

## **Briefing note and FAQs – Traveller Accommodation Assessment**

### **What is the Travellers Accommodation Assessment (TAA)?**

The Traveller Accommodation Assessment (TAA) is part of the evidence that informs the preparation of the new Local Plan. This TAA is dated June 2012, and reflects the position at that point in time.

The TAA identifies the number of pitches and plots required to meet the accommodation needs of travellers residing or resorting to our borough. It does not determine where these pitches and plots will go.

### **Why prepare a TAA?**

We want to make informed decisions in our new Local Plan. To do this, we need to have detailed evidence to feed into the new Local Plan, which includes a TAA. Travellers accommodation must be assessed as part of the overall housing need. A Local Plan cannot pass examination and be found sound if it is not supported by the information in a TAA demonstrating what travellers accommodation needs are. The Housing Act 2004 requires us to carry out a TAA and the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) says we should have a clear understanding of how many homes we need in our area. National policy on planning for travellers is set out in [Planning Policy for Traveller Sites](#).

### **How is a traveller accommodation assessment prepared?**

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (March 2012) puts the provision of new pitches and plots into the hands of councils. It requires us to make our own robust assessment of need and set targets for pitch or plot provision to address the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of travellers in this borough.

To assess our travellers accommodation needs we have followed the guidance set out in the Surrey-wide [methodology](#) for preparing traveller accommodation assessments. The main component of a TAA is interviews with the travelling community, and these were carried out by our consultants Mill Field in June and July 2012. The findings from the interviews and other data is then combined to calculate the need for new pitches and plots.

The TAA is a technical study, and its findings are not available for consultation. It is based on evidence available when interviews with the travelling community took place in June 2012. Factors such as granted or refused planning permissions may well have changed since this time, however they will be accounted for subsequently.

### **What are the key findings?**

The TAA shows there is a need within our borough for 43 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 6 plots for Travelling Showpeople over the next 5 years from 2012 to 2017. This addresses the backlog of need from overcrowding, doubling-up on sites, concealed households, unauthorised encampments or developments, temporary planning permissions and those living in bricks and mortar housing but with a need to be on a site. It also addresses the future demand for accommodation in the next five years to 2017 from adult children wanting to leave home and create a separate

household.

Carrying these figures forward the future projected need between 2017 to 2022 is 14 pitches and 1 plot and between 2022 to 2027 is 16 pitches and 1 plot.

**What next?**

This TAA will inform the Traveller Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment which looks at potential sites for travellers accommodation which are suitable, available and achievable.