

LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

LOCAL PLAN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

WRITTEN STATEMENT

MAIN MATTER 7:

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Note: Where modifications are proposed as part of the responses below, text to be removed is set out in ~~strike through~~ font and new text is set out in **bold** font.

Gypsies and Travellers

Q7.1. Is policy H10 justified and will it be effective? In particular:

- a) Is the assessment of need (23 additional pitches in the period 2022 to 2038) based on robust, up to date evidence?
- b) Will the proposed support for developments that include accommodation that meet the specified criteria be effective in ensuring that the need for additional pitches can be met, despite the lack of allocations?

Council Response:

- 1.1 Yes, Newham's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (EB057) provides a robust assessment of need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the borough. The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 1985, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2024, the Housing and Planning Act (2016), Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), and the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023.
- 1.2 At the time of producing the GTAA in 2022, the 2015 PPTS was still extant. However, the study undertook a comprehensive assessment of need for Newham's Gypsy and Traveller community, including need which fell outside of the 2015 PPTS planning definition of a Traveller. This includes Romany Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers who were able to claim a right to culturally appropriate accommodation under the Equality Act (2010) and those members of the community owed a duty under Section 8 of the 1985 Housing Act.
- 1.3 The study identified the following accommodation need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople:

Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Newham that did not meet the PPTS planning definition by year periods

Years	2022-2027	2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2038	Total
Need	15	2	2	4	23

(EB057, Figure 16, p.54)

- 1.4 The Council's approach to identifying sites to meet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) and the London Plan (March 2021). Full details of the GTAA methodology are set out in Section 3 of the study (EB057, pp.16-25).
- 1.5 The Council undertook a Call for Sites in 2021, inviting individuals and organisations to identify land or buildings in the borough that could be redeveloped between now and 2038. As part of this process, we engaged with internal Council teams and contacted all groups on our consultation database, including London Gypsy and Travellers, an advocacy organisation for the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

- 1.6 No sites were submitted for Gypsy and Traveller pitches during this exercise. However, during previous engagement at the London Gypsy and Traveller Forum, members of Newham's Gypsy and Traveller community identified an area to the south of Parkway Crescent (the only existing Gypsy and Traveller site in the borough) as suitable for a site extension. The Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan therefore safeguarded the existing Parkway Crescent site, including a small extension for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches on green space to the south of the site.
- 1.7 The Council's challenges with the allocation of pitches are set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper (TP002). Key barriers include:
- Significant areas of land in the borough are in flood zones
 - Lack of landowner interest in delivering pitches.
- 1.8 Allocating sites without the certainty around deliverability would raise soundness issues, as such allocations would not be considered available or effective. Neighbouring boroughs have also confirmed they cannot assist Newham in meeting its needs (see Statements of Common Ground).
- 1.9 Nevertheless, the Council continues to proactively identify suitable sites. In collaboration with the Council's Assets team, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of small sites within the Council's ownership to assess their suitability as Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. This process has identified an additional potential site that is suitable to deliver permanent or transit pitches which can help meet some of our identified need:
- 70 -108 Major Road, an extension of the existing Gypsy and Traveller site with capacity for 5 permanent pitches. This site incorporates the previously identified site extension to the south, as well as a further extension to the north of the site.
- 1.10 In addition to the site identified above, the Council is actively progressing work on several additional small sites which could deliver further pitches. This work is ongoing and includes engagement with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community to discuss the additional site option at Major Road. We aim to secure this meeting in January, ahead of the scheduled hearing on this matter. Appendix 1 sets out the capacity assessment for the Major Road site, including transport and access considerations.
- 1.11 As part of our ongoing engagement with the GLA, we have agreed amendments to the policy wording, as set out in our Statement of Common Ground, to align with London Plan Policy H14, which requires ten-year pitch targets in Development Plan Documents (EB001, p.203). The proposed modification to Policy H10 Gypsy and Traveller accommodation is:
1. **The Council will seek to meet the housing needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities over the plan period. This includes setting a ten year target to deliver 19 pitches.**
 2. **The designated Gypsy and Traveller site is safeguarded as a site for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. The enhancement and where feasible intensification and/or expansion of the site will be supported to contribute to meeting the ten year pitch target.**

- 1.12 A modification is also proposed to H10 Gypsy and Traveller accommodation
Justification text para 3.195 to include the table below.

3.195 The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires Local Planning Authorities to identify sufficient sites to meet any need identified for Gypsies and Travellers across their plan period. Newham's latest evidence of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs found a need for 23 pitches in the borough **to 2038, with a need 19 pitches for the ten years post adoption of the plan (including backlog need from 2022), which breaks down as follows:-**

	Phase 1 (Short term) 27/28 - 31/32	Phase 2 (Medium term) 32/33 - 36/37
Total need for each phase	17 pitches	2 pitches

- 1.13 The target for 19 pitches reflects the need identified in Newham's GTAA for the period up to 2036/37 (ten years post adoption). The monitoring framework for the plan also acknowledges that delivery should be monitored against the Greater London Authority's forthcoming Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment when it is published.
- 1.14 The Council consider that Policy H10 will effectively bring forward sites identified by the Council and any other windfall sites to meet the ten year target. The policy wording sets clear parameters for assessing applications as they come forward and is as permissive as possible, reflecting only national and regional delivery constraints. This means that if further options for pitch delivery are identified through the Council's small sites work, their delivery will be facilitated under the wording of Policy H10.

Appendix 1: Meeting need: Identifying sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation



1.1 70-108 MAJOR ROAD

URBAN DESIGN CONSIDERATION

Site already allocated as gypsy and traveller site.

Potential to add two additional pitches in the southern green area, minimizing the impact on the existing trees and maintainign access to the rest of the amenity space.

Additional three pitches can be achieved on the northern part of the green area.

The **5 pitches** can provide each:

- 1 amenity building (bathroom - storage - kitchen/ dingin room)
- 1 large trailer
- 1 caravan
- 2 parking spaces (2.4 x 4.8)

Key

- ↔ Veichular access
- ▲ Pitch access
- Green buffer and open space
- Amenity building
- Large trailer
- Parking spaces

