

RRR Consultancy Response

Following a call for further clarification, we are submitting the following which has been submitted by Dr Kate Rust-Ryan (Director) on behalf of RRR Consultancy Ltd. It appears that there is a need to clarify some of the points made, the purpose of the current work, and the status and purpose of the information provided.

The 2017 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (ANA) remains as the accommodation assessment of need for Ipswich Borough Council (and the other participating local authorities including Suffolk Coastal where the 2017 ANA was accepted at their EiP). The 2017 ANA first five year period ends in 2021 and is therefore clearly still within the required timeframe.

This ongoing work that we have been commissioned to undertake on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council is, at this stage, to assess the work being carried out by the council in addressing the need identified in the 2017 ANA (which involved clarifying the levels of supply and need). This will be followed by ongoing liaison between the council, us and the families with accommodation need. This will assist the council in addressing the individuals and families' respective accommodation needs and an update to the 2017 ANA.

The following will clarify what has taken place in Ipswich Borough Council area since the 2017 ANA, in terms of supply and addressing the accommodation need identified in the 2017 ANA.

At the time of the 2017 ANA there were 39 occupied pitches and 5 unused pitches¹ in Ipswich Borough consisting of:

- *2 pitches located on a small private family site*
- *42 pitches located on 2 local authority sites*

Recent consultation with key stakeholders including officers from the County Council (including those involved in the management of the site and the sale of the sites and pitches), Ipswich Borough Council, officers in neighbouring authorities, Gypsy and Traveller families, national organisations such as the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups), and consultation and data gleaned post the 2017 ANA (including data and insight acquired whilst carrying out assessments in other authorities), have collectively indicated significant changes in terms of the level of supply and subsequent need within the Ipswich Borough Council area. These changes illustrate how some of the need identified in the 2017 ANA has subsequently been met.

The following outline these changes, and how they impact on the level of supply and subsequently on the level of need identified in the 2017 ANA.

¹ See step 2 in Table A3 of the 2017 ANA.

The number of pitches within the borough has increased to 50 consisting of.

- *2 pitches located on a small private family site*
- *43 occupied and 5 unoccupied pitches located on a private site that had previously been owned and managed by Ipswich Borough Council*

In 2017 it was estimated that 8 pitches would be available for occupation in addition to the 39 pitches already occupied consisting of:

- 5 vacant pitches
- 2 through households moving off the site (into houses)
- 1 pitch to become available through mortality

However, since 2017 the number of pitches available to be occupied has increased:

- 45 occupied pitches (an increase of 6 since 2017)
- 5 vacant / potential pitches (no change in terms of numbers but believe to be some difference in terms of which pitches since 2017)
- 6 further pitches became available via households moving off the site (an increase of 4 since 2017) (these pitches have since been re occupied by other households – potentially by people who had need at the time of the 2017 ANA).

The above results in an increase in supply of 10.

In addition, 4 households which had been identified as including accommodation need by the 2017 ANA have since left the borough resulting in a reduction of need by 4 pitches:

- Additional need in first five years changing from 13 pitches to 9 pitches
- Additional supply increased by 10 pitches

Resulting in:

- A need of 9 additional pitches *less* supply of 10 pitches = -1
- -1 taken from remaining need =
 - $27-13 = 14$
 - $14 -1 = 13$

As illustrated above, the accommodation need for the period 2016-2021 (2017 ANA) has been met. This leaves a need of 13 additional pitches for the period 2021-2036.

Despite accommodation need being met for the period 2016-2021 the local authority has been proactive in continuing to determine accommodation need within the borough. Serious events that occurred on the previously local authority owned and managed site and its continuing transfer to a privately owned and managed site led

Ipswich Borough Council to undertake a review of how it is addressing the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and supply.

The Council have subsequently commissioned *RRR Consultancy Ltd* (who undertook the 2017 ANA) to review what the local authority is doing to address accommodation need identified by the 2017 ANA, and clarify levels of pitch supply and accommodation need. The accommodation figures discussed above are based on the ongoing reassessment in response to the 2017ANA.

Ipswich Borough Council has opted not only to identify land suitable for development as new Gypsy and Traveller sites, but to work closely with those families who have accommodation need to determine how it can best be met. It is envisaged that by 2021 the previously owned and managed local authority site will be wholly privately owned and managed. As such, the local authority will continue to review accommodation need and are keen to address any newly identified need.

This is an ongoing project and liaison between Ipswich Borough Council, *RRR Consultancy* and Gypsy and Traveller households residing in the borough. The project will continue until all accommodation need has been identified and met.

Dependent on Covid-19 related restrictions and government guidance, the next stage of the project involves visits to sites in the borough in order to confirm levels of supply and accommodation need. Any further clarification will be made available to the Planning Inspector. This will not be new data, but simply confirmation of data presented to date (including the 2017 ANA and the data presented in this statement).

As the existing ANA first five years covers the period 2016 to 2021, the council has scheduled an updated ANA starting 2021. This will include new data and will be a fully updated assessment. It will be followed by continued liaison between us, the council and the families in ensuring any identified need is met. The council has opted for this method as a way of ensuring that the need that is identified is the need that is met and that the levels of supply and need are continuously monitored.

It is important to note that the council are not simply relying on the 'call for sites' process; council allocation of land; or on families coming forward with planning applications. They are taking an active role in identifying the need and following this up with working with those individuals and families with accommodation need and finding the best way to address their respective need.