

GLA Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Topic Paper 2017

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1. Introduction

1.1 The proposed draft London Plan policy on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation requires:

Policy H16 Gypsy and Traveller accommodation

A Boroughs should plan to meet the identified need for permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

B As of the start of this Plan period, boroughs should use the following definition of ‘Gypsies and Travellers’ as a basis for assessing need:

People with a cultural tradition of nomadism, or living in a caravan, whatever their race or origin, including:

- 1) those who are currently travelling or living in a caravan
- 2) those who currently live in bricks and mortar dwelling households whose existing accommodation is unsuitable for them by virtue of their cultural preference not to live in bricks and mortar accommodation
- 3) those who, on grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently.

C Boroughs that have not undertaken a needs assessment since 2008 should either:

- 1) undertake a Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment within the first two years of this Plan period (based on the definition set out above); or
- 2) use the midpoint figure of need in Table 3 of GLA Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Topic Paper 2017 as identified need for pitches (over the next 10 years) until a needs assessment is undertaken as part of their Development Plan review process.

D Boroughs that have undertaken a needs assessment since 2008 should update this (based on the definition set out above) as part of their Development Plan review process.

E Boroughs should undertake an audit of existing pitches and sites, identifying:

- 1) areas of overcrowding
- 2) areas of potential extra capacity within existing sites
- 3) pitches in need of refurbishment.

Boroughs should plan to address issues identified in the audits.

F Boroughs should actively plan to protect existing Gypsy and Traveller accommodation capacity, and this should be taken into account when considering new residential developments to ensure inclusive, balanced and cohesive communities are created.

1.2 Estimates show there are around 30,000 Gypsies and Travellers in London¹. Their culture and traditions have developed through a nomadic way of life over centuries, and although many Gypsies and Travellers try to maintain this, the lack of pitches often presents a barrier to this being achieved.

“Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic groups under the Race Relations Act 1976, and they are protected by the Equality Act 2010.”²

1.3 Around 85 per cent³ of Gypsy and Traveller families in London have been forced to live in housing, or on roadside encampments due to overcrowding, or an unsuitability, or lack of availability of pitches. The lack of access to secure accommodation and suitable living environments has far-reaching implications for their physical and mental health, welfare, education, employment and access to the wider opportunities London has to offer.

1.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission’s Research report 112: Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review⁴ highlighted some of the inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, citing the lack of suitable secure accommodation as an underpinning factor:

“Gypsy and Traveller communities in Britain experience wide-ranging inequalities...One core theme which arises across all topics is the pervasive and corrosive impact of experiencing racism and discrimination throughout an entire lifespan and in employment, social and public context. Existing evidence...highlights high rates of anxiety, depression and at time self-destructive behaviour (for example, suicide and/ or substance abuse) ...The lack of suitable, secure accommodation underpins many of the inequalities that Gypsy and Traveller communities experience.”

1.5 The EHRC report goes onto explain that many Gypsies and Travellers are, due to a lack of suitable accommodation and relevant infrastructure, forced into local authority housing, experiencing negative impacts including dislocation from family, community, culture and support systems:

“Many Gypsies and Travellers are caught between an insufficient supply of suitable accommodation on the one hand, and the insecurity of unauthorised encampments and developments on the other: they then face a cycle of evictions... Roadside stopping

¹ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/why-were-needed/>

² <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/why-were-needed/>

³ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/why-were-needed/>

⁴ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/research-report-12-inequalities-experienced-gypsy-and-traveller-communities>

places, with no facilities and continued instability and trauma, become part of the way of life. Health deteriorates, while severe disruptions occur to access to education for children, healthcare services and employment opportunities. In order to avoid the eviction cycle or to access vital services, many families reluctantly accept the alternative of local authority housing... This also involves dislocation from their families, communities, culture and support systems, leading to further cycles of disadvantage.”

1.6 In 2017 London Gypsies and Travellers embarked on a major project to collect and reveal information about London’s Gypsy and Traveller communities. They, working with the data analysis organisation Mapping for Change, and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Aziz Foundation, compiled information about the inequalities, experience and contributions of Gypsies and Travellers across the capital. The project, called Mapping the Pathway to Equality⁵, provides a detailed evidence base about the size of the Gypsy and Traveller community in London and the accommodation and work issues faced. This topic paper draws on that evidence base to assist in identifying the barriers which exist to the provision of sufficient and suitable accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers in London.

1.7 Figure 1. provides an illustration the level of provision and the distribution of Gypsy and Traveller sites in London (2017). It clearly shows that many boroughs and areas of London do not provide any sites at all (whether local authority or private), some only accommodate private sites, and only one ward/ borough accommodates both private and local authority sites, this translates into relatively limited choice geographically for Gypsies and Travellers in London.

⁵ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2.-Mapping-the-Pathway-to-Equality-project-briefing.pdf>

1.8 A number of different ‘approaches’ to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation have been employed over the last 50 years. In 1968 the Caravan Sites Act placed a duty on local authorities to build council sites, which is credited with bringing about an increase in provision across the country- as illustrated in Figure 2 below for London. The duty was repealed in 1994 with the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. The London Gypsies and Travellers document ‘Planning for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in London’⁷ 2016 explains the impact of this as:

“In London over 550 pitches were delivered on local authority sites between 1968 and 1997 but around 85 were lost in the early 2000s mainly due to redevelopment and regeneration.”

1.9 This loss is evident in Figure 2. which illustrates a significant fall in pitches provided by local authorities in Harringey, Harrow and Hillingdon between the first time period charted (late 1960s to 1994) and the two subsequent time periods cited, and 2 boroughs- Enfield and Lewisham show a level of provision for the first time period (late 1960s to 1994), then no local authority provision at all for subsequent time periods- which is likely to reflect the legislative change in 1994. NOTE: the terminology Gypsy and Irish Traveller is used in this instance due to the source data.

1.10 Where boroughs in Figure 2 show a steady/ relatively consistent level of pitch provision over the 3 time periods cited- it is not clear how population increases within the Gypsy and Traveller community have been planned for or accommodated.

1.11 NOTE: a number of maps cited in this paper provide information at borough level on the census count for Gypsies and Travellers. The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (ITMB) produced a report⁸ ‘Gypsy and Traveller population in England and the 2011 Census’ which questioned the accuracy of census ‘counts’ stating:

“ITMB and numerous other Gypsy and Traveller organisations believe that the 2011 census figure is a significant undercount. This is most likely due to many Gypsies and Travellers not self-ascribing as a result of:

- The marginalization and discrimination these communities face on a regular basis leading to mistrust of official processes
- Low educational attainment and poor literacy skills limiting people’s ability to understand and complete the forms
- Failure of the ONS enumeration process to engage marginalised communities, especially those living on unauthorised sites

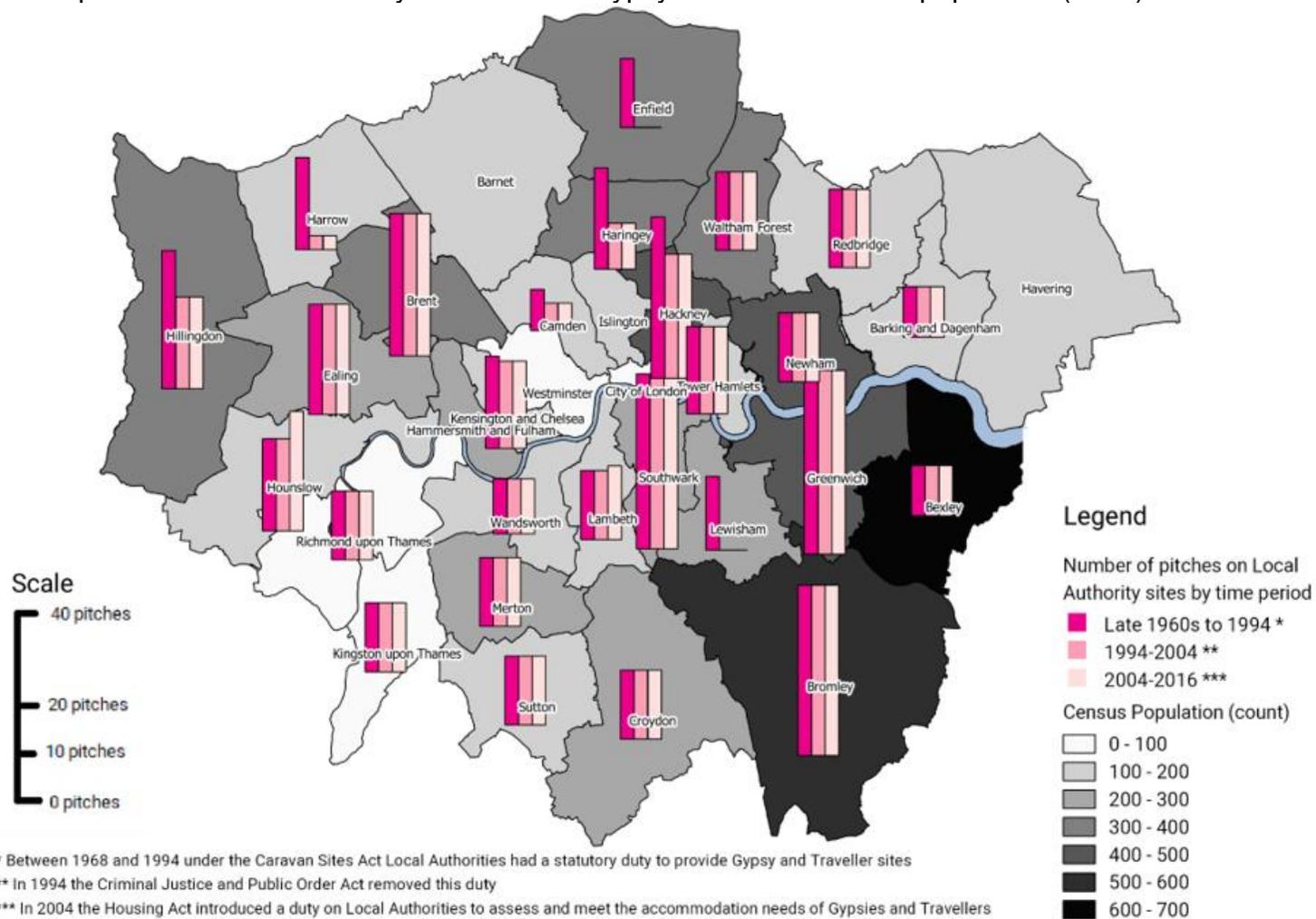
It is therefore difficult to ascertain how accurate the census population count of Gypsies and Travellers is.

1.12 This paper supports the proposed London Plan policy, which aims to evidence and address the current under provision of pitches and the negative impacts this can have on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers in London.

⁷ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/20160630-Planning-for-the-accommodation-needs-of-Gypsies-and-Travellers-....pdf>

⁸ <http://www.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Gypsy-and-Traveller-population-in-England-policy-report.pdf>

Figure 2: Number of pitches on Local Authority sites and the Gypsy and Irish Traveller population (2011)



⁹ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/3.-Mapping-the-Pathway-to-Equality-Population-size-and-accommodation-need.pdf>

2 Definitions

2.1 The proposed draft London Plan policy provides the following definition for Gypsies and Travellers:

B As of the start of this Plan period, boroughs should use the following definition of ‘Gypsies and Travellers’ as a basis for assessing need:

People with a cultural tradition of nomadism, or living in a caravan, whatever their race or origin, including:

- 1) those who are currently travelling or living in a caravan
- 2) those who currently live in bricks and mortar dwelling households whose existing accommodation is unsuitable for them by virtue of their cultural preference not to live in bricks and mortar accommodation
- 3) those who, on grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently.

2.2 The proposed London Plan definition is different from the current Government definition for planning purposes, which is contained within planning policy for traveller sites¹⁰ (August 2015) states:

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, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.

2. In determining whether persons are “gypsies and travellers” for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:

- a) whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life
- b) the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life
- c) whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances.

3. 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*

¹⁰ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf

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, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

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

5. 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.

2.3 The definition applied to Gypsies and Travellers makes a significant difference in terms of the assessment of accommodation needs and how or whether Gypsies and Travellers are numerically ‘counted’ in planning accommodation needs assessments. The DCLG definition acts to exclude many Gypsies and Travellers, for example those who have ceased to travel permanently.

2.4 Concerns about the DCLG planning definition were highlighted in responses submitted to the initial consultation¹¹ entitled ‘Ensuring fairness in the planning system’ in 2014. The Equality and Human Rights Commissions’ response¹² raised the following arguments against the definition:

“Gypsies and Travellers often find it difficult to practice a nomadic habit of life, because of difficulties in obtaining adequate stopping places, or because of their need to fit in a nomadic habit of life around the educational needs of their children. In addition, older Gypsies and Travellers, or those with health problems or caring responsibilities may not be able to travel.

Although many Gypsies and Travellers now live in conventional ‘brick and mortar’ accommodation, for many this is because of the lack of any viable alternative. The narrowing of existing planning guidance for Gypsies and Travellers would lead to further involuntary assimilation of individuals who wish to retain their traditions.

The Commission considers that the current definition of Gypsies and Travellers under the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) is restrictive. To restrict it further would exclude an even higher proportion of Gypsies and Travellers from the policy.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-and-travellers-proposed-changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance>

¹² <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/file/6011/download?token=YmIcCD0v>

Impact upon the most vulnerable

DCLG appears to recognise that the proposal would have the heaviest impact upon “the elderly who no longer travel due to reasons related to ill health or disability. Similarly, it would also impact on children and young people including those with disabilities or special educational needs who use a settled base in order to access education; as well as women who have ceased to travel in order to care for dependents”. These people are still members of the Traveller community, but some of the most marginalised members. They may wish to live with other members of that community and some of the younger ones may wish to learn and in future enjoy a traditional nomadic way of life, having enjoyed the same educational opportunities as other children and have the opportunity to mix with them and to foster good relationships with them.

The ability of children to live with their family and to enjoy their culture without the price for this being a loss of educational opportunities is an important one.

The proposed amendment would further limit the economic opportunities available to Gypsies and Travellers. Indeed, applicants for planning permission to stay in one place already have to show they are nomadic for economic purposes, but they need somewhere permanent to live precisely because it is increasingly impossible to live an economically viable nomadic life.

Contrary to the overarching aim of facilitating the traditional and nomadic way of life

The stated aim of the PPTS is as follows:

“the Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers...”

However, the proposed amendment would exclude from the protection of the PPTS ethnic Gypsies and Travellers who have travelled but have ceased to do so for health or other reasons; and others who identify with the cultural traditions of the Gypsy and Traveller group. This would specifically affect Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers, both of whom have been held to be a separate ethnic group for the purposes of equality law (see *Commission for Racial Equality v Dutton* [1989] QB783 CA; *P O’Leary v Allied Domecq* (unreported) 29 August 2000 (case no CL 950275-79)).

These individuals would no longer benefit from policies whose rationale is to protect their traditional way of life. This would also make it more difficult for other members of the group to enjoy the traditional way of life, since it would be difficult for them to do so if other (perhaps dependent) members of the community were not also protected. The proposed amendment would therefore defeat the stated aim of the PPTS.”

2.5 Planning for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in London¹³ stated:

“The reaction of the Gypsy and Traveller community in London and across the country has been to strongly oppose this change in definition, highlighting the very likely negative impacts this would have on the majority of Gypsies and Travellers who have been settled on sites and in housing due to decades of legislation and enforcement powers which have made travelling for work very difficult if not impossible. In addition concerns were raised...that the new definition would discriminate against the most vulnerable members of the community, particularly women, children, older people, those who are disabled or suffer from long-term illness.”

2.6 London Gypsies and Travellers¹⁴ highlight the impact that the current DCLG planning definition and the lack of housing in London has had on Gypsies and Travellers- often resulting in them being forced into housing:

“The community faces a huge housing crisis in London, with many families living on the side of the road and facing constant evictions. The majority of Gypsies and Travellers in London have been forced into housing where they are isolated from their families and traditional way of life. As a result, they can become vulnerable – because of prejudice, instability in the private sector and lack of social rented housing.”

2.7 Examples of Gypsies and Travellers who may would not be recognised under the current DCLG planning definition include:

- i) Gypsies and Travellers who have ceased to travel permanently due to a lack of available permanent pitches, transit sites or stopping places; frequent enforcement action (evictions); or lack of opportunities/barriers to work which requires travelling in a caravan;
- ii) Gypsies and Travellers who live in (bricks and mortar) housing due to the lack of sufficient, affordable and good quality caravan site provision; or
- iii) Gypsies and Travellers who have ceased to travel permanently due to their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age. This is most likely to affect Gypsies and Travellers who face multiple and intersecting inequalities (e.g. older people, those with disabilities, women, especially single mothers);

¹³ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/20160630-Planning-for-the-accommodation-needs-of-Gypsies-and-Travellers-....pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/why-were-needed/>

2.9 This often results in Gypsies and Travellers not being counted in needs assessments, with many borough needs assessments identifying zero need (see Figure 3.) leading to a further lack of accommodation provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Local Plans and concerns about the protection of existing sites.

2.10 This has a direct impact on the housing options available to Gypsies and Travellers and their ability to retain their cultural status and identity, particularly for young people and can lead to greater inequalities in terms of access to safe and secure accommodation, health care and education. The Fordham study 2008¹⁵ highlighted the isolation experienced by many Gypsies and Travellers living in housing:

“For Gypsies and Travellers living in housing the literature shows that while some made the transition from sites to improve access to health and education facilities, others had been forced there by poor health or lack of available pitches on authorised sites. High levels of isolation among housed Gypsies and Travellers have been found, and facilities were frequently moved between properties and often away from family members”

2.11 The 2008 Fordham study¹⁶ identified a link between a fall in the number of local authority pitches and an increase in the number of unauthorised sites in outer London boroughs and neighbouring areas.

2.12 Figure 3 illustrates the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need levels (for boroughs who have undertaken a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment) what definition the assessment figure was based upon, whether this was:

- Based on 2006 Housing Act and 2012 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites definition (dark pink circle)
- Based on 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites definition (current planning definition) i.e. pitches needed by Gypsy and Traveller families meeting the definition (dark green circle)

And in addition, where the latter was used, the following was also (where data was available) applied as a comparison:

- Based on 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites definition- pitches needed by Gypsy and Traveller families not meeting the definition i.e. Gypsies and Travellers who do not currently meet the definition (light green circle).

2.13 Figure 3 illustrates a pattern in terms of identified level of need- and the definition applied to undertake the assessment. The level provided in light green circles represent families who are excluded by the current definition. Generally- the figures for

¹⁵ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

¹⁶ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

assessments based on the 2006 Housing Act and 2012 Planning definitions (dark pink circles) are high, compared with the level assessed based on the current DCLG planning definition (dark green).

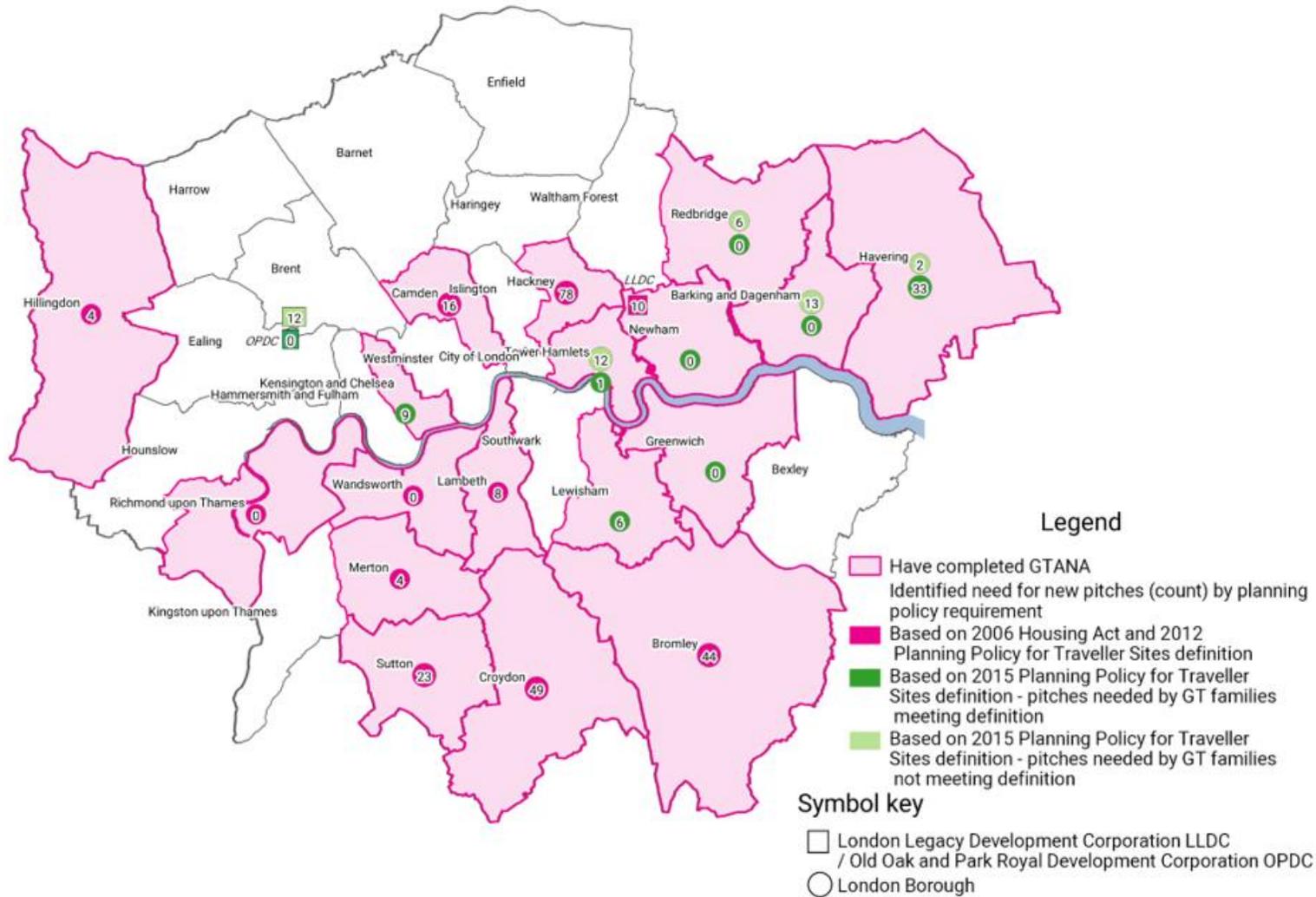
2.14 Given this evidence it is possible to state that the 2006 Housing Act definition housing¹⁷ (as cited in Figure 3) would appear to have provided a more comprehensive definition of Gypsies and Travellers. It defined Gypsies and Travellers as:

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 and/or caravan dwelling.

2.15 Allowing Gypsies and Travellers to retain their cultural status and identity, and be recognised and 'counted' as Gypsies and Travellers- even if they had ceased to travel temporarily or permanently. The proposed draft London Plan definition is therefore based on the 2006 Housing Act definition (above).

¹⁷ <http://bemis.org.uk/resources/gt/uk/2006%20-%20definition%20of%20the%20term%20%27gypsies%20and%20travellers%27%20for%20the%20purposes%20of%20the%20housing%20act%202004.pdf>

Figure 3: Gypsy and Traveller accomodation assessed need levels 2012-2017



¹⁸ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/3.-Mapping-the-Pathway-to-Equality-Population-size-and-accommodation-need.pdf>

3 Need in London

3.1 Estimates show there are around 30,000 Gypsies and Travellers in London¹⁹.

3.2 Section 2 of this paper highlighted the role that definitions, in particular the existing planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers plays in assessing need.

3.3 Accurately assessing need is essential in order to plan to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. Boroughs are often best positioned to do this in terms of reaching out to, having links into and liaising with the community, and being able to reach and identify Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation.

3.4 The Greater London Authority (GLA) commissioned the London Boroughs' Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (the Fordham study) the final report of which was published March 2008²⁰, on behalf of 33 London boroughs, in response to Housing Act 2004²¹ requirements on local authorities to consider Gypsies and Travellers accommodation needs in their local housing assessments. The aim of the study was to assess accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers in London by borough, sub-region and region, with the purpose of establishing how many units of accommodation were needed.

3.5 The study used the 2006 Housing Act (housing) definition and provided estimates for the number of Gypsy and Traveller families in London on authorised sites, unauthorised sites and in housing. Table 1 and Figure 4 show population estimates by type of accommodation, illustrating that in 2007 the number of Gypsy and Traveller families living in housing exceeded those on authorised pitches in all but 1 borough (except in the City of London- where population estimates were 0 in both cases).

¹⁹ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/why-were-needed/>

²⁰ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

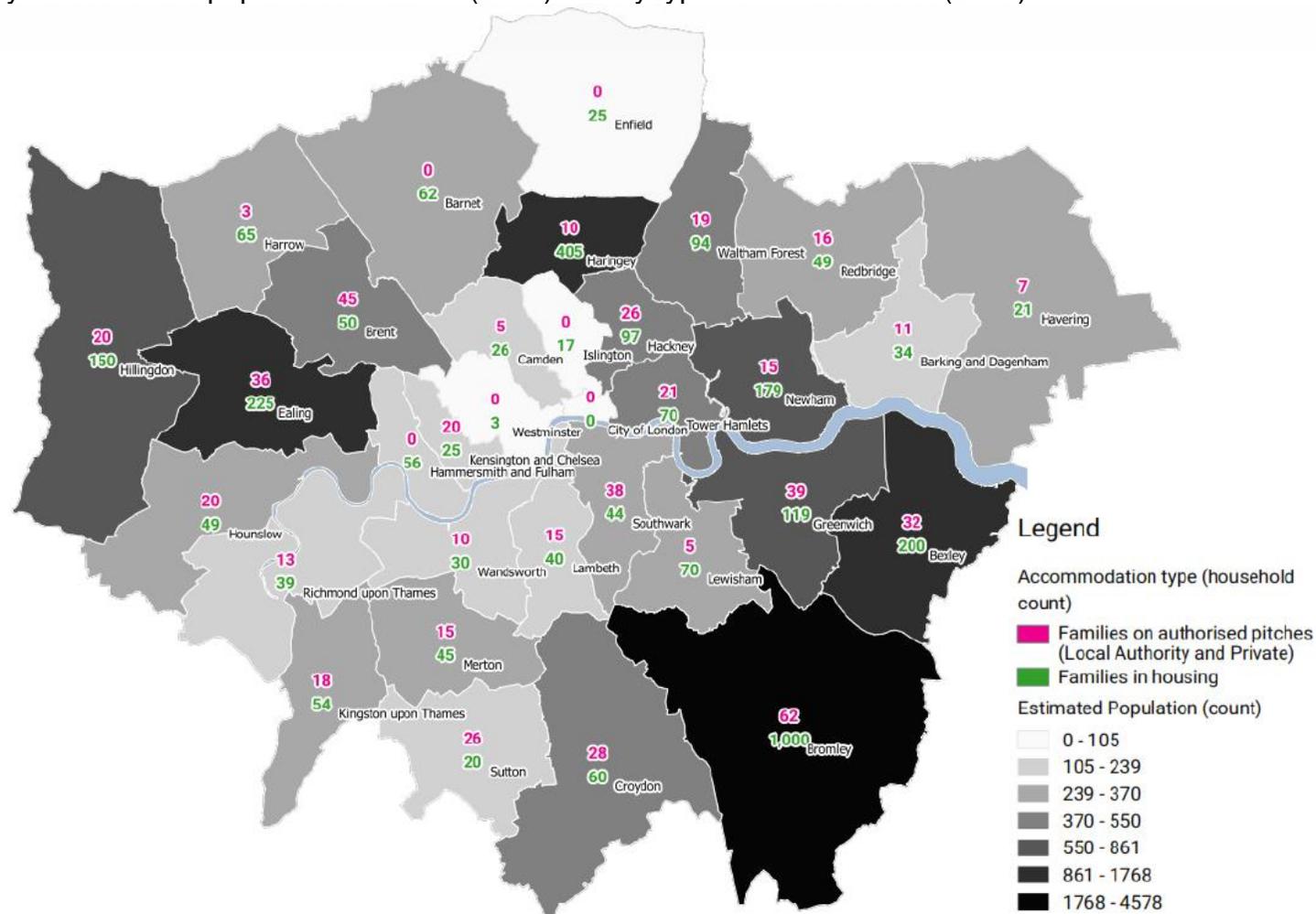
²¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/34/section/225>

Table 1. Fordham study²² estimates for the number of Gypsy and Traveller families in London (2007)

²² The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

Table 3.6 Revised estimates for number of Gypsy and Traveller families				
Sub-region	Borough\	authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	Housing
South West	Croydon	28	4	60
	<i>Kingston</i>	18	5	<i>54</i>
	Lambeth	15	0	40
	<i>Merton</i>	15	0	<i>45</i>
	<i>Richmond</i>	13	0	<i>39</i>
	Sutton	26	0	20
	<i>Wandsworth</i>	10	0	<i>30</i>
South East	Bromley	62	11	1,000
	Greenwich	39	7	119
	Lewisham	5	0	70
	Southwark	38	0	44
East	<i>Barking & Dagenham</i>	11	0	<i>34</i>
	City	0	0	0
	Hackney	26	0	97
	<i>Havering</i>	7	25	<i>21</i>
	Newham	15	4	179
	<i>Redbridge</i>	16	0	<i>49</i>
	<i>Tower Hamlets</i>	21	15	<i>70</i>
	Waltham Forest	19	1	94
North	<i>Barnet</i>	0	0	<i>62</i>
	<i>Camden</i>	5	0	<i>26</i>
	<i>Enfield</i>	0	0	<i>25</i>
	Haringey	10	2	405
	<i>Islington</i>	0	0	<i>17</i>
	<i>Westminster</i>	0	0	<i>3</i>
West	Brent	45	0	50
	Ealing	36	0	225
	Hammersmith	0	0	56
	Harrow	3	0	65
	Hillingdon	20	0	150
	Hounslow	20	0	49
	Kensington & Chelsea	20	0	25
Total		543	74	3,223

Figure 4: Gypsy and Traveller population estimate (2007) and by type of accomodation (2007)



²³ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/3.-Mapping-the-Pathway-to-Equality-Population-size-and-accommodation-need.pdf>

3.7 The Fordham study²⁴ also provided maximum and minimum ‘need’ figures for new pitches for each London borough. These were broken down into 2 time periods:

- 2007-2012
- 2012-2017

3.8 A summary of the borough need figures identified in the Fordham study are shown in Table 2 again broken down into 2 time periods and provided as a range i.e. the table provides maximum and minimum need figures for each time period. The maximum need figures from the Fordham study for the 2 time periods above have been combined and mapped in Figure 5 Gypsy and Traveller population estimate (2007) and max. need for new pitches between 2007-2017(2007) (including need of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar housing). Revisiting these figures nearly 10 years post publication, it can be difficult to ascertain the combined level of provision which was identified as being needed in 2007 for the period up to 2017. In order to do this- a new table has been produced- Table 3.

3.9 Table 3 of this topic paper uses the data provided in Table 2, combining it to show 2007-2017 cumulative need for residential pitches from London Boroughs’ Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment March 2008²⁵ (the Fordham study), with midpoint need figure 2007-2017. The midpoint need figure highlights an average midpoint of need for the period 2007-2017.

²⁴ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

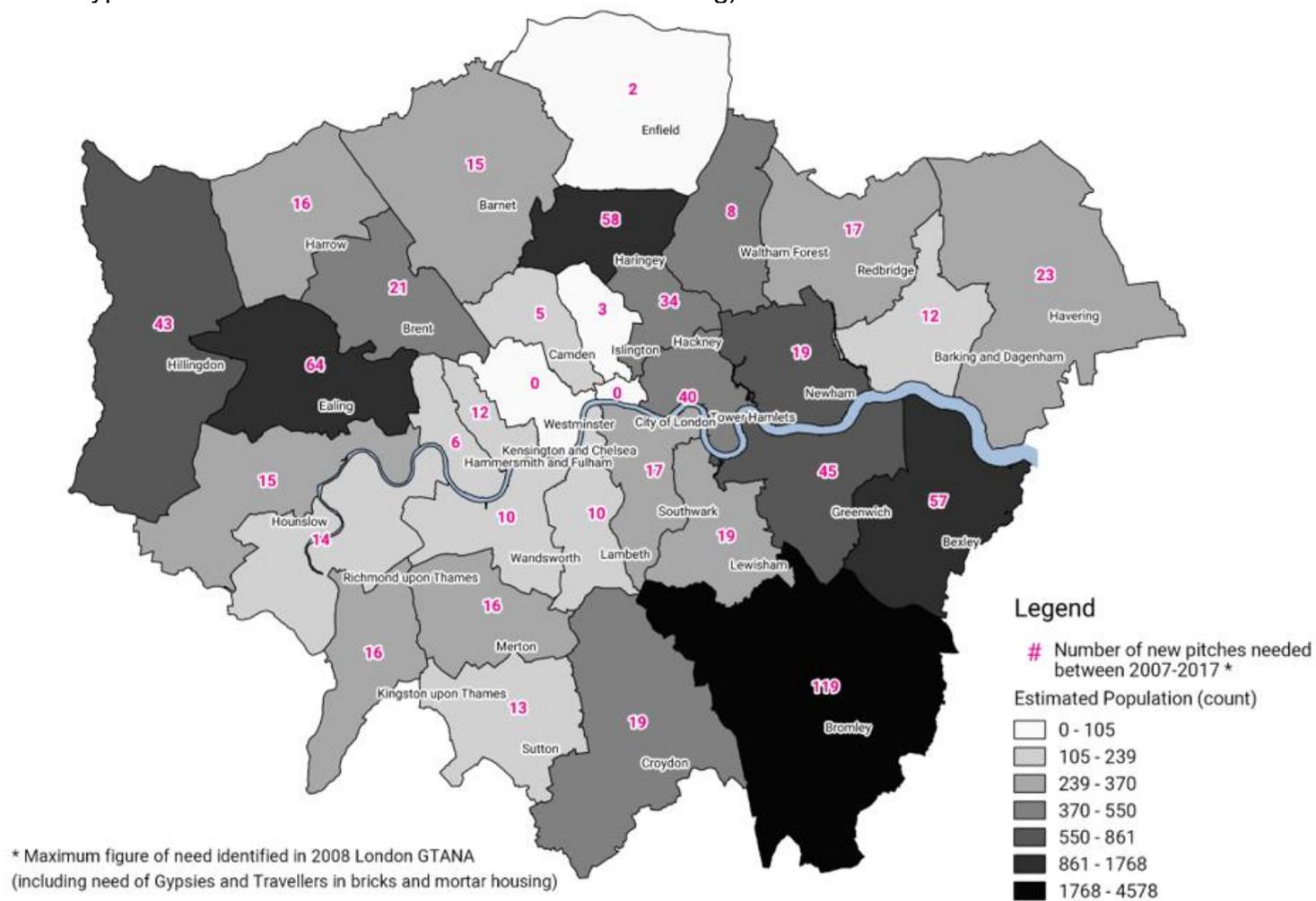
²⁵ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

Table 2: Summary of need for residential pitches 2007-2017

Table 12.23 Boroughs: Summary of need for residential pitches				
	Minimum need 2007-2012	Minimum need 2012-17	Maximum need 2007-12	Maximum need 2012-2017
Barking & Dagenham	2	2	9	3
Barnet	0	0	13	2
Brent	7	7	13	8
Bromley	17	12	96	23
Camden	1	1	4	1
City of London	0	0	0	0
Croydon	7	3	15	4
Ealing	5	6	52	12
Enfield	0	0	2	0
Greenwich	14	8	35	10
Hackney	8	5	27	7
Hammersmith & Fulham	0	0	5	1
Haringey	4	2	50	8
Harrow	0	0	14	2
Havering	12	5	17	6
Hillingdon	3	3	35	8
Hounslow	3	3	11	4
Islington	0	0	3	0
Kensington & Chelsea	3	3	8	4
Kingston upon Thames	-1	4	11	5
Lambeth	2	2	7	3
Lewisham	4	1	16	3
Merton	2	2	12	4
Newham	7	3	15	4
Redbridge	2	3	13	4
Richmond upon Thames	2	2	11	3
Southwark	6	6	10	7
Sutton	4	4	8	5
Tower Hamlets	19	6	33	7
Waltham Forest	-1	3	4	4
Wandsworth	1	2	7	3
Westminster	0	0	0	0

²⁶ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

Figure 5: Gypsy and Traveller and max. need for new pitches between 2007-2017(2007)
 (including need of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar housing)



²⁷ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/3.-Mapping-the-Pathway-to-Equality-Population-size-and-accommodation-need.pdf>

Table 3. cumulative need for residential pitches from London Boroughs' Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment March 2008²⁸, with midpoint need figure 2007-2017.

Borough	Min need 2007-2012	Min need 2012-2017	Min need 2007-2017	Max need 2007-2012	Max need 2012-2017	Max need 2007-2017	Midpoint need 2007-2017
Barking and Dagenham	2	2	4	9	3	12	8
Barnet	0	0	0	13	2	15	8
Bexley*							
Brent	7	7	14	13	8	21	18
Bromley	17	12	29	96	23	119	74
Camden	1	1	2	4	1	5	4
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	7	3	10	15	4	19	15
Ealing	5	6	11	52	12	64	38
Enfield	0	0	0	2	0	2	1
Greenwich	14	8	22	35	10	45	34
Hackney	8	5	13	27	7	34	24
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0	5	1	6	3
Haringey	4	2	6	50	8	58	32
Harrow	0	0	0	14	2	16	8
Havering	12	5	17	17	6	23	15
Hillingdon	3	3	6	35	8	43	25
Hounslow	3	3	6	11	4	15	11
Islington	0	0	0	3	0	3	2
Kensington and Chelsea	3	3	6	8	4	12	9
Kingston upon Thames	-1	4	3	11	5	16	10
Lambeth	2	2	4	7	3	10	7

²⁸ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

Lewisham	4	1	5	16	3	19	12
Merton	2	2	4	12	4	16	10
Newham	7	3	10	15	4	19	15
Redbridge	2	3	5	13	4	17	11
Rochmond upon Thames	2	2	4	11	3	14	9
Southwark	6	6	12	10	7	17	15
Sutton	4	4	8	8	5	13	21
Tower Hamlets	19	6	25	33	7	40	33
Waltham Forest	-1	3	2	4	4	8	5
Wandsworth	1	2	3	7	3	10	7
Westminster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* London Borough of Bexley was excluded from the commissioning of this research and no survey work took place there.

4 Pitch provision in London

4.1 The 2008 Fordham study²⁹ found that (at the point of publication) no new sites had been provided in London since 1996, and makes the link between this date and the fact that the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994) repealed the statutory duty in the Caravan Sites Act requiring local authorities to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites with the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (see 1.7).

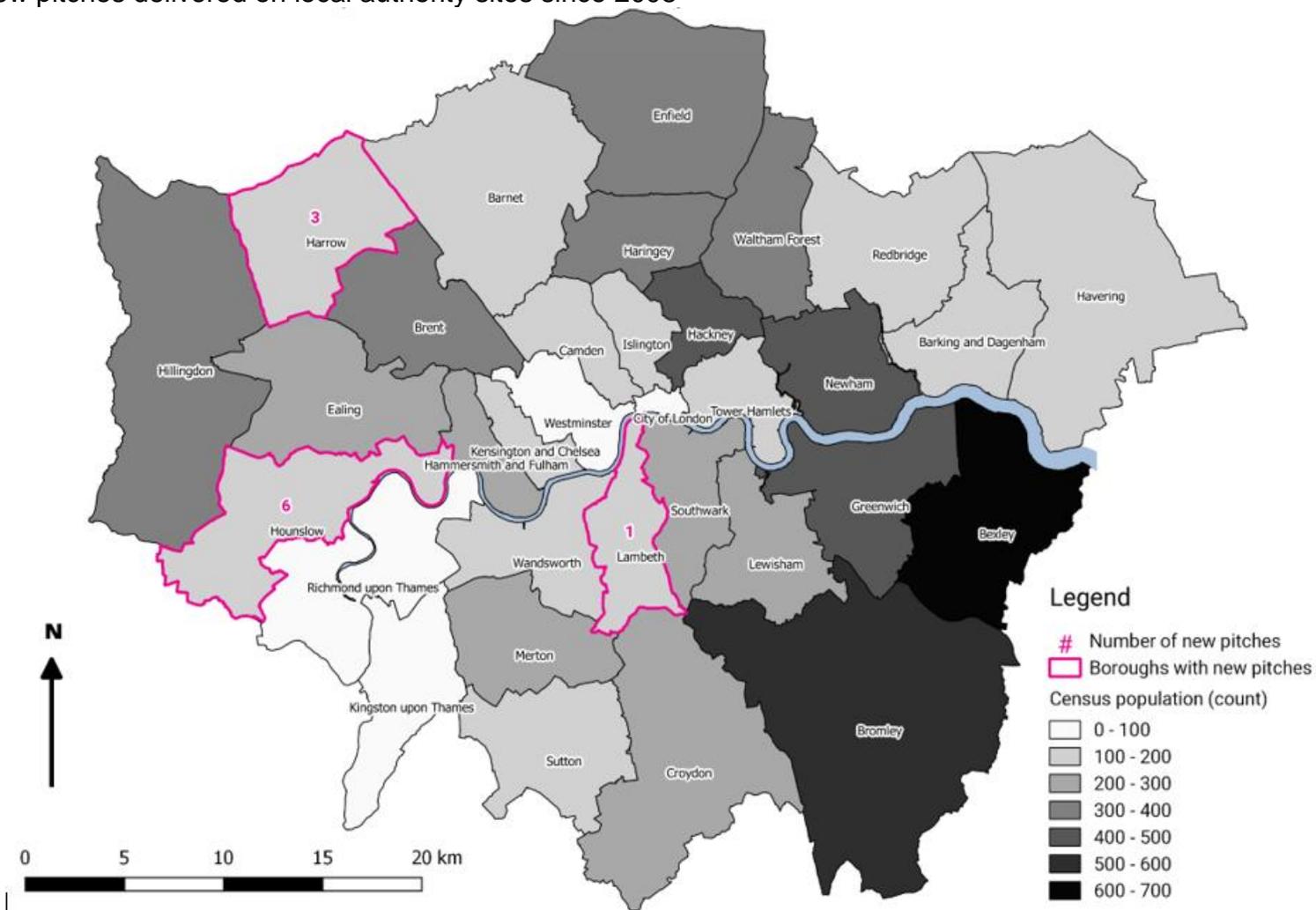
4.2 Figure 6 illustrates the delivery of new pitches in London since 2008, and shows that 3 London boroughs have delivered new Pitches:

- Harrow delivered 3 new pitches,
- Hounslow delivered 6, and
- Lambeth delivered 1.

4.3 This means that less than 10% of London Boroughs have delivered any additional local authority pitches since 2008, therefore 90% of boroughs have delivered no additional local authority pitches.

²⁹ The Fordham research report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/london-plan-technical-and-research-reports>

Figure 6: New pitches delivered on local authority sites since 2008



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³⁰ <http://www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/3.-Mapping-the-Pathway-to-Equality-Population-size-and-accommodation-need.pdf>

Conclusions

“Gypsy and Traveller communities in Britain experience wide-ranging inequalities...One core theme which arises across all topics is the pervasive and corrosive impact of experiencing racism and discrimination throughout an entire lifespan and in employment, social and public context. Existing evidence...highlights high rates of anxiety, depression and at time self-destructive behaviour (for example, suicide and/ or substance abuse) ...The lack of suitable, secure accommodation underpins many of the inequalities that Gypsy and Traveller communities experience.”³¹

5.1 The provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches/ accommodation in London is inconsistent, with some boroughs not providing any (Figure 1).

5.2 Many London Boroughs have not undertaken Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments, and are therefore not likely to have an accurate appreciation need within the borough (Figure 3).

5.3 The current planning definition has impacted on the accuracy of needs assessments which have been undertaken, meaning many Gypsies and Travellers are not ‘counted’ (Figure 3).

5.4 Very few new pitches have been provided in London since 2008 (Figure 6).

5.5 To ensure that the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are planned for in London the new draft London Plan policy will:

- Adopt a comprehensive definition for Gypsies and Travellers and require that it is used in London (for planning purposes) which will allow the accommodation needs of all Gypsies and Travellers in London to be assessed and ‘counted’, taking into account:
 - Gypsies and Travellers who are currently travelling or living in a caravan
 - currently live in bricks and mortar dwelling households whose existing accommodation is unsuitable for them by virtue of the cultural preference not to live in bricks and mortar accommodation
 - those who, on grounds of their own or their family’s or dependents educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently

³¹ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/research-report-12-inequalities-experienced-gypsy-and-traveller-communities>

Require boroughs to:

- undertake a gypsy and traveller accommodation needs assessment in accordance with the more comprehensive definition, or in the absence of this, plan to meet the midpoint figure of need in Table 3 of this paper as identified need over a 10 year period, until a needs assessment is undertaken as part of their Development Plan review process.
- update needs assessments using a more comprehensive definition as part of their Development Plan review process.
- audit existing pitches and sites to assist with future planning, identifying areas or overcrowding, potential extra capacity or pitches in need of refurbishment.