	Holywell	24 hours	Irish Travellers	2
02.08.13	Mold		English/Welsh Gypsies	9*
19.08.13	Deeside Leisure Centre		Irish Travellers	1
02.14	Holywell	24 hours		2
05.03.14	Greenfield	24 hours		2
09.03.14	Mold	Less than 5 days	English /Welsh Gypsies	5*

Date	Location	Duration (days)	Family/household details	Number of caravans
14.03.14	Greenfield	Less than 4 days	English/Welsh Gypsies	2*
18.03.14	Greenfield	15 days	English /Welsh Gypsies	5*
03.04.14	Mold	6 days	English /Welsh Gypsies	4*
10.04.14	Greenfield	14 days	English /Welsh Gypsies	4*
22.04.14	Greenfield		Irish /Scottish Travellers	2**
13.05.14	Flint Castle Industrial Park	5 days	Irish/Scottish Travellers	3**
27.05.14	Green Lane West Sealand		Irish/Scottish Travellers	2**
20.06.14	Bromfield Industrial Park (Private)	24 hours	English/Welsh Gypsies	4*
02.07.14	Holywell (Private)	24 hours	Irish Travellers	1
07.07.14	Connah's Quay		Irish Travellers	1
15.07.14	Mold Business Park	21 days	English/Welsh Gypsies	15*
21.07.15	Greenfield	Less than a week	Irish/Scottish Travellers	2**
21.07.14	Holywell	Less than a week		1
05.08.14	Greenfield	7 days	Irish/Scottish Travellers	3**
01.10.14	Greenfield (Private)	24 hours	Irish/Scottish Travellers	2**
24.10.14	Riverside Sealand			2
02.11.14	Garden City	77 days	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
02.12.14	Greenfield (Private)	36 days	Irish/Scottish Gypsies	2**
18.01.15	Garden City (Private)	69 days	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
23.02.15.	Garden City	16 days	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
04.03.15	Deeside Leisure Centre	11 days	Irish Travellers	8****

Date	Location	Duration (days)	Family/household details	Number of caravans
11.03.15	Garden City (Private)	5 days	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
16.03.15	Deeside Industrial Estate (Private)	1 day	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
16.03.15	Manor Road Industrial Park Hawarden (Private)	1 day	Irish Travellers	12****
17.03.15	Pentre (Private)	2 days	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
19.03.15	Deeside Leisure Centre	11 days	Irish Travellers	14****
25.03.15	Expressway Business Park Queensferry	57 days	English/ Welsh Gypsies	2***
27.03.15	Holywell (Private)	24 hours	Irish /Scottish Travellers	2*
29.03.15	Flint Golf club (private)	24 hours	Irish /Scottish Travellers	2*
29.03.15	Airfields Sealand (Private)	2 days	Irish Travellers	15 (possibly **** group)

Key

* English/Welsh Gypsies- have now found permanent accommodation on a site in another local authority. This group has not been seen by the Council for over 12 months.

** Irish/Scottish Travellers move in this area- some family members have permanent accommodation in Cheshire.

*** This group have now been found accommodation on the Council site

**** It is believed this group is the same group that have moved from Harlow in Essex and have been served an injunction preventing them from setting up sites in Harlow.

Unauthorised Encampments in Flintshire for the GTAA survey period Oct 15 –Mar 16

Date	Location	Duration (days)	Number of caravans
18.10.15	Greenfield (private land)	Not known	Not known
7.11.15	Connah's Quay	5 days	12
12.11.15	Greenfield Dock	5 days	2
17.11.15	Shotton	2 days	2
19.11.15	Flint	5 days	2
25.11.15	Connah's Quay	2 days	13
6.1.16	Greenfield	10 days	1
18.2.16	Connah's Quay		20
10.3.16	Greenfield	1 day	2
14.3.16	Saltney (private land)	8 days	8
18.3.16	Greenfield	24 days	8
30.3.16	Queensferry (private land)	6 days	3
31.3.16	Saltney (private land)		3