

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper - Update

June 2017

1. Introduction

1.1. This paper sets out the current position on the Gypsy and Traveller Need in Uttlesford District, in light of the recent work undertaken by ORS TO PRODUCE AN Essex wide Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment.

Key Evidence Studies

1.2. The following studies should be read alongside this topic paper:

Key Issues

1.3. This Topic paper sets out:

- The current position on the Essex Wide Gypsy and Traveller Assessment
- The findings of this report and its implications for Uttlesford District;
- How this will translate into a policy in the Local Plan; and
- Next Steps

2. Background

2.1. In 2015, the government made changes to the definition of what is a Gypsy and Traveller.

2.2. The national average for those Gypsies and Traveller meeting the new definition is 10%, which is a similar percentage to those who met the previous definition of a Gypsy and Traveller definition.

3. ORS Essex Wide GTAA Update

3.1. Due to the changes in the definition and potential impact on the number of pitches that are required, the partner Essex authorities appointed ORS consultants to undertake a joint needs assessment to determine the number of Gypsy and Traveller that meet the definition in each of the authority areas and subsequent requirement for pitches and sites.

4. Findings for Uttlesford District

4.1. As highlighted at April's PPWG, ORS have identified the following in relation to Uttlesford District:

Gypsies and Travellers	GTAA	SHMA	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition (+ 10% Unknown)	1	0	1
Not meeting Planning Definition (+ 90% Unknown)	0	18	18
TOTAL	1	18	19

Travelling Showpeople	GTAA	SHMA	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition (+ 70% Unknown)	0	0	0
Not meeting Planning Definition (+ 30% Unknown)	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

4.2. The tables above demonstrate that no 'known' Gypsies and Travellers currently meet the definition in Uttlesford District. However, applying the rate of 10% of 'unknown' Gypsy and Travellers who may meet the need means that one Gypsy and Traveller may meet the new definition. However, because this need is coming from an 'unknown' Gypsy and Traveller group, government legislation states that authorities are not required to identify pitches and sites to meet this 'unknown' need.

5. Planning Policy

5.1. Whilst there are no Gypsies and Travellers that meet the need in Uttlesford District, there is still a requirement to introduce a criteria based policy (similar to that contained in the withdrawn 2014 Local Plan) for those unknown households that may meet the definition as required under government legislation. We are not required to identify sites for Gypsies and Travellers because no Gypsies and Travellers in Uttlesford district meet the new definition.

5.2. A criteria based policy would be used where a Gypsy and Traveller would submit an application to develop a site within the district for Gypsy and Traveller purposes. The applicant would need to demonstrate that they meet the new definition of a Gypsy and Traveller and a number of other criteria within the policy.

6. Next Steps

6.1. A criteria based policy has been included within the Local Plan within the Housing Chapter.

6.2. ORS will circulate the revised draft of the report in due course for comment from each of the partner Essex authorities. Members will be updated of the progress of this at future PPWG meetings and when the final report is due to be published.