

Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	12 th November 2024
Subject:	Mid Devon Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steven Keable, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration
Responsible Officer:	Richard Marsh, Director of Place and Economy
Exempt:	None
Wards Affected:	All wards
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - PPTS definitions for Gypsies and Travellers (and also for Travelling Showpeople) Appendix 2 - Mid Devon Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2024 Appendix 3 - Equalities Impact Assessment screening

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

To consider the findings of the Mid Devon Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2024 and to approve interim targets for the delivery of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for development management purposes in advance of the adoption of a new local plan.

To Cabinet that:

- (i) the contents of this report and the Mid Devon Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (Appendix 2) are noted.**
- (ii) the recommended interim targets included in Table 1 and Table 2 of this report are approved to help guide decisions taken on planning applications for pitches to provide homes for Gypsies and Travellers and plots to provide homes for Travelling Showpeople.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 About the GTAA

National planning policy

- 1.1 National planning policy requires the Council to undertake an assessment of the housing needs for different groups in the community as follows:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023. Paragraph 63: states that [emphasis added]: *“Within [the] context of establishing need, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. These groups should include (but are not limited to) those who require affordable housing; families with children; older people (including those who require retirement housing, housing-with-care and care homes); students; people with disabilities; service families; **travellers**; people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes”.*

The footnote to this paragraph in relation to travellers states that *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document.’*

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2023 makes clear that local authorities should make their own assessment of need for purposes of planning. The PPTS includes its ‘Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development’. This states *“In assembling the evidence base necessary to support their planning approach, local planning authorities should: a) pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers’ accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups); b) cooperate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups; other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; c) use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions.”*

Assessments of housing need for travellers

- 1.2 Local authorities undertake assessments of housing need for travellers through technical studies, known as a ‘Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment’ (GTAA). The last GTAA was completed for Mid Devon in 2015 and there has been a need for this to be updated to reflect current and future assessed needs for new sites and pitches to provide homes for

Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople. These assessments of housing need are independent of, and are in addition to local housing need assessments for the wider community and also district housing targets set through the Government's standard method.

- 1.3 Consultants, Opinion Research Services (ORS), have completed a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Mid Devon in September 2024. This is part of work commissioned for the production of GTAAs also for Exeter City, East Devon and Teignbridge districts. ORS are a leading consultant in undertaking GTAAs in the UK.
- 1.4 The purpose of the GTAA is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Mid Devon district. This includes Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople. The GTAA will form part of the evidence base used to inform the preparation of a new local plan for the district ('Plan Mid Devon'). It is also as a technical document that can be used to help inform planning applications for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites that are submitted to the Council for determination and the decisions made on these. This GTAA replaces a previous GTAA completed in 2015 and the findings of that study.
- 1.5 The GTAA's findings have been informed by fieldwork that was completed between February 2023 and April 2023 (outside of the traditional travelling season), and the baseline date for the study is April 2023. Researchers were able to collect information on the majority of residents living on sites in Mid Devon. There are currently 23 established private sites in Mid Devon providing 86 pitches for permanent residential use and 13 pitches for transit use. There are no private sites with temporary planning permission and there is 1 site providing 1 pitch that is tolerated but is currently without planning permission. There are 8 Travelling Showpeople yards in Mid Devon that provide 21 plots for residential use. There are no publicly owned sites in Mid Devon for Gypsy and Travellers, or for Travelling Showpeople, for either permanent residential or for transit use.

2.0 Assessed needs for Gypsy and Traveller pitches

Households that meet the planning definition in the PPTS

- 2.1 The GTAA has found that a total of 20 pitches are needed in the period 2023 – 2045 to provide homes for Gypsies and Travellers. These are for permanent residential use. This is based on the need identified for Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon that meet the definition in the December 2023 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (the PPTS). The PPTS definitions for Gypsies and Travellers (and also for Travelling Showpeople) are included in

Appendix 1 to this report. The GTAA identifies the need for 20 pitches in year periods as follows:

GTAA Figure 2 - Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon that met the Planning definition, by year periods		
Year Period	Dates	Need
0 - 5	2023 - 2027	8
6 - 10	2028 - 2032	3
11 - 15	2033 - 2037	3
16 - 20	2038 - 2042	3
21 - 24	2043 - 2045	3
0 - 24	2023 - 2045	20

'Undetermined households'

- 2.2 The GTAA also identifies a modelled need for 7 pitches for 'undetermined households'. This is an estimate of need that is based on households where an interview was not able to be completed. It excludes the need for pitches based on households interviewed that do not meet the definition in the PPTS. The GTAA identifies the need for these 7 pitches in year periods as follows:

GTAA Figure 15 - Need for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon by year periods		
Year Period	Dates	Need
0 - 5	2023 – 2027	2
6 - 10	2028 – 2032	1
11 - 15	2033 – 2037	1
16 - 20	2038 – 2042	2
21 - 24	2043 – 2045	1
0 - 24	2023 – 2045	7

- 2.3 The GTAA suggests two alternative approaches for how the need may be addressed in relation to undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households. The first approach applies 30%, which is the ORS national average of Gypsies and Travellers that meet the planning definition based on other GTAAs they have prepared across the UK. Using this approach 2 of the 7 pitches for undetermined households would be needed for households that meet the definition in the PPTS. This would result in a total of 22 pitches for households meeting the PPTS definition. The second approach applies 69%, which is the locally derived proportion of households interviewed in Mid Devon that meet the PPTS definition, to the 7 pitches. Using this approach 5 of the 7 pitches for undetermined households would be needed for households that meet the PPTS definition i.e. a total of 25 pitches.
- 2.4 Figures 12 and 13 of the GTAA set out how many pitches are needed using both approaches. Both approaches show the number of pitches that would

need to be provided through policies in a local plan for the provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, and also through policies for the provision of housing (to meet the needs of households that do not meet the PPTS definition):

GTAA Figure 12 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households broken down by Local Plan Policy Type – ORS National %			
Delivery Status	Gypsy and Traveller Policy	Housing Policy	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition	22	-	22
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	-	11	11
TOTAL	22	11	33

GTAA Figure 13 – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households broken down by Local Plan Policy Type – 69%			
Delivery Status	Gypsy and Traveller Policy	Housing Policy	TOTAL
Meet Planning Definition	25	-	25
Do Not Meet Planning Definition	-	8	8
TOTAL	25	8	33

Households who do not meet the planning definition in the PPTS

- 2.5 The GTAA has also found there is a need for a further 6 pitches for households who do not meet the PPTS definition.

GTAA Figure 19 - Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon that did not meet the Planning Definition by year periods		
Year Period	Dates	Need
0 - 5	2023 – 2027	3
6 - 10	2028 – 2032	1
11 - 15	2033 – 2037	2
16 - 20	2038 – 2042	0
21 - 24	2043 – 2045	0
0 - 24	2023 – 2045	6

- 2.6 The GTAA explains that “Households who do not travel or do not travel for work now fall outside of the planning definition of a Traveller. However, Romany Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers may be able to claim a right to

culturally appropriate accommodation under the Equality Act (2010) as a result of their protected characteristics. In addition, provisions set out in the Housing and Planning Act (2016) now include a duty (under Section 8 of the 1985 Housing Act that covers the requirement for a periodical review of housing needs) for local authorities to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to their district with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed, or places on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored.” The GTAA further explains that draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs for caravans and houseboats (DCLG, March 2016) has been published which relates to this section of the Act. “This sets out how the Government would want local housing authorities to undertake this assessment and it is the same as the GTAA assessment process. The implication is therefore that the housing needs of any Gypsy and Traveller households who do not meet the planning definition of a Traveller will need to be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of the area and will form a subset of the wider need arising from households residing in caravans.

- 2.7 Officers hold the view there would be no certainty that housing developments coming forward through the planning process would make provision for sites on which caravans can be stationed, and which would be capable of meeting the cultural housing needs for Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon that did not meet the Planning Definition. S149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires public authority decision makers to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with a protected characteristic and other parts of the community. This is commonly called the “public sector equality duty” (PSED). This may involve treating some persons more favourably than others, for example by permitting them to live in areas, or in accommodation types, which would not usually be allowed. There is also a duty of inquiry inherent in the PSED. Decision makers cannot simply ignore information which they do not possess; they must take reasonable steps to acquire that information. In producing the GTAA, the consultants visited pitches, or attempted interviews, up to 3 times before recording the occupants as undetermined households. This is considered to be a reasonable approach, however by their nature many Travellers are away for periods of time and so it can be more difficult to achieve a high response rate especially if visits are close together. Decision makers may therefore feel it is appropriate to err on the side of caution when considering the needs of these undetermined households. To ensure that the duties of the Equality Act (2010) and the Housing and Planning Act (2016) are complied with, it is therefore recommended that the overall need for pitches in Mid Devon should also include the 6 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller households that did not meet the definition. This would result in an overall need for 33 new pitches (20 + 7 + 6), including households that meet the

PPTS definition, undetermined households, and households that do not meet the PPTS definition.

Households in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- 2.8 The 2021 Census has recorded 21 households that identified as either Gypsies or Irish Travellers who lived in a house or bungalow in Mid Devon and 8 living in a flat or maisonette. The 2021 Census also included a new ethnicity category of Roma and recorded 16 Roma households living in a house or bungalow in Mid Devon, and 12 households living in a flat or maisonette.
- 2.9 ORS interviewed one household in bricks and mortar accommodation. However, the consultant makes clear it does not make any assumptions on the overall needs from households in bricks and mortar based on the outcomes of any interviews that are completed, as in their experience this leads to a significant over-estimate of the number of households wishing to move to a site or a yard. ORS work on the assumption that all those wishing to move will make their views known to them based on the wide range of publicity put in place for the GTAA. The need for 17 plots for Travelling Showpeople in Mid Devon includes 1 pitch for the movement of a household from bricks and mortar.

Transit sites

- 2.10 The GTAA has not been able to make recommendations about the need for the provision of transit sites in Mid Devon. This is because there is insufficient monitoring data available relating to unauthorised encampments in the each of the four districts (Mid Devon, Exeter City, East Devon and Teignbridge). While the GTAA notes that Devon County Council holds some data, the GTAA includes recommendations for what additional monitoring data should be collected and for its analysis. It is hoped that the outcomes of this work which the local authorities will need to undertake in the future will be to identify a figure for the average number of transit caravan spaces that are needed across the four authorities at any given point in time; whether this can be addressed through permanent transit sites, emergency stopping places and negotiated stopping arrangements; and where the spatial opportunities are for any new transit provision in relation to the highway network. Officers will investigate the need for monitoring further with the other local authorities.
- 2.11 The GTAA recommends the four local authorities should work collectively, with Devon County Council to consider a joint protocol for addressing transit need, and the potential for permanent transit provision. Work should be progressed on a strategic basis to identify opportunities for the provision of caravan spaces and identify potential sites within each local authority.

2.12 The GTAA also points to management-based approaches that should be considered, such as negotiated stopping. The term ‘negotiated stopping’ is used to describe agreed short-term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not include permanent ‘built’ transit sites, but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the Council and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides. See www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk for further information. There are currently no agreed places in Mid Devon for negotiated stopping.

3.0 Assessed needs for Travelling Showpeople

3.1 The GTAA has found there is a need for 17 plots to provide homes for Travelling Showpeople who meet the definition in the PPTS. These are for permanent residential use. The GTAA indicates this need by year periods as follows:

GTAA Figure 11 – Need for Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon that met the Planning Definition by year periods		
Year Period	Dates	Need
0 – 5	2023 – 2027	8
6 – 10	2028 – 2032	2
11 – 15	2033 – 2037	2
16 – 20	2038 – 2042	3
21 – 24	2043 – 2045	2
0 – 24	2023 – 2045	17

3.1 The GTAA has also found there is a need for 2 plots for undetermined Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon as follows:

GTAA Figure 17 – Need for undetermined Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon by year periods		
Year Period	Dates	Need
0 – 5	2023 - 2027	1
6 – 10	2028 - 2032	0
11 – 15	2033 - 2037	1
16 – 20	2038 - 2042	0
21 – 24	2043 - 2045	0
0 – 24	2023 - 2045	2

3.2 The GTAA has found there are 2 Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon who do not meet the definition, but has not identified a current or future need for plots for these households.

4.0 Options for Plan Making

Pitches to provide homes for Gypsies and Travellers

- 4.1 The findings of GTAA present options available to the Council for the purpose of informing policy in the new Local Plan to address the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
- 4.2 The new Local Plan will need to include a policy that will set a target for the number of pitches to be provided through the planning process in the plan period. This target could be set at 20 pitches, 22 pitches, or 25 pitches depending on which approach is taken in relation to undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon. A further option would be to set a target of 27 pitches to fully meet the needs of households that meet the definition and also all households that are undetermined. This approach could avoid potential challenge over which assumption should be used, and provide some headroom to mitigate where pitches with planning permission may not come forward. A further option available to the Council is to set a target of 33 pitches, to also meet housing needs of households who do not meet the definition i.e. an additional 6 pitches – a total of 33 pitches. These 6 pitches would otherwise need to be met through general housing, and added to the district's overall housing target derived from a Local Housing Needs Assessment using the Government's standard method.
- 4.3 The new Local Plan will also need to include policies that set out the strategic approach for how the new pitches will be provided, including through site allocations and on windfall sites, and also include planning criteria that will be used to determine planning applications.

Plots to provide homes for Travelling Showpeople

- 4.4 The new Local Plan will need to include a policy that will set a target for the number of plots to be provided through the planning process in the plan period. This target could be set at either 17 plots, or 19 plots to include plots for undetermined Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon. Should the latter be used this approach could avoid potential challenge to the target used for plan making and 5 year supply purposes. It may also provide some headroom to mitigate where plots with planning permission may not come forward.
- 4.5 The new Local Plan will also need to include policies that set out the strategic approach for how the new plots will be provided, including through site allocations and on windfall sites, and also include planning criteria that will be used to determine planning applications. This will need careful consideration as plots may need to be provided on existing or new 'yards'.

Draft policies for the new Local Plan

- 4.6 Emerging draft policies for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites were reported to the Planning Policy Advisory Group at its meeting on 30th April 2024. These are subject to ongoing work by officers and will be brought back to future meeting/s of the Planning Policy Advisory Group for their further consideration before eventually being brought to the Cabinet as part of the forthcoming Regulation 18 Draft Policies and Site Options consultation report.

5.0 Recommended approach for 5-year supply calculations

Adopted Mid Devon Local Plan

- 5.1 The adopted Mid Devon Local Plan includes policies that are relevant to the determination planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots. These include Policy S3 Meeting Housing Needs, Policy DM7 Traveller Sites, Policy S8 Infrastructure, Policy S14 Countryside and through relevant site allocation policies TIV1 Eastern Urban Extension (Tiverton), CU1 North West Cullompton, CU7 East Cullompton and CRE5 Pedlerspool, Exhibition Road (in Sandford Parish adjoining Crediton) which each require the delivery of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers as part of mixed-use housing developments. Policy DM7 makes clear that occupation will be limited to those who meet the Government's published definition of Gypsies and Travellers.
- 5.2 The adopted Local Plan's policies do not set an overarching target for the delivery of pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople. However, Policy S3 criterion e) states:
- “A five year supply of gypsy and traveller pitches will be allocated on deliverable sites within Mid Devon to ensure that the predicted need for traveller sites will be met. A further supply of developable sites or broad locations for growth will be identified equivalent to a further ten years of predicted growth. The Housing Authority will seek to provide a public site for gypsy and traveller pitches within Mid Devon, subject to the availability of funding.”*
- 5.3 The adopted local plan's reasoned justification at paragraph 2.31 also states:
- “As set out in the Government statement ‘Planning policy for traveller sites’ the government’s aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for gypsies and travellers in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community. To achieve this aim the statement indicates that working collaboratively local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for traveller sites and identify a five year supply of deliverable sites with a further ten year supply of developable sites or broad locations for growth on top of this. As a result a*

group of Councils within Devon commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to ascertain the need for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople pitch or plot requirements. This study indicated that between 2014-34 within Mid Devon there is a need for 35 pitches for gypsies and travellers and 11 plots for travelling showpeople.”

- 5.4 The new GTAA includes an up to date assessment of the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots, and it replaces the GTAA completed in 2015 and the findings of that study (i.e. it replaces the previously assessed need for 35 pitches for gypsies and travellers and 11 plots for travelling showpeople). The new GTAA should therefore be used as technical information alongside the relevant policies of the adopted local plan, the PPTS and NPPF to inform relevant planning applications submitted to the Council for determination and the decisions made on these. There remains a need for the Council to agree which targets should be used from the new GTAA for the delivery of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots.

Recommended target for Gypsy and Traveller pitches

- 5.5 For the purpose of 5 year supply calculations the target should, as a minimum, be guided by the GTAA’s assessed need identified for Gypsy and Traveller households in Mid Devon that meet the definition in the PPTS and follow the need by year periods set out in the GTAA (i.e. GTAA Figure 2).
- 5.6 Officers recommend the 5-year supply calculations also include a requirement to provide a further 7 pitches to fully meet the needs of undetermined households, and 6 pitches to fully meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who do not meet the planning definition in the PPTS. The justification for this is recommended approach is provided in section 2 to this report. This approach is consistent with the approaches that are intended by Exeter City Council and East Devon District Council following discussions with officers from those Councils.
- 5.7 The total target that is recommended is 33 pitches using the combination of GTAA Figures 2, 15 and 19 and the need by year periods each sets out. Therefore the recommended 5-year requirements for Gypsy and Traveller pitches would be:

Table 1 Recommended interim targets for Gypsy and Traveller pitches					
Year Period	Dates	Need – meeting definition	Need – undetermined	Need – not meet definition	Total need
0 - 5	2023 - 2027	8	2	3	13
6 - 10	2028 - 2032	3	1	1	5
11 - 15	2033 - 2037	3	1	2	6
16 - 20	2038 - 2042	3	2	0	5
21 - 24	2043 - 2045	3	1	0	4
0 - 24	2023 - 2045	20	7	6	33

Recommended target for Travelling Showpeople plots

- 5.8 For the purpose of 5 year supply calculations the target should, as a minimum, be guided by the GTAA's assessed need identified for Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon that meet the definition in the PPTS and follow the need by year periods set out in the GTAA (i.e. GTAA Figure 11). Officers recommend the 5-year supply calculations should also include a requirement to provide a further 2 plots, to fully meet the needs of undetermined households, noting the GTAA has not identified a current or future need for plots for Travelling Showpeople households in Mid Devon who do not meet the definition.
- 5.9 The total target would be 19 plots using the combination of GTAA Figures 11 and 17 and their need by year periods. Therefore the recommended 5-year requirements for Travelling Showpeople plots would be:

Table 2 Recommended interim targets for Travelling Showpeople plots					
Year Period	Dates	Need – meeting definition	Need - undetermined	Need – not meet definition	Total need
0 - 5	2023 - 2027	8	1	0	9
6 - 10	2028 - 2032	2	0	0	2
11 - 15	2033 - 2037	2	1	0	3
16 - 20	2038 - 2042	3	0	0	3
21 - 24	2043 - 2045	2	0	0	2
0 - 24	2023 - 2045	17	2	0	19

- 5.10 It is recommended the figures included in Tables 1 and 2 are used by the Council as interim targets to help guide decisions taken on planning applications for pitches to provide homes for Gypsies and Travellers and plots to provide homes for Travelling Showpeople in advance of the adoption of the new local plan (Plan Mid Devon). These interim targets will ensure that:

- the need for new pitches and plots identified in the GTAA are fully met;
- the duties of the Equality Act (2010) and Housing and Planning Act (2016) are complied with; and
- headroom is provided for pitches and plots not coming forward through delay or non-implementation.

5.11 Planning decisions taken will need to weigh up, on a case by case basis, the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots alongside other requirements in relevant policies of the local plan, the PPTS, NPPF, and other considerations that may be material to the determination of the planning application, including the circumstances of the applicant/s and their status in relation to the planning definitions for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

6.0 Groups consulted

6.1 The Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) was briefed about the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment and recommended interim targets for new pitches and plots to provide homes for the travelling community at its meeting held on 23rd October. The group has endorsed the recommendations in this report for the use of these interim targets for development management purposes.

7.0 Next steps

7.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, the Tables 1 and 2 will be published with an explanatory note alongside the GTAA on the Council's website so they are made available for use to help guide planning applications submitted to the Council for determination and the decisions made on these.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications for the Council through the approval of the interim targets for Gypsy and Traveller Pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots that are recommended in this report.

Legal Implications

There are legal responsibilities placed on the Council as a local planning authority and a housing authority to have regard to and exercise the duties of the Equality Act (2010), Housing Act (1985), Housing and Planning Act (2016), and also through national planning policy to undertake assessments of housing need for different groups in the community, including travellers.

Risk Assessment

None identified.

Impact on Climate Change

None identified.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The GTAA and use of the recommended targets for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots will assist the Council in meeting legal responsibilities placed on it through the Equality Act (2010). The GTAA and recommended targets will help facilitate the implementation of relevant policies in the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan, which has been subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment. The GTAA has been subject to a screening exercise to determine whether its content is relevant to equalities, and if so, whether a full Equality Impact Assessment should be conducted. The screening exercise has found that the GTAA can have a positive equalities impact in terms of 'race' through the assessment of current and future housing needs of the travelling community in Mid Devon. Gypsies and some Traveller ethnicities are recognised in law as being ethnic groups protected against discrimination by the Equality Act 2010. The findings of the GTAA will be capable of being used to inform policies in the Council's local plan and other relevant plans, programmes and strategies, including the Mid Devon Housing Strategy, and also decisions taken on planning applications submitted to the Council for determination. In light of the GTAA's likely positive equalities impact a full Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

The Equalities Impact Assessment screening is attached to this report in **Appendix 3**.

Relationship to the Corporate Plan

The GTAA and recommended interim targets for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots will help the Council achieve the following aims and objectives in the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028:

- Community, People and Equalities – the GTAA has been informed through engagement with the travelling community in Mid Devon, which includes groups recognised in law as being ethnic groups protected against discrimination by the Equality Act 2010.
- Homes – through helping to meet the housing needs of the travelling community in Mid Devon

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 29 October 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 29 October 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 29 October 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 22 October 2024

Cabinet member notified: yes

Report: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. No

Appendix: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. No

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Tristan Peat, Forward Planning Team Leader

Email: tpeat@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 234344

Background papers:

Appendix 1 - PPTS definitions for Gypsies and Travellers (and also for Travelling Showpeople)

Appendix 2 - Mid Devon Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2024

Appendix 3 - Equalities Impact Assessment screening

Links:

Adopted Mid Devon Local Plan: [Adopted Local Plan and Policies Maps - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan-and-policies-maps)

National Planning Policy Framework: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/national-planning-policy-framework)

Planning policy for traveller sites: [Planning policy for traveller sites - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites)