

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA)

Frequently Asked Questions

December 2018

The government defines Gypsies and Travellers as:

“Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.”

[Annex 1 Glossary, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, 2015](#)

In practice this only currently includes families who still have a travelling lifestyle (even if they have stopped travelling temporarily) but does not include those who are in ‘bricks and mortar’ accommodation.

What is a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA)?

In order to assess the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the borough, the council has conducted a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANAs). This assessment looks at the current and future accommodation needs for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the borough.

It is noted that there is currently no identified future requirement to provide any plots for Travelling Showpeople and therefore they are not referred to further in this FAQs.

Why is the council involved?

The council, as the Local Planning Authority, has a responsibility to understand what accommodation need exists within the borough for Gypsy and Traveller households. As part of preparing the Local Plan, the council will look to identify suitable sites within the borough to meet identified need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. The GTANA provides an evidence base which will be used to write policies and make provision for new Gypsy and Traveller pitches. This GTANA looks to 2041, which will align to the new Local Plan for the borough.

What is the council doing?

The council commissioned an accommodation needs assessment to fully understand the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the borough over the plan period from 2019 to 2041. The report has been published on the council’s [evidence base](#) pages for the Local Plan, which is a live page and updated as soon as new evidence becomes available.

How has the council involved the gypsy and traveller community?

The council commissioned a specialist, independent organisation, called Opinion Research Services (ORS), to carry out the accommodation needs analysis, who held interviews with gypsy and traveller households living in the borough as part of the survey in early 2018.

What was the estimated need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches?

The assessment has shown that the borough needs an additional 46 pitches to make sure we have enough Gypsy and Traveller accommodation until 2041.

However, there is a new definition set out in the Mayor of London's draft [London Plan](#) (Policy H16). If the draft London Plan is agreed in 2019, the assessment recommends that 74 pitches will be needed within the borough. This is because the definition of Gypsy and Traveller households will change from the current national definition (just those families who travel) to all those who identify as Gypsies or Travellers (people with a cultural tradition of nomadism, a nomadic habit of life, or living in a caravan, whatever their race or origin).

It is noted that the draft London Plan only sets out a need for 10 pitches in Kingston. However, this figure should only be used if the borough does not have an up to date needs assessment. As Kingston will have an up to date assessment, it would not be appropriate to continue to apply the 10 pitch target.

What will happen next?

A report on the Issues and Options (the first stage of the Local Plan) was considered at the Strategic Housing and Planning Committee on 8 November 2018. We will be consulting with the community on the Issues and Options of the draft local plan in early 2019.