

[REDACTED]
Head of Planning Policy
Medway Council
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11/06/2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Medway GTAA Review - PPTS 2024

Following your recent enquiry in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) that ORS prepared for the Council in May 2024 I can provide the following update regarding need from Gypsy and Traveller households in response to changes made by the Government to the PPTS Annex 1 Planning Definition of a Traveller in December 2024.

PPTS 2024

For the purposes of the planning system, the current planning definition of a Traveller is set out in PPTS (2024). The planning definition set out in Annex 1 states that:

1. *For the purposes of this planning policy “gypsies and travellers” means:*

Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.

2. *For the purposes of this planning policy, “travelling showpeople” means:*

Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

3. *For the purposes of this planning policy, “travellers” means “gypsies and travellers” and “travelling showpeople” as defined above.*

4. For the purposes of this planning policy, “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often called a “yard”). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use plots for “travelling showpeople”, which may / will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.

Following the changes to the PPTS in 2024 the planning definition now includes *all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan*.

As a result of this it has been concluded by ORS, and through recent appeals and examinations, that all Gypsies and Travellers now meet the PPTS 2024 planning definition of a Traveller.

There were no changes made to the planning definition of a Travelling Showperson made in 2024 but it is also now assumed that all Travelling Showpeople will meet the Annex 1 planning definition.

Revised GTAA Need – December 2024

In simple terms, 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.

In summary, each of the ORS GTAA reports includes these tables in the Executive Summary (and also one for Travelling Showpeople if applicable).

Figure 1 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Medway (2022 – 2041)

	Status	2022 – 2041
A	Meet Planning Definition [Gypsy and Traveller Policy Allocations]	31
B	Undetermined	15
C	Do not meet Planning Definition [Wider Housing Policy Allocations]	10
	TOTAL	56

Under the 2024 PPTS definition the table and subsequent need target should now be presented in this format:

Figure 1 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Medway (2022 – 2041)

	Status	2022 – 2041
A + C	Meet Planning Definition [Gypsy and Traveller Policy Allocations]	41
B	Undetermined [meet 100% of need through Criteria-Based Policies]	15
	TOTAL	56

The changes to the planning definition in PPTS 2024 will not change the overall levels of need identified in the GTAA and the outcomes of the GTAA will remain robust, sound, and up-to-date and in line with national policy and guidance.

Implications of Revised GTAA Need

The primary impacts of the changes to the PPTS in 2024 are in relation to how a local authority will now have to seek to address identified need.

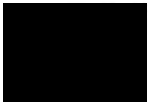
Under the requirements of both the PPTS 2015 and PPTS 2023 there was a requirement for a local authority to seek to meet need for Travellers that met the respective planning definition, together with a proportion of need from undetermined households, through a Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Policy in line with Paragraph 10 of the PPTS¹. There was then a requirement to seek to meet need from households that did not meet the respective planning definition, together with the remaining need from undetermined households, through other housing policies in line with the requirements in the NPPF.

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.

ORS have also now prepared a new PPTS 2024 GTAA Report Template that takes account of the changes that were made in December 2024, as well as other recent changes to policy, guidance, and the outcomes of Local Plan and Appeal Decisions.

If the Council would like ORS would be able to complete a new GTAA Report using the new template at a cost of [REDACTED]. In addition, should there need to be a review of the current site baseline we would also be able to incorporate this into the update at an additional fee to be agreed with the Council.

Regards



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¹ (a) identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets.
(b) identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15.