

Guidance on Interim Measures for Circular 04/2007:

Planning for travelling showpeople

1. Due to the iterative nature of the plan making process, this guidance has been published at a time where it may not be practical to include travelling showpeople pitch allocations in current RSS revisions.
2. Where possible, the needs of showpeople should be captured in current Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments where they will be able to inform the current draft RSS revision.
3. Where this is not practical due to issues of timing, the needs of showpeople should be included in the next Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (which are expected to be undertaken periodically) to inform future draft RSS revisions.
4. Work to allocate travelling showpeople plots should not be used to unreasonably delay current Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments or draft RSS revisions unless there is a practical chance of it being incorporated.
5. In the absence of any emerging Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments or RSS pitch allocations local authorities should provide criteria based policies or interim pitch allocations for travelling showpeople in their Local Development Frameworks. These should be based on:
 - Advice on preparing criteria (included in annex D);
 - Mini needs assessments from data supplied by trade organisations listed in the Circular; or
 - An assessment of travelling showpeople's accommodation needs as part of the local housing needs assessment.
6. Local authorities may wish to strongly consider joint working with their neighbouring local authorities, both on assessing need and also in producing a joint DPD for travelling showpeople. Joint working will allow for a greater body of evidence to be collected, will allow for sharing of resources and will give a greater choice of land should a need for site allocations be identified.
7. The robustness of evidence supporting any interim pitch allocations for travelling showpeople will be tested as part of any DPD examination in public. The failure to robustly demonstrate the needs of travelling showpeople will increase the likelihood of successful challenges to planning decisions regarding showpeople sites.