Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs

Background Paper

September 2013
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Report of Findings
September 2013
As with all our studies, findings from this survey are subject to Opinion Research Services Standard Terms and Conditions of Contract.

Any press release or publication of the findings of this survey requires the advance approval of ORS. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy or misrepresentation.

This study was conducted in accordance with ISO 20252:2012.
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1. Introduction
Overview of the Background and Survey Methodology

The Survey

1.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) were commissioned by Vale of Glamorgan Council to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment to inform its Local Development Plan (LDP) so as to meet the requirements of Sections 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004 and in the advice set out in Planning Circular WG 30/2007 in respect of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

1.2 The main objective of this study was to assess the need for authorised Gypsy and Traveller site provision within the Vale of Glamorgan. This required the identification of whether any extra site provision should be on permanent sites, and whether or not there was any need to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places. We would also note this study considers the needs of Travelling Showpeople in the Vale of Glamorgan. However, they represent a very small population, therefore we have referred to this study as a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment.

1.3 The outputs of this study will help the Authority meet the requirements of the Housing Act 2004 and provide evidence to assist the LDP on the need for additional pitches in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. Policy Context

A Summary of the Legislation, Guidance and Policy Context

Introduction

2.1 Decision making for policy concerning Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation and guidance. The Welsh Government offers the following formal definition of a Gypsy and Traveller for housing purposes:

- persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and
- all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:
  - such 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
  - members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).

2.2 The definition for planning purposes differs slightly:

- The term 'Gypsy and Traveller' incorporates two main groups; Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers. Romani Gypsies are an ethnic minority community and Irish Travellers are a distinct ethnic group. The two groups have shared traditions, histories and customs that distinguish them from members of the 'settled community'.

- Both Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers share a common history of 'travelling' and many continue to live a travelling lifestyle either on a permanent or seasonal basis i.e. to attend traditional fairs and celebrations. However, for a variety of reasons, including the need to access health care or education, many Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers no longer adopt a travelling way of life

- Some Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers who no longer travel have chosen to live in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation but still see themselves as either being Romani Gypsy or Irish Traveller and follow the traditional customs and culture of those communities.

2.3 To focus on Gypsies and Travellers, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Sections 61, 62) is particularly important with regard to the issue of planning for Gypsy and Traveller site provision. This repealed the duty of local authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. However, Circular 1/94 did support maintaining existing sites and stated that appropriate future site provision should be considered.

2.4 The Welsh Government has implicitly accepted the findings of a 2005 study of Gypsy and Traveller site provision in Wales, which was commissioned from Pat Niner at the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at Birmingham University. This study identified a lack of authorised sites as a key factor which has helped
to contribute to the large number of unauthorised encampments. This study estimated that 200-250 additional residential pitches and 100-150 transit site pitches were needed across the whole of Wales in the next 5 years.

2.5 In March 2006 the Welsh Government published guidance on conducting accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers in the Local Housing Market Assessment Guide Annex F. Meanwhile, in December 2007 Welsh Government guidance on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites was published in the form of WG Circular 30/2007. These two documents form the key framework around which this study is based.

2.6 Current Welsh Government guidance focuses on increasing site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and encouraging local authorities to have a more inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers within their housing needs plans. In June 2012 the Welsh Government published, ‘Travelling to a Better Future: Gypsy and Traveller Framework for Action and Delivery Plan’ which included 17 core objectives across:

» Community Cohesion
» Accommodation
» Education
» Engagement and Participation objectives
» Health
» Consultation and Engagement

2.7 Local authorities are required to identify the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites, alongside the need for other types of housing, when conducting Housing Requirements Surveys. Therefore all local authorities are required to undertake accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers. Figure 1 illustrates this process.

Figure 1: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (Source: WG Guidance)
Currently local authorities are encouraged rather than compelled to provide new Gypsy and Traveller sites by Welsh Government. However, the May 2012 Welsh Government White Paper, ‘Homes for Wales: A White Paper for Better Lives and Communities’ sets out the wider housing objectives for Wales and includes plans to.

‘Introduce a statutory duty on local authorities to provide sites for Gypsy and Traveller communities where there is evidence of a clear need for new sites.’

Therefore, in the future, it is likely that local authorities will have a statutory duty to provide new sites if there is evidence of need.

Welsh Government guidance indicates that local authorities should set fair, reasonable, realistic and effective criteria for allowing the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites. In particular, they should also offer positive guidance which focuses on the criteria under which a private Gypsy and Traveller site will be granted planning permission.

Local authorities can also authorise private sites in rural areas under a rural exceptions policy. Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites notes that:

‘If the Accommodation Needs Assessment shows that new sites are needed, in rural areas your council should think about having a ‘Gypsy and Traveller caravan rural exception site’ policy in the Local Development Plan. This type of policy allows new sites to be developed on land which is next to a village or town, but where new housing would not normally be allowed. Councils can use rural exceptions policies for affordable housing for people who already live in the area, or for people who have links with local families or jobs.’

Local authorities should also look at vacant or surplus local authority land as potential places for site development. Therefore, the guidance would seek to minimise the number of cases where an unauthorised development subsequently became an authorised private site by ensuring that the local authority actively engages with potential site developers to ensure planning permission is gained before the site is occupied.

The criteria for authorising sites should include an analysis of the impact of the site on the local infrastructure. The site should also not dominate the nearest settled community. The land should not be contaminated, but other sites such as near a motorway or power lines are acceptable provided they would also be considered for settled housing. Sites should be located near to existing settlements to allow for access to services. Discreet use of tree screening, rather than fencing, to make the site appear less intrusive should also be considered.

Local need does not have to be proven for private sites. All private site applications should be judged by the same criteria. At all stages the Gypsy and Traveller population should be involved and those wishing to apply for planning permission should be encouraged to engage in pre-planning discussions with the local authority.
Showmen

2.15 Many of the policies and guidance which apply to Gypsies and Travellers also apply to Showmen. However, while new guidance on providing Gypsy sites in Wales is provided in Circular 30/2007, guidance for Showmen sites is still covered by the 1991 Circular 22/91 ‘Travelling Showpeople’. However, in England Circular 22/91 was replaced in August 2007 by CLG Circular 4/07 ‘Planning for Travelling Showpeople’, which in turn was replaced by Planning Policy for Traveller Sites in March 2013.
3. Research Methodology
The Process of Information Collection

Introduction

3.1 The research methodology adopted in this report followed a number of phases. Consistent with a number of other Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments undertaken by ORS, we firstly conducted structured interviews with a number of officers and elected members from Vale of Glamorgan Council. Researchers also interviewed council officers from within and around the surrounding area, including officers from Bridgend, Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

3.2 The aim of these interviews was to provide background information on local authority thinking about the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers, and to understand how site provision operates at the present time within current and emerging national, regional and local policy frameworks.

3.3 The second stage of the research process was to interview Gypsy and Traveller households in Vale of Glamorgan. The aim of these interviews was to understand the current and future requirements of Gypsies and Travellers in the area. To obtain interviews with Gypsy and Traveller households on site in Vale of Glamorgan, ORS visited all households on the two authorised private sites in the area and also on the two unauthorised developments plus a single unauthorised encampment which arose during the study.

3.4 This assessment follows the guidance set out by the Welsh Government in the March 2006 ‘Local Housing Market Assessment Guide’.
4. Gypsy Traveller Sites and Population

A Summary of Current Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Introduction

4.1 A mainstream Housing Requirements Survey typically focuses upon the number of dwellings required in an area, and how many of these should each be provided by the public and private sector. The central aim of this study was to follow a similar format for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation requirements.

4.2 The main consideration of this study is the provision of pitches and sites for Gypsies and Travellers, along with any needs they have in relation to bricks and mortar housing. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers.

4.3 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of Gypsy and Traveller site is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided and run by the unitary authority, a registered social landlord or a Gypsy and Traveller representative group. Places on public sites can be obtained through a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the licensees. Therefore, public sites are a direct equivalent of social housing among bricks and mortar tenants.

4.4 The alternative to public residential sites are private residential sites. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing.

4.5 The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence which can vary from a few weeks to a period of months. An alternative is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities.

4.6 Further considerations in the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers.
Current on-site Population

4.7 The current situation in the Vale of Glamorgan is that there is one site with a permanent planning permission for one pitch while another site on publicly owned land has a long history and could not be subject to enforcement actions. Meanwhile, there are two unauthorised sites. The first at Twyn yr Odyn near Wenvoe has one pitch while the second occupied by New Travellers in Sully has a variable number of occupants with estimates provided by the local authority and the resident travellers ranging from 13 to 30 households.

4.8 A source of information available on the Gypsy and Traveller population derives from a bi-annual survey of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, required by government, conducted by each Local Authority in Wales on a specific date in January and July of each year, and reported to the Welsh Government. This count is of caravans and not households, which makes it more difficult to interpret for a study such as this because it does not count pitches or resident households. It must also be remembered that the count is merely a ‘snapshot in time’ conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day and that any unauthorised encampments which occur on other dates will not be recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from authorised sites on the day of the count will not be included.

4.9 The chart below show the cumulative number of unauthorised and authorised caravans in Vale of Glamorgan at the time of the counts. Please note that the charts are to be read cumulatively to give the total caravan count. We would also note the figures are provided for illustrative purposes to demonstrate the relative size of the populations and are not used in any modelling of future pitch requirements.

Figure 2: Gypsy Caravan Count for Vale of Glamorgan: July 2008 – January 2013 (Source: Welsh Government Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count)
5. Consultation Findings
A Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Findings

Introduction

5.1 In order to set the context of the research and ensure the study is based on a sound understanding of the relevant issues, a list of 50 contacts was provided to ORS by the Council with the aim of carrying out telephone interviews.

5.2 36 individual interviews were undertaken and a focus group was held for Council Members. The following is a breakdown of each consultation group:

» Members: a focus group was held for 7 Members representing all Council Members;
» 19 Officers;
» 7 Officers from surrounding areas;
» 10 Stakeholders.

5.3 ORS conducted 36 (not including the members’ focus group), semi-structured and in-depth telephone interviews during June and July 2013 = 72% response. The interviews typically lasted between 30-40 minutes.

5.4 Reasons for not being able to conduct interviews were:

» Those requested by e-mail to provide telephone contact details did not do so;
» Colleagues within the same organisation had already been interviewed and nothing further could be added;
» The person contacted felt they did not have any information that would be of help to the study;
» Those contacted did not respond.

5.5 Interviews were also carried out with officers working for nearby authorities: Cardiff County Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

5.6 The aim of interviewing nearby authorities was to identify any migration between districts, what routes may be travelled, background information on the framework within which the authorities operate and any perceptions they may have regarding Gypsy and Traveller communities within their operational areas.

5.7 The officers interviewed worked in the following departments: Planning with Policy/Enforcement, Regeneration, Economic Development, Housing/Housing Strategy/Housing Policy, Parks & Grounds Maintenance, Education, Social Services, Highways, Environmental Services/Waste Management and Equalities.

1 This response rate is based on the list of 50 names included on the Council’s contact list.
ORS also interviewed wider stakeholders and these included interviews undertaken with individuals who had knowledge and experience of working with Gypsies and/or Travellers. These interviews included representatives from supporting organisations such as the Cardiff Gypsy & Traveller Project and the Showmen’s Guild (Wales office). Representatives from organisations that have some level of engagement with Gypsies and Travellers within the Vale of Glamorgan included the Police and NHS Wales.

With the aim of obtaining bricks and mortar contacts ORS also interviewed representatives from the following housing associations:

- Hafod Housing Association;
- United Welsh Housing Association Ltd;
- Wales and West Housing Association.

Council Housing and Housing Association properties in the Vale of Glamorgan are all managed through a joint arrangement called Homes4U. The Homes4U Policy has been agreed between the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Newydd Housing Association, Wales and West Housing Association, Hafod Housing Association and United Welsh Housing Association.

All of those interviewed including Members were asked whether they could identify or knew any Gypsies or Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation and if so, could they give a letter from ORS to them, which asked whether they would like to be involved in the Accommodation Needs Assessment consultation; to the same effect the request was highlighted on the Council’s website.

Registered Providers (RPs) were also asked how well they are able to identify these households within their current monitoring mechanisms and whether there are specific issues in relation to housing people from the Gypsy or Traveller communities.

RPs together with other organisations found they were able to provide very little data through their monitoring systems. The majority of officers confirmed they knew of people from the Gypsy or Traveller communities living in their areas or in their properties because of officer experience/knowledge, but not because of the analysis of statistical data.

The reasons given for not being able to accurately provide information was due to people not self-declaring their ethnicity during the housing application process or it was not possible to extrapolate this information from data sets/computer systems and/or tended generally not to be included in monitoring.

The Consultation section has been split into two distinct sections:

- Council Officers and Members and Officers representing neighbouring authority areas;
- Wider Stakeholders – including Registered Providers and support agencies.

Due to issues surrounding data protection and in order to protect the confidentiality of those who took part, this section does not include verbatim comments and it aims to represents a summary of the views and responses expressed by council officers, members and stakeholders during the consultation interview process.

The Consultation Section is based on information provided during the interview process and may not have a direct correlation to the factual information provided to ORS from the local authorities as part of the desktop exercise: for example number and names of sites.
Vale of Glamorgan Officers and Members and Officers employed in neighbouring areas

Main Policy Tools

5.18 Legislation, and in particular guidance used, was mainly published by the Welsh Government (WG) included C30/07 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites, C4/2005 Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping, Good Practice Guidance in Designing Gypsy Traveller Sites in Wales (2009), Good Practice Guide in Managing Gypsy Traveller Sites in Wales (2009) and Travelling for a Better Future: A Gypsy and Traveller Framework for Action and Delivery. Reference was also made to emerging consultation documents such as the WG’s consultation on Equalities and the Housing White Paper.


5.20 Respondents representing the Vale of Glamorgan Council stated that they had only one specific policy relating to Gypsies and Travellers. The Council’s adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) contains a criteria based policy in respect of Gypsy and Travellers referred to as Policy Hous 14 – Gypsy Caravans. The Council also holds an information directory in order that there is one point of contact for each department in relation to Gypsy or Traveller issues in order that any concerns such as health and safety issues are dealt with effectively and efficiently. The Council, together with other partners, have also developed a protocol which assists in the overall approach to evaluating health and welfare requirements of those Gypsies or Travellers who arrive in the area and who are camped illegally.

5.21 Officers in nearby local authority areas highlighted the same legislation but also the Caravan Sites Act 1968. Officers also highlighted specific policies such as: Cardiff County Council’s Policy H6, relating to Gypsy sites which is included in their adopted South Glamorgan (Cardiff Area) Replacement Structure Plan and Bridgend Borough County Council’s Policy H8 which is a criteria based policy contained within the Bridgend UDP which enables Gypsy site proposals to be considered in the appropriate manner. Bridgend Borough County Council has also developed a protocol in relation to managing unauthorised encampments.

5.22 Cardiff County Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough County Council also have policies relating to the allocations and license agreements because they own and manage sites in their areas.

5.23 It was generally agreed that the policies that are available to officers are effective because they are reviewed regularly and are therefore considered to be efficient and up-to-date.

Accommodation and Management: Current Site Provision and Bricks and Mortar

5.24 Officers and members confirmed that the Council did not own or manage any sites within the Vale of Glamorgan.

5.25 The sites that are being occupied were noted as being:

- Hayes Road, Sully – an unauthorised but tolerated site occupied by what are considered to be New Travellers on land in the Council’s ownership;

Some policies were currently in draft format
A site in Llangan – an unauthorised, but tolerated site owned by the Council and occupied by one family for some 20 years with agreement. The family own a piece of land nearby which they have tried to gain planning permission for;

The Stables, Redway Road, Bonvilston—privately owned and planning permission granted on appeal.

5.26 Vale of Glamorgan officers and members believed that the facilities on these sites were basic. It was considered that facilities on the site at Llangan and Bonvilston probably met the needs of those living there. The facilities provided at the site in Sully were believed to not meet the needs of most people, but it could be that those living there were content. It was considered that this may be because residents would not wish to have facilities provided for them because it could constitute in them feeling they were in debt or being managed by the Council.

5.27 It was believed that Gypsies or Travellers were mainly living in the Vale of Glamorgan because of family connections and traditional travelling patterns.

5.28 Officers in nearby authority areas reported that they owned and managed the following sites:

» Cardiff CC: Roverway, Cardiff – 21 pitches;
» Cardiff CC: Shirenewton, Cardiff – 59 pitches;
» Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC: Beddau Caravan Park, Pontypridd – 8 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches.

5.29 Officers working for Bridgend County Borough Council confirmed that their area did not own or manage any sites. It was considered that this was because they were a small authority, no need had currently been identified and there was an unofficial site in Neath Port Talbot which was considered to be a favoured location by Gypsies or Travellers.

5.30 The 2 sites in Cardiff where considered to be in reasonable proximity to the Vale of Glamorgan borders being between 2-5 miles away. Officers believed that the site at Shirenewton met the needs of those living there, whilst the site at Roverway did not and this site is due to close. It was considered that both sites are overcrowded and there are waiting lists in operation.

5.31 The site at Pontypridd was considered not to be close to the Vale of Glamorgan border by those interviewed. Officers confirmed that they believed residents to be happy with the facilities and there is currently only one person on their site waiting list.

5.32 Officers in neighbouring areas confirmed that they also had the following privately owned sites:

» Bridgend BCC: 2 privately owned sites each for one pitch in Pencoed and Toytrahen;
» Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC: 3 privately owned site at Llanharan, Rhigos and Rhidyfelin;
» Cardiff CC: 2 privately owned family sites near to the Shirenewton site.

5.33 Officers in neighbouring areas, who identified the above sites, confirmed they believed that residents living on these sites had their needs being met. However, the majority of officers believed the sites did not generally meet the needs of the wider Traveller community because they are privately owned family sites which are used solely by the families/relatives concerned.

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3 Consultation was currently being undertaken with the residents about the future of the Roverway site
Both Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough County Councils believed they were meeting the needs of any Gypsies or Travellers in their area in relation to permanent site provision.

Cardiff County Council confirmed they had recently undertaken a Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Assessment which identified the need for further permanent site provision.

Respondents confirmed there is no transit provision within the Vale of Glamorgan or neighbouring authority areas other than the 2 pitches provided by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council at their site at Pontypridd.

Some officers and members interviewed believed or knew there are Gypsies or Travellers living in bricks and mortar in their areas but did not know who they are personally. Only one officer confirmed that they knew of two families living in the Vale of Glamorgan area, but knew they did not wish to be identified as such and therefore it was inappropriate to make contact with them.

An officer representing Bridgend Borough County Council believed that because of historical reasons of a site opened in the 1960s needing to close some years back, that some of the residents had moved into bricks and mortar in their area, but they had no knowledge where these people may be now. Other than this information officers and members in all areas were unable to provide any further information in relation to any Gypsies or Travellers that may have moved into bricks and mortar accommodation.

Accommodation and Management: Unauthorised Encampments and Development

Officers and Members in the Vale of Glamorgan generally agreed that there were few instances of unauthorised encampments or unauthorised development. It was further suggested that occurrences of unauthorised encampments had decreased over recent years.

Areas where encampments had occurred included:

- Wenvoe;
- Penarth Heights;
- Barry Island overflow car park;
- Penmark.

Members mentioned that there had been some instances of small circus’ coming to the area without prior permission, but these were only for the odd weekend.

Although it was generally agreed that there had been fewer instances of encampments over the last few years, there was still an acknowledgement that there is a perceived increase in encampments during the summer months (May-September).

It was believed that Gypsies or Travellers were generally travelling to the Vale of Glamorgan for a specific reason such as a wedding or funeral or they were travelling through the area, perhaps stopping for a few days before attending the Royal Welsh Show, the horse fair at Bridgend or travelling over to Ireland.

Officers in neighbouring areas reported they had few instances of unauthorised encampments in their areas.
Cardiff officers confirmed there is a small site near to the Shirenewton site that has been occupied for some time. The site has been submitted for retrospective planning permission and is on privately owned land.

**Gypsies and Travellers - Trends, Favoured Locations and Stopping Points**

When asked to consider trends in relation to these communities all those interviewed believed there had been no significant change over the last 10-20 years and the majority could not highlight any specific trends.

It was believed there had been an overall decrease in the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers coming into the Vale of Glamorgan and into nearby areas and those that did come to the area were more likely to be Gypsies or Irish Travellers staying for short periods of time and on an ad hoc basis.

It was generally agreed that the Gypsies or Travellers in the area had settled permanently in the Vale of Glamorgan and in the main did not travel, other than for short periods during the summer. It was thought likely that they had lived or had a connection to the Vale of Glamorgan and surrounding areas for several generations.

Officers and members working in the Vale of Glamorgan commented that there appeared to be fewer encampments and this could be because the Bridgend Horse fair was cancelled last year.

The majority responded that they had not seen any increase in planning applications for privately owned sites in their areas.

It was generally believed that Gypsies and Travellers preferred the rural areas and areas that were considered favoured locations and stopping places in the Vale of Glamorgan are:

- Sully;
- Barry Island;
- Pencoed;
- Llandough;
- Lay-bys at Dinas Powys and Leckwith;
- Wenvoe;
- The Tumble.

Officers in neighbouring local authority areas highlighted the following areas which were considered favoured locations and stopping places:

- Off the A470 near Abercynon and Aberdare;
- Pyle;
- Cardiff
- M4.
Accommodation Needs: Permanent and Transit provision

5.53 Although it was stated that there had been a decline in unauthorised encampments in the Vale of Glamorgan the majority of officers and members believed there was a need for permanent provision. This was based on their belief that because there are two unauthorised sites that this demonstrates a need.

5.54 A minority of officers believed that there is a need for 2 permanent sites being of at least 10 pitches, together with a transit site for 10 pitches in the Vale of Glamorgan.

5.55 Concerns were raised as to whether any new sites should be made available to a specific category of Gypsy or Traveller or whether any provision should be accessible to all members of these communities.

5.56 Officers believed there was a need for transit provision within the wider area and that this should link to any provision made on a regional basis and based on the road networks through Wales.

5.57 Officers in Cardiff responded that a need for both permanent and transit provision had been evidenced in their Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Needs assessment.

5.58 Bridgend County Borough Council officers believed there may be a small need for a transit site but this was yet to be evidenced.

5.59 Officers responding from Rhondda Cynon Taff believed that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area were currently being met, but they would keep this under review.

Site Location and Management

5.60 Officers and members responding in the Vale of Glamorgan believed that the sites at Sully and Llangan may be in suitable locations.

5.61 It was believed that the site at Sully, although being formerly a civic amenity/waste management site, was considered suitable because of access to the site was considered to be good, it has room for expansion and it is close to local facilities such as shops. However, concerns were raised that should the Council look to legalise the site there would be local opposition and those residing there may not wish to be “managed” or wish to pay rent or service charges. The result of legalising the site could mean the current residents would move to another area creating another illegal encampment and the Sully site could remain unoccupied.

5.62 However, under current legislation the Police could move Gypsies or Travellers on if there are two or more people trespassing on land with one or more vehicle and if there is a suitable alternative site available; such as the site at Sully if it were legalised.

5.63 There were some concerns raised about the site at Llangan in that it was too rural, not close to services and accessibility to the site was poor. Another concern was that this site had been used by one family for over 20 years and should it therefore be considered a private site rather than for use by the wider Gypsy/Traveller communities.

5.64 Members in particular were concerned that if planning permission were sought by the Council this could set a precedent of providing family sites where planning permission had been refused on privately owned land.
5.65 It was also noted that the current resident/s of the site at Llangan have a site nearby at St Mary’s Hill. Planning permission has been applied for (Enclosure 9845, Felindre, St Mary’s Hill, Llangan 2011/00683/ful) but was refused because it is in a quarry blast zone, but this blast zone may no longer be relevant/in operation. Members considered whether the owner of the site may consider reapplying for planning on this site.

5.66 It was generally agreed by all those interviewed that any new permanent sites, whether private or public, should be close to amenities such as schools, GPs, public transport and road networks.

5.67 There was no majority view in terms of whether sites should be in urban or rural areas.

5.68 Some officers put forward the view that any site provision should be in consultation not only with the settled community, but also with the Gypsies and Travellers themselves.

5.69 It was generally agreed by those responding in the Vale of Glamorgan that any unmet need that may be identified should be met through public provision and that any new site/s should be managed by the Council. The reasons why public provision would be preferable was because of having more control over who accessed the site/s and there would be an assurance that the allocation of pitches was fair and rent and services charges affordable.

5.70 The majority of respondents from both the Vale of Glamorgan and nearby local authority areas believed that any new transit provision should be close to the main road networks such as the A470 and M4.

5.71 Some officers put forward that if any need for either permanent or transit sites were evidenced that sites should be less than 10 pitches.

**Community Cohesion and Cross Boundary Issues**

5.72 Respondents in both the Vale of Glamorgan and nearby local authority areas highlighted tensions that had arisen because of the unauthorised encampment at Sully. It was reported that public meetings had been held which had been attended by both nearby residents and those living on the site. Some officers highlighted that they believed that some councillor/s had acted inappropriately and had at times, inflamed the situation.

5.73 This point was further highlighted by Vale of Glamorgan officers that they believed there was a need for further training and education for Members and perhaps officers with regard to Gypsy and Traveller culture and the issues that sometimes arise in connection with these communities.

5.74 There were few examples of good practice other than an arts event held for the Holocaust Memorial Day in the Vale of Glamorgan and it was believed the Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project helped in resolving some of community cohesion issues when they arose.

5.75 Officers in neighbouring areas did not highlight any specific issues in relation to community cohesion.

5.76 There were no examples of cross border working and some respondents believed that some work was being undertaken at a regional level and thus cross border working would or should improve.
Consultation Activities

5.77 There were few examples of regular consultation with Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople within either the Vale of Glamorgan or nearby authority areas.

5.78 Officers in areas where public sites are provided confirmed that consultation on specific issues does take place such as when sites are due to be refurbished.

5.79 It was acknowledged that consultation with Gypsies and Travellers and Show people needs to be improved especially when it came to identifying future sites.

The Future and Any Additional Issues

5.80 It was generally agreed by all those interviewed that they did not envisage a massive change in relation to numbers of Gypsies or Travellers living or travelling through their areas.

5.81 It was generally believed that a few sites would eventually be developed in the Vale of Glamorgan and perhaps, if need were evidence, site/s in Rhondda Cynon Taff.

5.82 Cardiff, having evidenced the need for more site provision and having a plan, would be actively looking to meet this need as quickly as possible.

5.83 The majority of those interviewed believed that a regional approach would be developed with regard to transit provision.

5.84 Some raised the issue that the Welsh Government is looking to cut the 22 local authorities in Wales, hence forcing local authorities to merge which may have an impact, especially in terms of delays, on any plans in relation to Gypsy and Traveller site provision.

Wider Stakeholders

Main Policy Tools

5.85 Stakeholders confirmed they used legislation and guidance specific to their area of expertise for example working within the Equality and Diversity Framework (EDF) including the Human Rights Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments), Equalities Act 2010, Children’s Act 1989 & 2004, Planning legislation and Housing legislation such as the Homelessness Act 2002.

5.86 Organisations did not have any policies specific to Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople but used overarching policies and constitutional documents; examples were given as Equality and Diversity, lettings and allocations especially in relation to Choice Based Lettings, caravan site licensing and enforcement, Health and Safety and lone working. Although not specifically used in relation to Gypsies and Travellers there was usually an equality and diversity statement included in any policy documentation. The Showmen’s Guild also used a code of practice in relation to its members.

5.87 Respondents generally agreed that both national legislation and guidance was generally effective. The majority of those interviewed also confirmed that training had been provided within their organisation in relation to Gypsy and Traveller culture and some of the issues often associated with these communities. Training can be delivered by both the Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project and the Police.
Accommodation Provision in the Vale of Glamorgan

5.88 Stakeholders stated that there are currently no local authority sites in the area. The sites respondents knew about are at Sully, Llangan and a site that had previously been occupied by those on the Sully site at Billy Banks Penarth.

5.89 It was generally believed that those living on the Sully and Llangan sites had their needs met in terms of the facilities albeit that they could be considered basic. A few respondents acknowledged that they believed the Llangan site need to be expanded, but only for the needs of those currently living on the site.

5.90 Some respondents believed that there were a number of different Gypsy or Traveller communities within the Cardiff and Vale areas and that because of this the numbers travelling to and through the area had increased, especially during the summer months. It was considered that as the Cardiff sites were already filled to capacity and with the potential closure of one of the sites that this could create pressure to find land to reside on in other, nearby, areas.

5.91 Respondents were not able to provide any information regarding those that may now be living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

5.92 RPs confirmed that they did monitor ethnicity and some RPs had the ability to extrapolate statistical data in relation to ethnicity and that included Gypsies and Irish Travellers. However, this information was based on whether or not those completing the necessary application form or who were asked to update their profiles declared this information.

5.93 RPs that are able to analyse their data stated they had not housed any Gypsies or Travellers within the Vale of Glamorgan area as far as they are aware.

Unauthorised encampments, Favoured Locations and Trends

5.94 Respondents stated the following areas where encampments had occurred to the best of their knowledge:

» Culverhouse Cross;
» Wenvoe;
» Sully;
» St Lythans;
» Twyn-yr-Odyn;
» Penarth;
» Llangan;
» St Mary’s Hill.

5.95 Respondents did not believe there were any particular locations that were favoured by Gypsies or Travellers in the Vale of Glamorgan. Some respondents believed that they were in the area because of family connections or were travelling through the area and would only stop for a few days.

5.96 Respondents generally believed that there are now fewer Gypsies or Travellers in the area than there had been over recent years. One respondent, having looked at statistical data they collated, held the view that there are more Gypsies and Travellers in the Vale of Glamorgan.
Respondents did not report any significant trends.

**Future Accommodation Provision**

It was generally agreed that there was a lack of provision both in terms of permanent, private and transit provision to meet historic unmet need and any future growth. This was believed to be evidenced by the numbers of unauthorised encampments, lack of planning applications/permissions and the lack of public site provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Some respondents believed that by providing public provision the Council will be better able to provide services and increase engagement with Gypsies and Travellers. The suspected benefits of this were believed to be improved school attendance, better health/wellbeing and reduced anti-social behaviour.

Respondents stated the following as important criteria to consider with regard to site location and design:

- Access to amenities and facilities such as GPs, schools, shops, public transport etc;
- Access to facilities on site such as water, electric, drainage and rubbish disposal;
- Ensuring that the sites were close to other inhabited areas, but far enough away to ensure privacy (thus ensuring sustainability);
- Support on site with regard to health, education and housing;
- Safe for children and away from busy roads;
- Away from health and environmental hazards such as tips, flyovers, pylons etc.

Most respondents were unable to recommend a location for a new site. Some respondents did put forward the site at Sully and one respondent asked that further consideration be made by the Council regarding planning permission for the site at St Mary’s Hill, privately owned by the resident living on the site at Llangan.

It was generally agreed that where sites are in the ownership of a council then they are better to be managed by that council. However, a minority of respondents did put forward the view that public sites could be managed by RPs, although none of those interviewed currently do so.

It was believed that there are few Showpeople currently residing in the Vale of Glamorgan. However, the Showmen’s Guild (Wales Office) highlighted that the Guild as an organisation is empowered to lease or purchase land for it and its members use and they are actively looking for land, for amongst other things “Winter” quarters and they have confirmed that they are particularly looking in Neath and West Wales.

**Community Cohesion, Cross Boundary Issues and Consultation Activities**

Stakeholders believed there were few issues in the Vale of Glamorgan in relation to community cohesion. Those that did, mentioned the issues surrounding the current unauthorised, yet tolerated, site at Sully and the small encampment at Wenvoe. The encampment at Wenvoe had created significant hostility between local residents and the Travellers because they had chosen to encamp on the local cricket ground and wished to use the facilities in the cricket pavilion. However, once asked to move away from the actual cricket ground, which they have, there has been less hostility.
5.105 There was a general impression given by respondents that the same NIMBYism and stereotyping of Gypsies or Travellers remained and there was a need to try and do more in terms of educating Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community about the different cultures that exist.

5.106 Respondents had differing views as to whether Gypsies and Travellers would be able to sustain their culture in the way they are attempting to do so. This may be more challenging for Showpeople as those who own land (known as ride masters) are beginning to realise its value and may be looking to sell it for housing development. This will create greater pressure on those that rely on them to provide land to rent affordably for their “Winter” quarters and the storing of equipment. In addition to this as Showpeople families grow because of the lack of “Winter” quarters, they may only wish to rent to family members rather than those outside of the family – this could create problems in terms of community cohesion.

5.107 Some respondents also believed that Gypsies and Travellers may also not be able to sustain their current way of life because of the lack of sites, the cost of diesel, low levels of literacy and the changes in legislation relating to passing a driving theory test, towing, scrap metal and selling door to door (cold calling).

5.108 A minority of respondents believed that there could be more New Travellers because of the lack of affordable housing and the impact of the recession in terms of increased unemployment and welfare reform.

5.109 The main travelling routes believed to be used by Gypsies or Travellers in or through the Vale of Glamorgan were believed to be the A470, M4 and A465.

5.110 Respondents were unaware of any Gypsies or Travellers moving from or to the Vale of Glamorgan from other local authority areas.

5.111 Respondents did not believe that Gypsies or Travellers were being moved back and forth between local authority areas.

5.112 There was little evidence to suggest that organisations were working cross border other than the Police, Fire and Health.

5.113 Respondents were unable to provide information in respect of the amount or type of consultation that is undertaken with Gypsy or Traveller communities. It was understood that if consultation was needed it tended to be reactive.

5.114 If consultation was undertaken it was likely that Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project would be involved and this would be by face to face interviews which were believed to be the best mechanism to undertake consultation with Gypsies or Travellers.

5.115 One respondent did raise the issue that the Vale of Glamorgan is not part of Cardiff, and therefore Gypsies and Travellers in the Vale of Glamorgan may not wish to be consulted with by an organisation that is representing another area.

The Future and Any Additional Issues

5.116 There was general frustration by the majority of those interviewed in relation to the lack of progress in developing new sites generally. In relation to the Vale of Glamorgan specifically some stakeholders believed that because a need for sites had already been evidenced some years ago this now should have been met.
5.117 There was a general pessimism that any sites would be developed and there was a general feeling of “two steps forward and one back” and a lack of political will on behalf of the Council.

5.118 Some respondents believed that should a public site be developed it would give organisations a greater opportunity to engage with Gypsy and Traveller communities in the area and allow for greater consultation resulting in a greater understanding as to what their needs may be, if any.

5.119 It was believed that until Gypsies, Travellers, Showpeople and the settled community better understood how to adapt to each other it would not be possible to operate and live as one community and until that understanding was realised, little progress would be made.
6. On-Site Interviews

Summary of the Interviews obtained with on-site residents

Site Provision

6.1 All known sites in the Vale of Glamorgan were visited by ORS researchers. The following section documents the outcome of these visits.

Site 1

6.2 Is a long term site on publicly owned land. The site is occupied by a woman and her daughter and they confirmed to ORS that they have no immediate needs.

Site 2

6.3 Has permanent planning permission for one pitch. When the site was visited by ORS researchers no-one was present and the site owner is currently away from the site.

Site 3

6.4 The site near Wenvoe is occupied as one pitch and has no planning permissions. When the site was visited by ORS researchers no-one was present. A note was left with the occupants requesting that they contact ORS, but no reply was received. Since this visit, Vale of Glamorgan Council has received a planning application for one pitch at the site.

Site 4

6.5 This site on an old household waste recycling centre near Sully is occupied by a mixture of New Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. ORS researchers visited the site and met a number of residents outside of the site. Previous records from other visits made by the Council indicated that there were between 13 and 17 households present on the site. Site residents suggested that there are currently around 20 households living on the site permanently and another group of 10 households who live on the site only in the winter, while other households currently in bricks and mortar outside of Vale of Glamorgan would wish to live on the site if space was available. It was felt the only thing restricting the number of households on site was a lack of space.

6.6 It was suggested that ORS provide a written questionnaire for residents to complete to register their needs. ORS posted copies of the questionnaire to the site, but received no responses. We have also received no further communication from anyone currently not on the site despite repeated reminders to site residents that we need to confirm the existence of other households. Therefore, ORS were not able to verify that there are any households currently not on the site who would wish to move there.

6.7 Therefore, from information provided to ORS by on-site residents at Sully we understand that there are up to 40 New Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households who wish to live on sites in Vale of Glamorgan. However, we are not able to validate this claim and therefore have not included all of these households as
part of our needs calculation. We are only able to validate the households who are currently present on the site at Sully due to a lack of further information.
7. Future Site Provision
The Modelling of Future Site Provision

Site Provision

7.1 This section focuses on the extra site provision which is required in Vale of Glamorgan to cover the period for the Local Development Plan (LDP). It should be noted that as with any projection the further into the future the data is projected the less accurate the data becomes. Therefore, Vale of Glamorgan could provide for the short to medium need and closely monitor the situation for the latter period of the LDP.

7.2 This section concentrates not only upon the total extra provision which is required in the area, but whether there a need for any transit site/emergency stopping place provision.

7.3 The Welsh Government published guidance in March 2006 on conducting ‘Local Housing Market Assessments’ which contains an appendix on conducting Gypsy and Traveller studies. This contains an illustrated example on how to calculate the current and future need for residential site pitches. The key factor in this methodology is to compare the predicted amount of extra site space which will become available with a prediction of the need for extra space on sites. This section will follow the recommended approach suggested by Welsh Government, but is reproduced in a slightly different order for the purposes of clarity. As with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below:

Supply of Pitches

7.4 Pitches which are available for use can come from a variety of sources. These include:

» Currently vacant pitches;
» Any pitches currently programmed to be developed within the study period;
» Pitches vacated by people moving to housing;
» Pitches vacated by people moving out of the study area – this will be identified as set out above;
» Pitches vacated due to the dissolution of households (normally through the death of a single person household).
Current Need

7.5 There are four key components of current need. Total current need (which is not necessarily need for additional pitches because they may be able to be addressed by space available in the study area) is simply:

» Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected;
» Concealed households;
» Households in brick and mortar wishing to move to sites; and
» Households on waiting lists for public sites.

Future Need

7.6 There are four key components of current need. Total current need (which is not necessarily need for additional pitches because they may be able to be addressed by space available in the study area) is simply:

» Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
» New household formation expected during the study period; and
» Migration to sites from outside the study area Households on waiting lists for public sites.

7.7 We will firstly provide the model as set out above for Gypsies and Travellers within the whole of Vale of Glamorgan. We will then separately analyse the possible need for additional transit provision in the study area before discussing Travelling Showpeople.

Current Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

7.8 The two existing sites across Vale of Glamorgan are in use and have no space, although given the size of the site at Llangan and the current level of occupancy it would be possible to accommodate additional households. However it is accepted by the Council that it would be problematic to house additional travellers at this site and therefore there is no additional supply of pitches available.

Additional Site Provision: Current Need

7.9 The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include those:

» Households on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected;
» Concealed households;
» Households in brick and mortar wishing to move to sites; and
» Households on waiting lists for public sites.

Current Unauthorised Developments

7.10 There are two unauthorised sites in Vale of Glamorgan. A site with one pitch at Twyn yr Odyn near Wenvoe is facing enforcement action by the Council, but has recently submitted a planning application. While ORS researchers were not able to access this site it is clear the site is in use and the planning application indicates that they wish to stay in the area. Therefore, we have counted them as need.
7.11 The New Traveller site at Sully is currently occupied by a number of permanent households plus others who live there for part of the year, all of whom wish to stay in the area. The number of households who occupy the site ranges from 13-17 households from Council estimates at site visits to a claim by site occupants that there are 20 occupants permanently with another 10 households resident in the winter. ORS did not gain access to the site and are therefore not able to verify the higher figures put forward by the site occupants. We have therefore counted a need of 17 households as being the current need for this site and have not included the winter use of the site or the existing residents’ claims.

Concealed Households

7.12 There is no evidence of any concealed households on the existing sites in Vale of Glamorgan.

Bricks and Mortar

7.13 Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a population of 7 Gypsy and Traveller persons in the whole of Vale of Glamorgan. Therefore, it was unsurprising that ORS found no households in bricks and mortar.

7.14 However, we would note that site residents at Sully stated a number of households in bricks and mortar currently living outside of Vale of Glamorgan would wish to move to a site in the area, but no evidence was provided to substantiate this claim and therefore we are unable to include any as being part of the need figures.

Waiting Lists for Public Sites

7.15 There is no public site in the Vale of Glamorgan and therefore there is no waiting list for a place on a site.

Additional Site Provision: Future Need

7.16 The next stage of the process is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches will include those:

» Households living on sites with temporary planning permissions;
» New household formation expected during the study period; and
» Migration to sites from outside the study area.

Temporary Planning Permission

7.17 There are currently no sites in Vale of Glamorgan with temporary planning permissions.

New Household Formation

7.18 For most studies an important group for future pitch provision will be older children who form their own households. Many studies of Gypsy and Traveller populations assume a net growth in the population of around 3% per annum. ORS have produced an appendum report demonstrating the problems with this calculation and why it is likely to considerably overstate growth rates and this is available on request.
However, for this study, only a small number of children appear to be resident on sites and these all relate to the New Traveller site at Sully. When visited by Council officers in December 2012 there were 8 children on the site, all of whom were aged under 5 years of age. On this basis it is considered unlikely that new households will be formed from the population at this site during the Plan period. Therefore no allowance has been made for new households formation from existing sites.

In-migration from Other Sources

The most complicated area for a survey such as this is to estimate how many households will require accommodation from outside the area. Potentially Gypsies and Travellers could move to the Vale of Glamorgan from anywhere in the country. The number of household seeking to move to Vale of Glamorgan is likely to be heavily dependent upon pitch provision elsewhere. It has been noted that a weakness of many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments conducted across the UK has been that they either allowed for out-migration without in-migration which led to under-counting of need, or they over-counted need by assuming every household visiting the area required a pitch.

Overall the level of in-migration to the Vale of Glamorgan is a very difficult issue to predict. Households resident on the Sully site state that there are households currently living outside of Vale of Glamorgan who would wish to move to a site in the Vale of Glamorgan, but they were not able to substantiate this claim.

Therefore, we have not allowed for any net in-migration on to existing sites. The advantage of allowing for net migration to sum to zero is that it avoids the problems seen with other Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments where the modelling of migration clearly identified too low or high a level of total pitch provision. An assumption of net nil migration implies that the net pitch requirement is driven by locally identifiable need. This is also consistent with the findings form the stakeholder consultation on Duty to Co-operate where neighbouring councils identified that they were seeking to address their own needs, but were not making provision for more than this figure.

However, it does still potentially leave a number of households currently not resident in Vale of Glamorgan with their need unmet. Therefore we would recommend a regular monitoring of the situation to ensure that all needs are met during the Plan period and not just those which can be immediately identified at this stage.

Beyond this number, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, we would propose that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is important for Vale of Glamorgan to have clear criteria based planning policies in place for any new potential sites which do arise.

Overall Needs for Vale of Glamorgan

The estimated extra site provision that is required for the Plan period will be 18 pitches to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the unauthorised sites and growth in household numbers due to household formation. Again we would note that potentially other households wish to live on sites in Vale of Glamorgan, but ORS are not able to validate this information due to unwillingness of the households to make themselves known.
Figure 3: Required Extra Pitches in the Vale of Glamorgan from 2013-2026

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Requirement/Vacancy</th>
<th>Gross Requirement</th>
<th>Supply</th>
<th>Net Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supply of Pitches</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional supply from empty pitches</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional supply new sites</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supply</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Need</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current unauthorised developments or encampments</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concealed households</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net movement from bricks and mortar</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting list for public sites</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Need</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently on sites with temporary planning permission</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net migration</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New household formation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Future Needs</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.26 To address the potential shortfall in pitches for households unwilling to come forward at this stage, ORS would propose that Vale of Glamorgan follow the principles set by Neath Port Talbot Council and could provide for the short to medium need and closely monitor the situation for the latter period of the Local Plan. This would allow Vale of Glamorgan to address clearly identified current needs, but also have flexibility to address needs which may exist and cannot be substantiated at this time.

Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

7.27 Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area, or who are passing through on the way to somewhere else. They do not have a function in meeting local need which must be addressed on permanent sites.

7.28 An alternative to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.

7.29 There is currently no transit site or emergency stopping place in Vale of Glamorgan and very little provision in the whole of South East Wales. We would note that local authorities are not able to use transit provision on private sites as part of their enforcement action policies and therefore while it does provide an option for visiting households it is at the discretion of the site owner who is allowed on to the site.

7.30 The table below shows all encampments in Vale of Glamorgan since 2009, which shows a regular but low level amount of travelling through the area. The encampment of the sports ground at Wenvoe was visited by ORS researchers and occupants stated that they would have camped at a formal transit site if was had have been available.
The key issue in determining if there is a requirement for further transit site provision is whether there is evidence of sufficient travelling through the area. Evidence provided by stakeholders are that unauthorised encampments do occur in Vale of Glamorgan and the rest of South East Wales due to overcrowding on existing sites and visiting relatives.

Therefore, there would appear to be a gap in provision for a suitably located publicly provided transit site or emergency stopping place of around 10 pitches near the M4. This does not necessarily fall within the Vale of Glamorgan planning area and we would note that transit sites are an area where cross boundary
working could prove to be particularly effective and that the needs of Gypsy and Travellers visiting South East Wales are an issue which should be considered at a strategic level.

**Travelling Showpeople and Circus Performers**

The only known Travelling Showpeople in the Vale of Glamorgan are those associated with the New Traveller site in Sully. Therefore they have already been considered, but we would note that site resident report that some Travelling Showpeople do use the site solely as a winter quarters.
8. Conclusions
Drawing together the Evidence

Introduction

8.1 This chapter brings together the evidence presented earlier in the report to provide some key policy conclusions for Vale of Glamorgan.

Current Future Need

8.2 The situation for Gypsies and Travellers in Vale of Glamorgan is relatively clear with only one household living on unauthorised sites comprising the entire need.

8.3 The situation relating to New Travellers, many of whom are working as Travelling Showpeople is less clear.

8.4 The number of households who occupy the site ranges from 13-17 households from council estimates at site visits to a claim by site occupants that there are 20 occupants permanently with another 10 households resident in the winter. ORS did not gain access to the site and are therefore not able to verify the higher figures put forward by the site occupants. We have therefore counted the higher number of 17 households as being the current need for this site.

8.5 Therefore, in total 18 pitches are required across the LDP period for Vale of Glamorgan. 17 of these pitches are required for households on the site near Sully who have indicated that they wish to remain at this location.

8.6 There is also evidence of a gap in provision for a transit site or emergency stopping place in South East Wales, but this could potentially be met in a range of authorities in the area and would benefit from strategic cross-boundary planning.

Travelling Showpeople and Circus Performers

8.7 Beyond those households living alongside New Travellers at the unauthorised site at Sully there are no other known Travelling Showpeople in Vale of Glamorgan and there is therefore no clear immediate needs form this group.