

**Note on Gypsy and Traveller Quantitative Assessments**  
**Prepared by Planning Policy, West Berkshire Council March 2023**

This paper has been prepared in response to the questioning of Dr Bullock by Mr Willers KC on the Council's past supply and the undertaking of quantitative assessments.

As outlined in Dr Bullock's Proof of Evidence, the allocation of pitches for the timescales in the Berkshire Structure Plans were set out in the Berkshire Structure Plan 1991-2006 and the Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016. As such Plans were undertaken at the regional level, and by a Body which has been disbanded, the Council are unable to locate details of any quantitative assessments. However, such Plans would have been formally examined, and as they were adopted they were found sound.

The Newbury District Local Plans for 1991-2006 and 1996-2001 would have been guided by the Structure Plans.

In February 2006 the then Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued interim guidance on how to conduct accommodation needs assessments. The assessments needed to look at both the current shortfall in accommodation as well as projections of future growth.

In the Thames Valley (Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) local authorities collectively decided that a joint research exercise should be undertaken on accommodation needs across the whole sub-region. The Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR) was tasked with undertaking the work and external consultants, Tribal Consulting, were commissioned to undertake a GTAA, with the results for West Berkshire presented in September 2006 and outlined in the tables below. This fed into the South East Plan, which fed into the West Berkshire Core Strategy (as set out in the Proof, this did not seek to allocate sites).

	<b>West Berkshire</b>
Total households on authorised sites*	30
Estimated current backlog of need	14
Estimate of additional households forming 2006-11	9
<b>A DEMAND: Estimate of demand for additional pitches 2006-11</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>B SUPPLY: Estimate of pitches expected to become available</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>TOTAL: Indicative need for additional pitches 2006-11</b>	<b>4</b>

\* Each pitch equates to one household which may have more than one caravan.

The former South East Regional Assembly requested that advice on additional pitches covers the period 2006-2016. The GTAA only examined need for 2006-2011. Government guidance on calculating need for 2006-2011 recommends a 3% rate of growth per annum.

	<b>West Berkshire</b>
<b>Indicative need for additional permanent pitches 2011-2016</b>	<b>5</b>

Atkins prepared a GTAA for West Berkshire in 2013 (in conjunction with Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell Forest and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Councils).

	<b>West Berkshire</b>
Need for additional pitches 2012-2017	4*
Need for additional pitches 2017-2022	7
Need for additional pitches 2022-2027	9
<b>TOTAL 2012-2027</b>	<b>20</b>

\* Taking into account supply of 3 pitches.

The Housing Site Allocations DPD was informed by the GTAA 2015 prepared by ORS.

	<b>West Berkshire</b>
Need for additional pitches 2014-2019	4
Need for additional pitches 2019-2024	7
Need for additional pitches 2024-2029	7
<b>TOTAL 2014-2029</b>	<b>17</b>

### **Summary**

To supplement the Proof of Dr Michael Bullock the planning policy team at West Berkshire Council have provided details of quantitative assessments/past GTAAs where the information has been found. West Berkshire Council, or Newbury District Council as it was, did not always prepare such evidence. These were undertaken at County Council level, with numbers provided to each local planning authority. Thus, in response to the questioning of Dr Bullock in cross examination this paper highlights that quantitative assessments/GTAAs have been undertaken to inform planning policy on Gypsy and Traveller site allocation.