

Gypsy and Traveller Need Statement

to reflect the December 2024 PPTS definition change

August 2025

Update on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs

1. This statement provides an updated position on Gypsy and Traveller need in Rochford District, reflecting recent national planning policy changes that have altered how accommodation needs are assessed.
2. This position statement sets out revised figures that supersede those published in the December 2024 Rochford Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) following the Government's updated definition of a Traveller in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), issued in December 2024.
3. For the purposes of Planning, the definition of a Traveller has been revised in Annex 1 of PPTS 2024, and now includes:

“All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan,”

4. This change broadens the scope of who is considered a Traveller for planning purposes. As confirmed by ORS (the consultants who undertook Rochford's December 2024 GTAA) and supported through recent appeals and examinations, this means that **all Gypsies and Travellers interviewed as part of the GTAA are now considered to meet the planning definition.**

Revised GTAA Need

5. The implications of the changes to the PPTS Planning Definition in December 2024 now mean that need from *all* Travellers who were interviewed will now need to be considered in a Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Policy, and also that **100%** of undetermined need will now need to be addressed.
6. Prior to the incorporation of the 2024 PPTS, the December 2024 GTAA for Rochford District identified the below Gypsy and Traveller need:

Figure 1 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Rochford District (2024 – 2042), as shown in December 2024 GTAA

Status	2024 – 2042
Meet Planning Definition [meet 100% of need through Gypsy and Traveller policy allocations]	60
Undetermined [meet 100% of need through Criteria-Based Policies]	5
Do Not Meet Planning Definition [meet need through wider Housing Policy Allocations]	0
TOTAL	65

7. Following the PPTS 2024 definition change, any households previously excluded from meeting the Planning definition are now included, resulting in the below updated Gypsy and Traveller need table:

Figure 2 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Rochford District (2024 – 2042), as shown in December 2024 GTAA

Status	2024 – 2042
Meet Planning Definition [meet 100% of need through Gypsy and Traveller policy allocations]	60
Undetermined [meet 100% of need through Criteria-Based Policies]	5
TOTAL	65

8. In reality, this has resulted in no material difference to Rochford District’s need figure over the Plan period, as no households not meeting the previous (December 2023 PPTS) definition had previously been identified in the 2024 GTAA.
9. The changes to the planning definition in PPTS 2024 have not changed the overall levels of need identified in the 2024 GTAA and the outcomes of the 2024 GTAA remain robust, sound, and up-to-date and in line with national policy and guidance.
10. Following the changes to the PPTS in 2024 – with all Travellers now meeting the planning definition – there is now a requirement for local authorities to seek to meet need from all Travellers that meet the planning definition, together with all need from undetermined households, through a Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Policy in line with Paragraph 10 of the PPTS.

Revised GTAA Need – Reflecting additional authorised pitches

11. Additionally, since the 2024 GTAA was published, 9 pitches have been authorised (as of 18th August 2025), reducing the remaining need as reflected below:

	Households meeting planning definition	Undetermined	Total
Gypsy and Traveller Need 2024-42	60	5	65

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Pitches authorised since GTAA report issued (Dec 2024)	9	0	9
Remaining need	51	5	56