

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **Addressing the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers**

### **Short Term Strategic Approach**

**July 2012**

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# Section 1 – INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the interim strategy on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs for Cheshire East. It includes information on the requirements placed upon the Council to address Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, the national, regional and local context, the current supply of accommodation, identified needs and an outline programme of how these needs will be met. It also addresses the issue of unauthorised developments and encampments by Gypsies and Travellers and the policy and procedures to deal with these circumstances. The proactive management of unauthorised developments and encampments is an important factor affecting the public perception of Gypsies and Travellers. It proposes that the Council takes a pro-active approach to meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in partnership with local registered providers (RP's). This strategic approach will balance the rights and responsibilities of all parties; the Council, the settled community and the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

## The Ethnicity of Gypsies and Travellers

- Gypsies and Travellers are recognised as ethnic minority groups under the Race Relations Act 1996 and are protected by the Equality Act 2010. All public sector organisations have a positive duty under the law to eliminate racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity, including for Gypsies and Irish Travellers.
- There is a lack of robust data on Gypsies and Travellers and this is a major barrier to developing a good understanding of the needs of this group. Until now Gypsies and Travellers have not been included on the Census but from 2011 they will be.
- Defining Gypsies and Travellers is not straightforward. Different definitions have been used for different purposes based, for example, on ethnicity, lifestyle and self-ascription. (Appendix 1) contains a table outlining the definitions used for Race Relations, Planning and Housing purposes. For the purpose of the accommodation assessments it is the Housing definition that is used.

### Key Facts

- In 2006, 21% of Gypsies and Travellers living in caravans nationally were homeless, having no lawful place to park their caravan.
- £18 million is spent on enforcement issues across the country. Dale Farm recently cost Basildon Council in excess of £7 million.
- Less than one square mile of land in the whole of England would be sufficient to provide pitches for all Gypsy and Traveller families who are currently homeless.
- 42% of Gypsies and Travellers report limiting long-term illness – compared to 18% of the settled population.
- Average life expectancy is 10-12 years less than the settled population.
- 18% of Gypsy and Traveller mothers have experienced the death of a child – compared to 1% in the settled population.
- In 2004, 30% of Irish Traveller children and 13% of Gypsy children achieved 5 A-C Grades at GCSE – compared to 52% of the settled population.

## Gypsy and Traveller Numbers Nationally

- Unfortunately there is no precise data for the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain today, varying from as low as 90,000-120,000 living in caravans to as high as 300,000

including those living in bricks and mortar. This information is based on various research and the local authority caravan counts. The former Commission for Racial Equality estimated the number to be between 180,000 and 350,000 with the majority living in 'bricks and mortar'.

- The twice-yearly Caravan Count carried out by local authorities provides information regarding numbers of caravans and location; it is carried out in January and July to capture the seasonal differences. The most recently published count is the January 2012. At that time the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England was almost 18,750. Of these, approximately 6,800 (36%) were on socially-rented sites; 9,100 (49%) were on privately-funded sites; 1,900 (10%) were in unauthorised developments on land owned by Gypsies or Travellers; and 950 (5%) were in unauthorised encampments on land not owned by Gypsies or Travellers

- The total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England in January 2012 was almost 18,750. This is about 400 more than the total in January 2011.
- Approximately 6,800 caravans were on authorised socially-rented sites, a decrease of about 150 since the January 2011 count.
- The number of caravans on authorised privately-financed sites was almost 9,100, an increase of about 750 since the January 2011 count.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments, on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, was about 1,900, approximately 300 below the number in January 2011.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments, on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers, was about 950, approximately 50 more than in January 2011.
- The average numbers of caravans per site were 20.4 for socially-rented sites and 5.1 for privately-funded sites.
- The total number of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans in England has increased in recent years - by 20% since 2006
- Of all the caravans on unauthorised sites, the West Midlands (87%) and the North West (83%) were the regions with the highest proportions of caravans on land owned by Gypsies or Travellers.

Overall, the January 2012 count indicated that 85% of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England were on authorised land and that 15% were on unauthorised land.

### The last five Caravan Counts in Cheshire East Borough

		No. of Caravans	Temporary Planning Permission	Permanent Planning Permission	All Private Caravans	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		Total All
Region	Count	Socially rented	Private Sites			Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Caravans
<b>Cheshire East UA</b>	Jul 2011	17	8	85	93	0	6	0	11	<b>127</b>
	Jan 2011	17	10	96	106	0	6	0	0	<b>129</b>
	Jul 2010	17	0	102	102	0	20	0	0	<b>139</b>
	Jan 2010	17	0	115	115	0	13	0	0	<b>145</b>
	July 2009	17	0	0	105	0	9	0	21	<b>152</b>

## The Sub-Regional Context

- In December 2003 the Cheshire Chief Executives Group on Gypsies and Travellers was established. This Group (now known as the Strategic Gypsy Traveller Partnership) was set up in response to various incidents across the partnership including the murder of Johnny Delaney a 15-year-old Irish Traveller in May 2003 in Ellesmere Port and Neston.
- The Partnership comprises representation from Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Warrington and St Helens Borough Councils and Cheshire Constabulary, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Racial Equality Centre (CHAWREC). The group underwent a review in light of the formation of the two new Cheshire Councils and new sub-regional leadership and governance arrangements in 2009.
- The decision to establish the Partnership was based on the recognition that there were limits to how far individual councils could address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers by working on their own. Also the government want authorities to move towards a sub regional approach.

The partnership was set up to:

- Equip local authorities and other agencies with the **capacity** to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and the concerns of the settled population.
- Ensure **consistency** in the way that public policy is developed, applied and monitored towards Gypsies and Travellers in the sub region; and
- Maintain **credibility** with central government, other public bodies and local people.
- The Partnership established a jointly funded post of Gypsy and Traveller Co-ordinator; the post holder is currently hosted by Cheshire West and Chester. The Coordinator is based in Cheshire East one day per week. Cheshire East Council has agreed funding until March 2013.
- The Partnership jointly commissioned the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) as required by the Housing Act 2004 for the sub-region. They are at present considering reviewing and updating the GTAA.
- The Partnership developed an encampment protocol and procedure. This was signed up to by the legacy authorities in 2006/7.

## Gypsy and Traveller Numbers Sub-Regionally

The Key Findings of the GTAA in 2007 were:

- 59 pitches on three residential sites managed by local authorities (Halton (23), St Helens (20) and Congleton [now Cheshire East] (16))
- 222 pitches on private authorised sites
- Minimum of 442 Gypsy/Traveller families on sites, in houses or encamped.
- Minimum of three unauthorised developments containing 16 pitches
- 3.5 people per 'household' – significantly higher than the settled population
- Average caravan to 'household' ratio was 1.4 caravans to 'households' locally and the national average is 1.7.

Sub-Regional needs for the future (GTAA 2007):

TYPE	2006 – 2016
Residential	140 – 178 pitches
Transit	25 – 37 pitches
Travelling Showpeople	17 pitches

## Gypsy and Traveller accommodation

1. **Residential Sites** – this covers both public and private sites. The list of all sites in Cheshire East is in appendix 2 and at Map1

### What are residential sites?

Residential sites are intended for permanent use by residents mirroring social housing for those that rent and owner occupation for the small family run sites. Cheshire East has one council run residential site and the rest are all privately owned by the Travelling communities. One of the most emotive issues for the settled community is the setting up of unauthorised developments; this refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission.

### What does a residential site consist of?

Residential sites are intended to be used as a permanent base. There is guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide' (CLG, 2008).

**Size of pitch** – It is important to ensure that wherever possible each pitch is of a size sufficient to accommodate one static and one touring caravan, two parking spaces, drying space for clothes, some green space and an amenity block containing a bathroom and kitchen area. The pitch sizes should reflect the communities that are going to live on them; there is no one-size-fits-all.

### Shared facilities

- Play area – it is recommended that the inclusion of a communal recreation area for children is considered.
- Warden's office – to contain some communal space for community engagement.

### How would a residential site be managed?

Cheshire East manages a socially run site at present but would look for their RP partners or managing agent to take this role with any future sites. Guidance from the DCLG in regards to rents is that the levels should be set at an affordable rent i.e. 'no more than 80% of the market value'. Within the partnership there is an understanding that rents should reflect those in the social housing. Private run sites, usually small family sites are covered by the Caravan Sites Licensing, which is issued by the Council. It covers issues like number of caravans on site, fire safety and other health and safety issues. The licence is in the name of site owner and the site will be inspected regularly.

### What are the Gypsy and Traveller preferences GTAA 2007?

Residential sites:

- Management/Ownership – local authority/housing association, followed by a site owned by their own family. Only 3% wanted to live on a site owned by another Gypsy/Traveller.
- Size – varied from 10-12, 15-20 and 20-30 pitches per site. All requested pitch big enough to accommodate a number of trailers and include space for travelling guests.
- Location – wide variety of potential of localities including: Middlewich, Sandbach, Ellesmere Port, Winsford, Nantwich and the outskirts of Chester.

Own Land:

- 29% of people expressed interest in developing their own site
- However only 6% thought they would be able to afford it
- Only seven interviewees had actually done so with varying degrees of success

## **2. Transit sites**

### **What is a transit site?**

Transit sites are permanent sites intended for temporary use by residents. The length of stay generally varies between 28 days and three months. Cheshire East Borough does not yet have a transit site. From April 2009 to February 2012 there were 78 unauthorised encampments (caravans or other vehicles on land without the landowner or occupier's consent) within the borough – an average of 2.2 encampments every month. (Appendix 3 & Maps 2-4) There are costs attached to dealing with unauthorised encampments; legal and/or enforcement costs, clear up costs and securing the land.

### **What does a transit site consist of?**

As transit sites are not intended to be used as a permanent base, the site requirements are different to those of permanent sites. In terms of transit pitches, 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide' (CLG, 2008) states:

**Size of pitch** – It is important to ensure that wherever possible each pitch is of a size sufficient to accommodate two touring caravans, two parking spaces and private amenities, which consist of two electrical hook-ups, a standpipe of drinking water and drainage.

### **Shared facilities -**

- two bathroom units' one male one female containing four toilets and four showers with a family room at the end which can be locked and is private.
- A disabled unit with accessible shower and toilet.
- A laundry room with industrial size washing and drying facilities which the temporary residents would pay for.

### **How is a transit site managed?**

The sites will have an on-site warden (same as Halton Borough Council) a warden will be present each day to monitor Travellers arriving and leaving, ensuring that occupants sign up to a licence agreement, setting out the terms and conditions for taking a pitch, this involves all adults having to show ID and paying a licence fee. The warden will also ensure that the terms of the agreement are being adhered to and the site is clean, tidy and trouble free. The pitches will be residential only and business activities will not be allowed.

The site will remain in the ownership of the local authority (so the Police powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA) can be enforced to direct Travellers to the site from unauthorised encampments) but the management could be out sourced.

### **Police Powers**

Section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994(CJPOA) allows the police to direct the Travellers from the land to a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site within the same local authority area (transit site). If the Travellers do not leave when directed to do so under Section 62A or if they return to the district within three months after being directed, they are committing an offence. The experience of an authority with an official transit site is instructive. When an encampment has arrived in Halton they have mostly been dealt with within approximately two of hours of settling in a location. Halton's encampment numbers have greatly reduced since the introduction of the official transit site, from 83 in 2005, 66 in 2006 to 4 in 2009 and 6 in 2010.

### **What will the site cost to stay on?**

This is to be looked at in further detail but we will be following practices already established within Cheshire. Halton Borough Council has had a transit site since February 2009 and the Travellers are charged:

- £11.25 per night per pitch per household – they can claim Housing Benefit if they are entitled to but must still pay the charges below.
- A £150 deposit per pitch
- A weeks rent up front
- Also they need to purchase electricity cards from the warden

The Halton site is currently running at an occupation level of 85% on average and is breaking even financially.

### **What are the Gypsy and Traveller preferences for transit sites (GTAA 2007)?**

- Significant support for transit provision, which Gypsies/Travellers believed to be preferable to the current alternatives, offering, security, stability, and safety.
- Also Gypsies/Travellers believed such sites would be good solutions if there was an emergency in the family and support was needed for a short time.
- Size – the majority suggested a site with between 10-15 pitches, with each pitch big enough for two trailers and one vehicle. Others suggested 20-30 pitches.
- Location – a network of transit sites across the region. However a number of locations were mentioned: Middlewich, Sandbach, Ellesmere Port and between Winsford and Chester.

#### **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL CONTEXT**

- Gypsies and Travellers are a recognised ethnic minority
- Estimates for the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain vary from 90,000-120,000 living in caravans to as high as 300,000 including those living in bricks and mortar.
- Life chances for Gypsies and Travellers are severely reduced compared to those of the settled population.
- Around 263 authorised pitches in the sub-region.
- A need for 140 – 178 new pitches in the sub-region between 2007-16.

## SECTION 2 – Need in Cheshire East

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### What is the Legal Requirement?

The Council is required by the Housing Act 2004 to undertake regular assessments of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers either living in, or travelling through, their area. It also requires the Council to include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in any housing strategy that it produces and to take any such strategy into account in exercising their functions. The objective behind all this is to ensure that councils consider the need for additional transit and permanent residential accommodation in their area.

### Planning Policy

The Government published its new **Planning Policy for Traveller Sites** on 23rd March 2012. It replaced Circular 01/06: 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' and Circular 04/07: 'Planning for Travelling Showpeople'. This new policy came into effect on 27th March 2012, at the same time as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); and it should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

Like the NPPF, the policy confirms that planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites is a material consideration in planning decisions and it must be taken into account in the preparation of development plans. The Government's overarching aim is: *"to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community"*.

Paragraph 4 of the document sets out 11 aims in respect of Traveller sites, which include:

- To ensure that Local Planning Authorities (LPA's), working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.
- To reduce tensions between settled and Traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions.
- For LPAs to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.

The key policies covered in the new policy do not fundamentally change what has gone before, in as much as they still talk about using a 'robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs'. (There has been no change to the Housing Act 2005 s225)

However there are changes in emphasis and tone which we need to take account of. Overall the new policy has greater connection with core planning policies for housing – places more emphasis on private provision and is less permissive in tone.

As with housing in general, the Council is obliged to identify a five year supply of 'deliverable sites' for Gypsies and Travellers – and it is expected that this will be done via the Local Plan. Where five year supply cannot be demonstrated this will be a 'significant material consideration' in the granting of temporary permissions. There is a 12 month period of grace for this provision to apply.

As with housing policies, rural exception sites may be permitted outside villages to allow for affordable site provision to be made. Generally however, the new policy is tougher on developments in the Countryside – Councils should 'strictly limit' developments in the open countryside – and also protection for the green belt is enhanced.



## THE IMPLICATIONS FOR CHESHIRE EAST

Whilst the new policy provides some extra safeguards and a change of emphasis to private provision, it makes Cheshire East more vulnerable to unauthorised developments or planning applications in inappropriate locations.

The Council may be unable to demonstrate a five year supply of sites – and so it will be hard to resist proposals that are on the urban fringe. The stronger safeguards for the green belt and open countryside should serve to protect deeper rural areas, but under the new policy, if sites come forward on the edge of towns and villages, then the Council will need to consider granting temporary consent at least. Temporary permissions do not count towards the established need figures for the Council.

The Local Plan will also need to include the identification of sites – within its site allocations document. This will not be easy to accomplish and the issue seems certain to provoke a lively debate in those areas affected. The Council will also need to do more work to identify potential sites and ensure that they can genuinely be developed.

### What is the level of need in Cheshire East?

The level of need for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson accommodation within Cheshire East has been identified through the Cheshire Partnership Area Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessment (GTAA), published in January 2007. The study examined the current position on unauthorised sites together with evidence of unauthorised developments and encampments, and carried out consultation with key stakeholders in order to estimate concealed households, household formation and potential movements from bricks and mortar housing. The number of permanent pitches required for Cheshire East is a minimum of 37 to a maximum of 54 by 2016 (GTAA July 2007). Also a further 10 pitches for transit provision and 10 plots for Travelling Showpersons by 2016.

The GTAA established that each family unit equated to 1.4 caravans per household (nationally it is 1.7). Therefore for planning purposes an average pitch is two caravans and any ancillary buildings or parking area that goes with the pitch. Generally a pitch will accommodate only one family.

#### **SUMMARY OF NEEDS IN CHESHIRE EAST**

- 37 - 54 Permanent pitches 2007-2016
- 10 Transit pitches 2007-2016
- 10 plots for Travelling Showpersons

## SECTION 3 – Existing Supply in Cheshire East

### How many pitches are there at present in Cheshire East?

In Cheshire East there are a total of 13 private sites, with 112 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches. One council run site with 18 pitches (2 recently developed with funding from the HCA) and 1 site (8 pitches) with temporary permission (these pitches do not count towards the GTAA figures).

There are also 2 Travelling Showpersons sites in the borough with 4 pitches.

Also at present in the borough there are 3 sites with current planning applications or appeals, Thimswarra Farm, Dragons Lane (4 pitch), Street Record, Moor Lane, Wilmslow (1 pitch) and a site at Pickmere (3 pitches).

Since May 2007, 8 pitches have been supplied on privately owned sites and a further two have been developed on the local authority owned site in Astbury.

There is a map and table showing all the Gypsy Traveller sites in Cheshire East in Appendix Map 2

### Gypsy and Traveller sites across the sub-region

It is also important that the Council works with its neighbouring local authorities in planning for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision and work is now underway to establish those cross-boundary links. Information about site and pitch provision has been collected and mapped for the sub region and a next step will be to collate information about existing and planned provision in neighbouring council areas. This is through the work the partnership is carrying out. For example, a new publicly owned and managed 14 pitch transit site opened in the adjacent Halton Borough in February 2009, close to the Northern part of Cheshire East.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has gone through a search for sites and has two outline planning permissions for 32 permanent pitches and is in the process of working on a third site as well as identifying a transit site. They also manage a tolerated encampment in Ellesmere Port.

See table below for the breakdown of provision, need and delivery options

LOCAL AUTHORITY	GTAA NUMBERS (2006-2016)	Local Plan Numbers	CURRENT PROVISION	DELIVERY
<b>Cheshire East Council</b>	37 - 54 Permanent Pitches 10 Transit Pitches 4 Travelling Showperson's yards	No set target in the 3 former district Local Plans. Each of the Local Plans has a criteria based policy to deal with G&T applications i.e. Macclesfield LP (DC31); Crewe & Nantwich LP (RES.13) and Congleton LP (H8). Also the Cheshire 2016: Structure Plan Alteration has a criteria based policy (HOU6).	1 council run site with 18 pitches 13 private sites with 112 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches 1 site, 8 pitches, with temporary permission	Overall target likely to be in Core Strategy element of Local Plan and based on current GTAA with an annual % increase beyond 2016 until new GTAA completed. To be adopted by December 2013. Site Allocations element of Local Plan to be <b>adopted by end of 2014 and to identify specific sites.</b>
<b>Cheshire West and Chester Council</b>	31-45 permanent pitches 10 transit pitches* 10 Travelling Showperson's yards	No target set in local plan. Core Strategy will contain a criteria based policy to identify further suitable sites. Intend to do a new	No council run site –(council manage an 'accepted' encampment 8 pitches) 12 sites with 81 pitches (60 permanent & 21 temporary)	Core Strategy – Preferred Options 6 week formal consultation – September-October 2012 Publication of submission

		GTAA to set local pitch targets.	There is 1 Travelling Showperson sites with 14 yards	document for consultation – Summer 2013 Submission – Winter 2013 Examination – Summer 2014 <b>Adoption – Late 2014</b>
<b>Warrington Borough Council</b>	9 permanent pitches 5 transit pitches* 10 Travelling Showperson's yards*	(2006 – 2027) 56 additional permanent pitches 5 transit pitches* 13 Travelling Showperson's yards*	Travelling Showperson's yards*. 22 authorised pitches (18 of which are temporary). The 2 permanent permission sites essentially operate as privately controlled transit provision. 8 permanent pitches (additional to the 22) have full planning permission by way of appeal but are as not yet implemented.	Land Allocations Plan to be progressed. Programme of production now approved by Executive Board [16th April] (and set out in LDS) as follows: Pre production – Aug 2012 SA Scoping – Sep 2012 Pre-publication consultation – Nov / Dec 2012 Publication – Feb 2013 Public consultation Feb / Mar 2013 Submission to SoS – May 2013 Pre-examination meeting – June 2013 Examination – July 2013 Inspectors Report – Sep 2013 <b>Adoption – Dec 2013</b>
<b>Halton Borough Council</b>	28 – 32 Permanent Pitches 5 Transit Pitches	No target set in local plan. Core Strategy contains a criteria based policy to identify suitable sites. Intend to do a new GTAA to set local pitch targets.	25 permanent HBC pitches 12 transit HBC pitches 13 private pitches, 4 with temporary permission	Site Allocations DPD to be progressed to identify specific sites. <b>To be adopted by Dec 2013</b>

## SECTION 4 – Meeting the needs in Cheshire East

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### Why do we need to provide suitable accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers?

- We are required by law to assess needs and make provision in our planning policies.
- Having a suitable decent place to live is a basic human need.
- It will help decrease the incidence of unauthorised encampments and developments, thereby reducing community tensions
- It will improve the health and educational inequalities experienced by homeless Gypsy and Traveller families.
- It will meet the Authority's obligation to facilitate decent accommodation for all needs groups.

### Overview

Our approach to Gypsy and Traveller provision has been re-assessed in the light of new national guidance issued in March 2012. This strengthens protection for open countryside and the green belt – but also promotes better community integration in sustainable location. It frees up the Council to carry out its own assessment of need – but once assessed that need should be clearly identified in the way that overall housing supply must be for a five year period.

The Council's approach has been to look at both long-term and interim measures that can support the new way forward.

### Long-Term Measures

#### 1. The Local Plan

The Local Plan is required to identify a target for the provision of Gypsy and Travellers Pitches and Travelling Showpersons plots for the Plan period based on identified need. In producing its Local Plan the Council is also required to:

- Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years worth of sites against the target figure
- Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15
- Consider setting targets on a cross-authority basis i.e. the existing approach of sub-regional working in Cheshire should continue
- Provide criteria to guide land supply allocations, which ensure that Traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

The timescales for this can be seen in the next section.

#### 2. Council and Registered Housing Providers partnership

Our Partner housing providers have signalled they are keen to work with the Council – but very much in partnership. By working together we can secure better outcomes for all concerned. The Council are already working with providers around the issue of funding for future sites. At present there are two Cheshire based Registered Providers (RPs) who have secured £2.7 million pounds from the Homes and Communities Agency to provide 38 pitches across Cheshire and Warrington. The grant is no longer 100% funding and this grant would provide £70-£75,000 per pitch. The RPs involved are Plus Dane and Chester District Housing Trust (CDHT). There is also a further bid round in summer 2012 with a pot of £13 million nationally. The funding is paid on completion of the build and runs out on the 31st March 2015. The Council wish to investigate setting up a 'joint venture' company that would look at all future site provision, the management of the sites and innovative ways to deliver.

Suggested priorities are:

- A. Development of a long-term Transit Site
- B. Development of a Residential site

There are examples from the North West of innovative accommodation projects; Homespace, who recently became a RP and is run by Gypsies and is based in Cheshire, has secured funding from the HCA to deliver 40 self build pitches across Cumbria. The grant they were awarded was £1,368,000 averaging £34,200 per pitch. They also manage, on behalf of Carlisle City Council, a 15 pitch Gypsy site outside of Carlisle. It is the most recently built site in the North West and was developed with funding from the HCA.

## Key Short Term Measures

### 1. Set up a Temporary Site

The Council does have a protocol for dealing with unauthorised encampments, which was signed up to by the legacy authorities in 2007 (see Appendix 4 for protocol). Unauthorised encampments within the borough continue to cause problems when situated on unsuitable locations e.g. playing fields, highways and business premises. There is also a substantial cost associated with dealing appropriately with these incursions; nationally this is approximately £18 million. In appendix 3 there is a table showing numbers across the sub region since 2005. There is also a map showing the location of encampments across Cheshire East, this highlights the areas where locations and frequency of the incursions.

As a temporary solution to this the Council could provide an 'accepted' (tolerated) encampment on land in the ownership of the council. There are two main options as to how we could take this forward;

- a. Apply for planning permission to use the land as a temporary encampment/site
- b. Use for less than 28 days in any 1 year, thereby not needing planning permission – but a Traffic Order would be necessary

The existence of a temporary encampment reduces the disruption and cost to the authority, landowners and residents. Local Authorities have a duty to promote equality and good race relations under the Equality Act 2010. At present the Council and police deal with all encampments on highways and council land and private landowners deal with them unsupported. There is strain placed on both the Council and the police resources as and when encampments appear in the Borough. This simple measure of a temporary stopping place allows the Council to take a proactive approach in partnership with the police. Although this would not increase the powers available, it would allow us to move the Travellers from inappropriate locations, including private land. This is something the police have asked for previously.

### 2. Update Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

The partnership needs assessment was published in January 2007 and needs updating. This was discussed at the Gypsy Traveller Strategic Partnership in February 2012 and the partners agreed to explore the options. A paper is being prepared for the Leadership board to get agreement across the sub-region in principle and the methodology to be applied to the assessment. This will also establish whether the need has grown, as there has been little if any new provision across the sub-region.

### 3. Call for Sites

This would run in parallel with the Local Plan process and the site allocation document. The Local Plan will need to include the identification of sites, this will not be easy to accomplish and the issue runs the risk of dominating the debate in some areas to a disproportionate degree.

To try to accommodate these issues the Council could commission a Site Identification Study and have an early 'call for sites', utilising both private and public land. The criteria for site identification need to be developed with our partners taking into consideration the preference of the Gypsy and Travelling communities. There is also a need for the criteria to be flexible enough to accommodate these preferences and that the same criteria will be used for both private and public provision. There needs also to be a distinction between the criteria for transit and those for residential sites.

#### **4. Policy Change**

The new Planning guidance brings the provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation closer in to line with mainstream housing policy. In particular it is recognised that a certain amount of 'affordable' sites will need to be provided. This enables the Council to explore the use of the 'Wilkinson' principle – namely the use of s.106 funding from mainstream housing sites to subsidise affordable Traveller accommodation. At present most affordable housing is provided on the principal development site itself – but occasionally commuted sums are negotiated to meet specific housing needs elsewhere. The extension of this process to include Traveller provision has the potential to bridge the gap left by a potential decline in HCA funding. To develop this approach further the Council could include, within its Core Strategy a policy on developer contributions (s106/commuted funds) with reference to Gypsy and Traveller sites. Although Traveller provision is not mentioned in the definition of affordable housing in the NPPF, it is recognised as such through the grant available from the HCA; Traveller Pitch Funding is available as part of the Affordable Homes Programme. Also new pitches are now in receipt of the Homes Bonus – previously this was only available on affordable homes. Even assuming funding can be negotiated in this way, it will take several years for meaningful contributions to emerge from new developments because of the time lags between the planning process and site implementation.

#### **5. Member Training**

Develop an ongoing programme of training session for all elected members and parish councillors in partnership with the sub-region. As well as offering bespoke training and support to those who are directly affected by Gypsy and Traveller issues. This training will allow the Council to keep all those involved up to date with new changes in policy both nationally and locally. As well as focusing on the Council's continued obligations and the new planning guidance, members will also be given an opportunity to visit sites within the partnership.

#### **6. Enforcement issues**

This involves continually monitoring the sites, particularly dealing with any anti-social behaviour associated with the residents. Cheshire East Council has a proactive approach to the Caravan Site Licensing and the private sites are regularly visited.

The Council has not experienced significant unauthorised developments in recent months. However breaches of planning control should continue to be tackled in a robust yet proportionate way.

## **SECTION 5 – Communications – Keeping in Touch**

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There will be a wide range of communication and consultation about Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs over the coming years, with both the travelling and settled community and with our partners and stakeholders.

The Council can consider communications about the following:

1. Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs (GTAA)
2. The local authority's statutory obligations
3. The draft Planning Enforcement Policy and procedures (unauthorised developments)

4. The methodology for the Gypsy and Traveller site identification work
5. The consultation programme for the Gypsy and Traveller site identification work

We will also improve the information available:

- Information on the website, will include this interim strategy and the myth-buster, (A copy of the Gypsy and Traveller Myth-Buster document is attached at Appendix 5)
- Regularly updated Member training

There are a number of Council services involved in ensuring the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are met. These include:

Enquiries about	How to contact
The Local Plan	<a href="mailto:LDF-consultations@cheshireeast.gov.uk">LDF-consultations@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>
The provision of sites or report an encampment	<a href="mailto:Gypsies_Travellers@cheshireeast.gov.uk">Gypsies Travellers@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>
Planning application	<a href="mailto:Planning2@cheshireeast.gov.uk">Planning2@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>
Planning enforcement issues	<a href="mailto:PEenforcement@cheshireeast.gov.uk">PEenforcement@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>

## Appendix 1 - Definitions of Gypsies and Travellers

Policy area	Definitions	Comments
<b>Race Relations</b>	Gypsies and Irish Travellers are established by case law as 'ethnic groups' and duties of public bodies thus apply.	Omits New Travellers and Showmen. An ethnic definition would include Roma – the term usually applied to European 'Gypsy' groups who may come to UK as migrant workers or asylum seekers/refugees. While not specifically tested by case law, an ethnic definition would also, presumably include Welsh Gypsies and Scottish Gypsy Travellers since the term 'Gypsy' is not pre-fixed by 'English' or any other indication of origin.
<b>Planning</b>	Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling together as such.  (ODPM Circular 01/2006, para 15)	A 'lifestyle' definition, similar to that in use prior to 2006, but allowing people to 'retire' from travelling or to otherwise stop travelling for specific purposes without losing their Gypsy and Traveller status. Likely to include many Gypsies and Irish Travellers, and New Travellers (certainly while actively travelling). It specifically excludes Showmen as a group. Probably excludes most Roma as they have followed a sedentary lifestyle for generations.
<b>Housing</b>	(a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan and,  (b) all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:  :  (i) such persons who, on ground only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and  (II) members of an organised group travelling Showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such)	This is a wider 'lifestyle' definition referring to a 'cultural tradition' of nomadism, and to 'caravan dwelling' as a distinct concept. The definition could be amended or, if it stands, could be challenged in the courts on its more intangible aspects. It seems likely to include Gypsies and Irish Travellers, New Travellers and Showmen, and could include Roma depending on how 'cultural traditions of nomadism' are interpreted. The Draft Practice Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is silent on (European) Roma and their inclusion/exclusion



## Appendix 2 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Cheshire East (June 2012)

AREA	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP	PLANNING ISSUES	NO. PITCHES
<b>PERMANENT PLANNING PERMISSION</b>				
Crewe & Nantwich	Wybunbury Site, Wybunbury Lane, Stapeley, Nantwich, CW5 7JP	PRIVATE		3
Crewe & Nantwich	Lea Caravan Park, Sound, Nantwich, CW5 8ED (near Wrenbury) Sound Common	PRIVATE		16
Crewe & Nantwich	New Meadow, Ponderosa, CW5 8BE	PRIVATE		11
Congleton	Astbury Marsh Site, Newcastle Road, Congleton, CW12 4HP	COUNCIL Cheshire East		18 pitches/park homes
Congleton	3 Oaks Booth Lane, Middlewich, CW11 3PU	PRIVATE	PP for a further 24	24 (pp for 40)
Congleton	Kinderton Site, Cledford Lane, Middlewich CW10 0JS	PRIVATE	Wants to make it all Park Homes and remove G&T pitches.	5 G&T 11 park home
Congleton	5 Acre Farm, Cledford Lane, Middlewich CW10 0JS	PRIVATE		3
Congleton	Horseshoe Farm, Warmingham Lane, Middlewich	PRIVATE	Current application in at present as the site has extended beyond the previous application	3 families + 2 transit pitches (max 9 vans)
Congleton	Newcastle Road Site, Betchton Heath, Sandbach, CW11 2WE	PRIVATE		25 pitches
Congleton	Tetton Bridge Cottage, Booth Lane, Moston, Middlewich, CW10 0HF	PRIVATE		6 trailers in yard adjacent to house

Congleton	1 East Tetton Cottages, Booth Lane, Middlewich	PRIVATE		1
Congleton	Flat Lane, Sandbach CW11 4BD	PRIVATE		2
<b>TEMPORARY PLANNING PERMISSION</b>				
C&N	New Start Park, Wettenhall Road, Reaseheath, Nantwich, CW5 6EL	PRIVATE	Retrospective application – Temporary -5 years	8
<b>SITES WITH NO PERMISSION</b>				
Macclesfield	Sphinx Lane, Pickmere	PRIVATE	3	3
Macclesfield	Street Record, Moor Lane, Wilmslow	PRIVATE	1	1
Congleton	Thimswarra Farm, Dragons lane	PRIVATE		4

### Appendix 3 – Encampment Table for the Cheshire & Warrington Partnership

YEAR (Jan-Dec)	NORTH		WEST			EAST		
	Halton	Warrington	EP&N *	Vale Royal	Chester	Congleton	Macclesfield	C & N
<b>2012</b> (February 2012)	2	16	2			2		
<b>2011</b>	7	28	17			30		
<b>2010</b>	6****	17	17			28		
<b>2009</b>	4***	24	9 *	4	10	7	11	6
<b>2008</b>	10**	17	14 *	1	8	14	12	12
<b>2007</b>	21**	58	37	14	36	17	14	27
<b>2006</b>	66	63	41	21	48	24	15	12
<b>2005</b>	83	54	32	17	28	21	15	9

- plus 'accepted' encampment numbers of between 9-13 trailers
- \*\* 'accepted' encampment of up to 17 trailers
- \*\*\* transit site opened in February 10 transit and 4 permanent pitches
- \*\*\*\* all of Halton's encampments moved within 2 hours (they either moved onto the transit site or left the authorities area and were unable to return for 3 months)
- 2011 Halton encampments - 4 were dealt with under police powers s62 (CJPO Act) and 4 went of their own accord

## Appendix 4 Unauthorised Encampment protocol

### THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS IN CHESHIRE

- 1.1. This Code of Practice is an agreement between the following authorities for the management of unauthorised encampments by Gypsies and Travellers in Cheshire

<b>Cheshire Constabulary</b>	<b>Halton Borough Council</b>
<b>Cheshire County Council</b>	<b>Macclesfield Borough Council</b>
<b>Chester City Council</b>	<b>St Helens Borough Council</b>
<b>Congleton Borough Council</b>	<b>Vale Royal Borough Council</b>
<b>Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council</b>	<b>Warrington Borough Council</b>
<b>Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council</b>	

- 1.2. This Code is in line with statutory guidance, national policy frameworks and best practice
- 1.3. All considerations will be made with due regard to statutory obligations including the Human Rights Act 1998, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and other government statutory guidance
- 1.4. It presumes that all parties will act within the actual and spirit of the law
- 1.5. It will be effective from 26 July 2007
- 1.6. In this Code the reference to Travelling community means Gypsies and Travellers and other Travelling ethnic groups who have a nomadic lifestyle for all or part of the year.
- 1.7. The Code applies to all land which the Councils either own or exercise rights or obligations over including highway land

## 2. AIM

- 2.1. The Aim of this code is to:
- ensure an effective, efficient, fair and consistent approach to the management of unauthorised encampments
  - take account of the reasonable needs and expectations of both the settled and Travelling communities; and
  - enable the public sector partners to undertake their statutory responsibilities
- 2.2. This code acknowledges that:
- at any given time every member of the Travelling community will require to stop either overnight or for a longer period
  - authorities together have an obligation to provide appropriate facilities to meet needs
  - authorities must ensure that any unauthorised encampments are handled in the most appropriate way
  - all parties, be they settled community or Traveller, have both rights and responsibilities
- 2.3. Any stay on land other than on a site specifically designated for travellers is time limited and dependent upon the travelling community abiding by any conditions specified.
- 2.4. Failure to comply will result in action to move on

### **3. THE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLE**

#### **3.1. The partners agree that whilst:**

- an unauthorised encampment will always be defined as such; and
- powers exist to take immediate action to evict

There will not be an automatic presumption of immediate eviction in every case.

#### **3.2. A series of tests will be applied to determine whether an encampment on a particular piece of land not specifically designated for Travellers should be allowed to remain.**

#### **3.3. Two main factors will be considered:**

#### **3.4. Factors relating to the encampment:**

- The size of the encampment relevant to the land (area and/or numbers of vehicles)
- the duration of any stay
- the health, safety, education and welfare needs of the Travellers
- the proximity of the encampment to any sensitive or potentially hazardous sites
- proximity to roads where a highway danger may ensue
- the social and environmental behaviour of the Travellers
- any known previous behaviour by those Travellers
- any known and immediate welfare issues

#### **3.5. Factors relating to the type or status of the land or surrounding environment including:**

- a site of special scientific interest (sssi) where an encampment endangers a sensitive environment or wildlife
- a school car park or playing fields (especially in term-time)
- an urban park
- car parks, including hospital, supermarket or leisure facility car parks
- an industrial estate
- recreation ground and public playing fields
- a site where pollution from vehicles or dumping could damage ground water or water courses
- a derelict area with toxic waste or other serious ground pollution
- a village green or other open area within a residential area
- the verge of a busy road where fast traffic is a danger to unauthorised campers' children

### **4. WHAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WILL DO**

#### **4.1. Each authority will**

- Prepare a written procedure which documents how action will be taken and which reflects this shared code.
- Nominate officers to deal with Gypsy and Traveller issues, who will be briefed on policy and procedure and trained to undertake their duties effectively including understanding the needs and expectations of the Gypsy and Traveller culture.
- Recognise and respect the reasonable rights of both the Travelling and settled community.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances before any decision to move on is taken we will:

- Carry out health safety and welfare enquiries.
- Consider the issues and circumstances and involve the local authority(ies) concerned the police and the health care professionals and any other relevant people.
- Consider the factors referred to under the shared principles.

#### **4.2. If it is reasonable to allow the unauthorised encampment to remain we will**

- Agree the duration of the encampment with the Travelling community.
- Provide any necessary health and welfare advice.

- Provide adequate facilities for the storage and subsequent removal of refuse.
- Consider access to fresh water and facilities to dispose of human waste
- Provide a point of contact for both Travellers and the settled community
- Liaise with local residents and businesses to consider any issues of concern, help resolve any tensions and explain the basis of the decision to allow the encampment to remain.

4.3. Ensure that only such force as is necessary will be used to remove the encampment and secure the site taking into account the circumstances and evidence relating to the encampment

## **5. EXPECTATIONS OF THE TRAVELLERS**

5.1. If it is proposed to allow an encampment to remain for an agreed period there are a number of considerations which the partners can reasonably expect from the Travelling community.

5.2. As part of the agreement to stay we would expect Gypsies and Travellers to:

- Agree the duration of their stay.
- Keep groups small - up to six caravans may be acceptable, dependent on the location of the encampment.
- Be accountable for their behaviour towards the local community and each other.
- Respect the environment, the surrounding area and property and the reasonable expectations of the local settled community.
- Not create a hazard to road safety or otherwise create a health and safety hazard.
- Not to dump or inappropriately dispose of household, human or trade waste.
- To dispose of all refuse in containers supplied by or as directed by the local council.
- To keep all animals under control.
- Leave the site by time agreed and in the condition it was upon arrival.
- Not to re-occupy the same area of land within a period of three months.

## **6. EXPECTATIONS OF THE SETTLED COMMUNITY**

6.1. It is acknowledged that there can be tensions between the settled and Travelling community

6.2. Where an encampment is being permitted to remain on a temporary basis residents and businesses in the vicinity will be informed.

6.3. Information about the arrangements will also be given to elected members, parish councils and local community groups.

6.4. Provided the Travellers respect the conditions of any agreement to stay the settled community will be expected to:

- respect the reasonable expectations of the local settled community
- be accountable for their behaviour towards the travelling community

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 All sectors of the community will have the opportunity to comment on this Code and any review will take account of all community views and feedback.

## **8. COMMUNICATION**

8.1. Copies of this Code will be

- provided in appropriate forms to the Travelling community using national and local groups and networks
- briefed within the participating organisations at both member and officer level

## **9. MONITORING**

9.1. The effectiveness of this Code and the number type and impact of Gypsy encampments will be monitored by the Cheshire Chief Executives Liaison Group

## Appendix 5 - **GYPSY and TRAVELLER MYTH BUSTER**

### ***'Who are Romani Gypsies?'***

This group includes English, Welsh, Scottish Gypsies and European Roma. Romani Gypsies have the longest known history of the Traveller communities, with their roots being traced back to Northern India over 1,000 years ago. Their language is known as Romany/ Rom.

### ***'Who are Irish Travellers?'***

The first Irish Travellers were recorded in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century as travelling metal workers and menders of household utensils. Their language is called Cant or Gammon, and they are mainly of Catholic faith, and prefer to send their children to Catholic schools.

Gypsies have a shared culture, language and belief system, as do Irish Travellers, both groups may be referred to as Travellers. They are recognised as ethnic minority groups under race relations legislation. Additionally all public sector organisations have a positive duty under the law to eliminate racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity, which includes Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

### ***'Do all Gypsies and Irish Travellers travel?'***

- Planning law defines Gypsies and Irish Travellers as people with a travelling way of life. Whilst this is historically true, 90% of Gypsies and Irish Travellers around the world now live in houses. When Gypsies and Travellers live in houses their culture and heritage stays with them, you do not have to travel to be a Traveller.
- Some groups are highly mobile, moving on when work opportunities have been exhausted and others live permanently in one area or only travel for a few weeks or months of the year.
- Most Gypsy and Traveller families live within close-knit communities, whether in housing or on caravan sites, with strong family and social networks. Gypsies and Travellers now use modern, good quality vehicles and caravans.
- The main reason for travelling is to work, to follow fairs and visit family.

### ***'I thought the whole point of being a Gypsy or an Irish Traveller was that you travel? Why do they need permanent sites?'***

Although Gypsies and Travellers travel for some of the year, during the winter months most people need a place to stop

- Travelling patterns are linked to the seasons and the work associated with the seasons. Gypsies and Travellers do not travel on a daily basis, all year round. Families require safe and secure places from which to do their travelling. The 'base' site (if they have one) will usually be where they access GPs, schools and a dentist.
- As Gypsies and Travellers grow older and become less able to travel on a regular basis, some require a safe and secure stopping place where they can maintain the cultural traditions of being a Gypsy or Traveller. Gypsies and Travellers also sometimes stop travelling for periods of time to care for sick or elderly relatives or to continue a child's education within a supportive school environment. Families will then take up the travelling way of life again following these critical events.

### ***'Why do Gypsies & Irish Travellers stop on the side of the road?'***

There are not enough authorised places for them to stop; they may be attending a family wedding or funeral in the area, or they are travelling through to one of the many Horse Fairs and need to stop. These are called unauthorised encampments. The Government defines them as "encampments of caravans and/or other vehicles on land without the landowner or occupier's consent"; trespass is a civil rather than criminal offence. Nationally, 21% of all Gypsies and Irish Travellers living in caravans are homeless; this means they have nowhere legally to park their caravan. One solution to this would be to provide permanent and transit sites

(Site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay).

### ***‘Why do the Council have to make provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites?’***

Local authorities have a responsibility to undertake housing needs assessments for the settled population, to identify their accommodation needs. These needs are fed into the local planning framework & the Council will address the housing need by providing different types of accommodation like for example flats, houses or perhaps sheltered. This is now the same for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation which is just another form of provision that’s takes into account people’s different ways of life. The legal requirement in the Housing Act 2004 is for all local authorities to complete a Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), which identifies pitch requirements. From this information the authority need to identify sufficient land to meet the accepted need through the Local Development Framework (LDF). While the Council does not identify land there may be an increase in the number of unauthorised developments (This refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission) with retrospective planning applications in ‘unsuitable’ locations being granted through the appeal process.

The number of permanent pitches required for Cheshire East is a minimum of 37 to a maximum of 54 and 10 transit pitches by 2016. (GTAA July 2007)

### ***‘Who is going to pay?’***

There are two options:

- **Public provision** – in the recognition of the importance of the need to provide sites, it is possible to apply to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) regionally for grants to cover a percentage of the costs for new provision; this is a similar process to how affordable housing for the settled population is funded.
- **Private provision** – the land would be identified in the Local Development Plans that could be purchased by individuals to meet their family needs or self manage but not all Gypsies & Travellers can afford to buy & develop their own land

### ***‘Do Gypsies & Irish Travellers pay taxes and rent?’***

- All Gypsies and Travellers living on a local authority or privately owned sites pay council tax, rent, gas, electricity, and all other charges measured in the same way as other houses.
- Those living on unauthorised encampments, generally speaking, do not pay council tax, but they also do not generally receive services. There are occasions when basic services, such as a toilet or a wheelie bin, are provided and the Gypsies and Travellers might make payment for this service direct to the appropriate local authority.
- All residents within the UK pay tax on their purchases, petrol and road tax as do Gypsies and Travellers

### ***Having Gypsy sites nearby will increase crime levels?***

There is no evidence anywhere to suggest that this is the case. Crimes are committed by individuals not communities. There is no evidence at all that there is a disproportionate number of offenders within Gypsy and Traveller communities as opposed to any other communities. The police service has learned from past experience that it is wrong to create stereotypes that link particular crimes with ethnic or social groups. In Cheshire, neighbourhood policing and the establishment of Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers has helped build greater trust. Many Travellers return to the same sites year after year and do get to know local officers and local people. There are far fewer unauthorised encampment issues across the county than five or ten years ago. (Cheshire Constabulary 2011)



### ***‘What are Cheshire East Council doing?’***

- We are part of the Cheshire Chief Executives Advisory Group (CCEAG) on Gypsies and Travellers. Working in partnership with Cheshire East, Halton BC, St Helens BC and Warrington BC, Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre (CHAWREC) and Cheshire Police for solutions to Gypsy and Traveller issues. This group commissioned the GTAA.
- We are keen to take a proactive approach to tackling the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

### **Who to contact for further details**

1. Dawn Taylor (Cheshire Partnership Gypsy Traveller Coordinator) – 07780842718  
[dawn.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
2. Cheshire Halton & Warrington Race Equality Centre – 01244400730 [www.chawrec.org.uk](http://www.chawrec.org.uk)
3. Cheshire Gypsies & Travellers Voice (Sharon Cotton-Smith) – 07728915153 [www.travellersvoice.org](http://www.travellersvoice.org)
4. Irish Community Care Merseyside (Win Lawlor) - 0751 7074302

## **MAPS:**

Map 1	Residential Sites in Cheshire
Map 2	Encampments In Cheshire East
Map 3	Encampments by Year
Map 4	Encampments by Occurrence