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Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Analysis: Plymouth Analysis

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Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment: Plymouth Analysis

August 2007

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Housing Needs Assessment:
Plymouth Analysis

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Social Research & Regeneration Unit
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Commissioned on behalf of:
Plymouth City Council Social Inclusion Unit

Action Points

Site Provision

- ❖ Plymouth City Council should develop the additional 40 pitches outlined by the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment as necessary to fulfil need by 2011.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council should give consideration to the development of privately owned sites in the Plymouth area. Such potential future provision would be best facilitated through enhanced communication between planning officers and Gypsies and Travellers in the Plymouth area.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could consider some growth to the existing site at The Ride if possible, in order to ensure there is sufficient space for existing pitches, rather than for any new pitches.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could consider the creation of one transit Gypsy and Traveller site that would accommodate approximately 15 pitches, following or alongside the development of permanent provision in the area and in neighbouring authority areas. This transit site would allow accommodation of Gypsies and Travellers moving through Plymouth and potential overflow of visitors to permanent sites.

Site Management

- ❖ The development of a Residents Association for residents of The Ride would provide the opportunity for site managers to disseminate information on all aspects of the site, including rules relating to security of tenure.
- ❖ The need for Gypsies and Travellers to travel for part of the year would be facilitated by provision of security of tenure for those people living on The Ride in Plymouth, and any future Gypsy and Traveller sites developed in the area. Such security of tenure would enhance site stability and ensure a fully inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers in Plymouth.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could consider the creation of a play space and a day room on the site at The Ride. Serious consideration should be made of the need for fire protection, both individually and communally on the site at The Ride.

- ❖ The extension of street cleaning services to The Ride site would be beneficial to residents of The Ride by reducing problems with vermin, enhancing relations with the settled population and potentially reducing the likelihood of fly tipping in the area.
- ❖ Given the location of The Ride near the local tip, the problem of fly tipping is particularly significant to this site, especially given the problems with vermin identified on site. Street cleaning may resolve this to some extent alongside other strategies to tackle illegal fly tipping.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could explore the viability of creation of a bus stop near The Ride site.

Service Provision

- ❖ Although not all Gypsies and Travellers expressed a desire for information on benefits, it should be fully available to all.
- ❖ Gypsies and Travellers facing discrimination should be aware of opportunities within Plymouth City Council to report racism incidents and be supported to attain work in their chosen field.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council and/or the Learning & Skills Council could provide information to Gypsies and Travellers at The Ride site on further education and training.
- ❖ Police in the Plymouth area could disseminate their good practice to other areas of the Devon and Cornwall constabulary, some of whom are perceived less well by Gypsies and Travellers, as outlined in the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment.
- ❖ Police in Plymouth might also want to consider developing linkages with other police forces in England and Wales, such as those in Merseyside, who have developed initiatives to support victims of racial hatred in Gypsy and Traveller communities and to inform Gypsies and Travellers on how and when to report crimes of racial hatred to the police.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council should ensure that both public and private providers of services are aware of their legal obligation to not discriminate against people on the grounds of their ethnic origin.

Policy Development

- ❖ Plymouth City Council could develop further policy to integrate Gypsy and Traveller issues into broader inclusionary practice on all aspects of accommodation and service provision.
- ❖ Inclusionary policies in Plymouth should recognise the core cultural identity of Gypsies and Travellers in the area as English Gypsies, with some Irish Travellers.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could explore media issues further and specifically consider local media reporting of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers.

Practice Understanding and Training

- ❖ Having been asked to specifically consider movement of Gypsies and Travellers into the Plymouth area, the research findings show that Gypsies and Travellers living at The Ride in Plymouth should be recognised as part of the longstanding community, rather than as incomers from elsewhere in the Devon-wide area or beyond.

Contents Page

1.	Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
2.	Research Aims and Objectives	1
3.	Methodology and Methods	2
4.	Plymouth Research Findings	3
	4.1 Secondary Research	3
	4.2 Primary Research	4
	4.2.1 Site Occupied	4
	4.2.2 Demographics	4
	4.2.3 Income Generation	5
	4.2.4 Eviction and Moving On	6
	4.2.5 Future Plans	6
	4.2.6 Reasons for Travelling	6
	4.2.7 Alternative Accommodation	7
	4.2.8 Transit Sites and Views on Pitch Provisions in Devon	7
	4.2.9 Site Facilities and Services Provided to Sites	9
	4.2.10 Management of Site and Conditions	10
	4.2.11 Health	11
	4.2.12 Education	12
	4.2.13 Policing and Crime	12
	4.2.14 Media	13
	4.2.15 Other Services	13
5.	Conclusion	14
	Appendices	17
	Appendix A Calculations Used for District/Unitary Authority Future Pitch Requirements	18

Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment: Plymouth Analysis

1. Introduction

In November 2006, the Social Research & Regeneration Unit (SRRU) at the University of Plymouth presented the final report of the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment to Chief Executives of the local authorities for East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Torridge and West Devon, as well as the Unitary Authorities of Plymouth and Torbay¹. Subsequently the Unitary Authority of Plymouth requested SRRU to carry out additional analysis of the data collected for the city of Plymouth than that which was allowed for within the original brief. The original report and this additional analysis responds to the statutory duty that has been placed on Local Authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and to develop strategies to meet those needs. This report represents the findings of the more detailed analysis of the Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment data for Plymouth.

2. Research Aims and Objectives

The aim of this report is to present information to Plymouth City Council on the specific accommodation and other service needs of Gypsies and Travellers living within and travelling through the Unitary Authority of Plymouth. As such the report encompasses the following objectives:

- ❖ To understand the specific needs of Gypsies and Travellers resident on the local authority authorised site at 'The Ride', Chelson Meadow, in Plymouth with particular regard to management issues;
- ❖ To assess the degree to which Gypsies and Travellers in Plymouth are resident within the authority due to being evicted from elsewhere;

¹ Southern, R. and James, Z. (2006), *Devon-wide Gypsy & Traveller Housing Needs Assessment*. Plymouth: University of Plymouth.

- ❖ To measure the take up of local authority services and those offered by other public agencies, with particular reference to social security benefits, policing, education and health;
- ❖ To assess Gypsies and Travellers understanding of their security of tenure;
- ❖ To measure the size of Gypsy and Traveller groups/families in Plymouth;
- ❖ To understand the levels of interest in private site development amongst Gypsies and Travellers in Plymouth; and,
- ❖ To understand the need for transit site provision in Plymouth.

3. Methodology and Methods

The Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment was carried out using a pluralistic methodology that incorporated both quantitative and qualitative methods, utilising primary and secondary data sources. The five stages of the research process were:

- ❖ **Secondary Research** – Review of existing literature and policy;
- ❖ **Primary Research** – The Gypsy and Traveller Survey;
- ❖ **Primary Research** – Qualitative Fieldwork with Gypsies and Travellers;
- ❖ **Primary Research** – Stakeholder Interviews; and,
- ❖ **Development of Recommendations** – In consultation with key stakeholders.

This report draws on the data collected for Plymouth from each aspect of the research process. The Gypsy and Traveller Survey was carried out following the best practice model set by the Cambridge sub-region Traveller Needs Assessment², which incorporated the involvement of Gypsies and Travellers as part of the research team. In total, 128 questionnaires were completed across the Devon-wide area, with 10 of those completed in Plymouth, followed by qualitative fieldwork with Gypsies and Travellers and interviews with stakeholders. A steering

² Home, R. and Greenfields, M. (2006), *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Traveller Needs Assessment*. Cambridge: Cambridge City Council.

group, consisting of representatives from local authorities, health, education, the police, the Racial Equality Council and the Gypsy Council oversaw the entire research process for the Devon-wide study and were consulted during the development of the recommendations.

This report considers the data collected for the Devon-wide study in the area of Plymouth. As such the analysis focuses largely on the survey completed at The Ride official Gypsy and Traveller site in Plymouth. Further in-depth research in Plymouth would facilitate a better understanding of movement through the area by transient Gypsies and Travellers and would serve to inform developing practice on any official sites.

4. Plymouth Research Findings

The research findings are presented here following the key headings of the main Devon-wide needs assessment. However, the qualitative data has been fed in to analysis of the survey findings.

4.1 Secondary Research

Plymouth Unitary Authority was identified in the Devon-wide study as the only Local Authority that had both a Gypsy and Traveller Officer and a Gypsy and Traveller Link Officer within their organisation. The position of such officers and some associated strategies that identify key issues for Gypsies and Travellers within the City Council's Local Plan (1995-2011) and Housing Strategy (2004-2007) places Plymouth at the forefront of inclusionary policy within the Devon-wide area. Additionally, the report '*Travellers – Needs Assessment Information*' (2005) produced by Plymouth City Council provides brief information on the local position of Gypsies and Travellers prior to needs assessment. This report suggests that there have been difficulties faced by Gypsies and Travellers in accessing services, that consultation with stakeholders should take place to inform site provision and that there is an associated lack of stopping places available for Gypsies and Travellers.

Action: Plymouth City Council could develop further policy to integrate Gypsy and Traveller issues into broader inclusionary practice on all aspects of accommodation and service provision.

4.2 Primary Research

4.2.1 Site Occupied

- ❖ The official Gypsy and Traveller site in Plymouth at The Ride comprises 13 pitches with 37 people residing on the site.
- ❖ 8/10 respondents had lived on a site at Chelson Meadow for between one and five years.

4.2.2 Demographics

- ❖ Ten people completed the Gypsy and Traveller Survey in Plymouth all of whom lived on the authorised local authority Gypsy and Traveller site at The Ride, Chelson Meadow.
- ❖ The majority of those people surveyed were women (8/10), which may reflect the willingness of women within the English Gypsy community to engage with research and change, as has been noted in other research.³ Respondents represented a range of ages from 22 to 71.
- ❖ Respondents largely described themselves as English Gypsies, though one person said they were an Irish Traveller and one person had married in to the Gypsy community from settled living.
- ❖ Some of those people surveyed had large families with five or six children, but the average number of children was 2.4, lower than the number of children per family in the survey for the whole of Devon which was 2.6 children. This finding may reflect the small sample size and the age range of respondents, as younger people may not yet have completed their family growth.
- ❖ The research found that two of the 10 people surveyed in Plymouth were living technically in overcrowded conditions. Overcrowding is calculated by measuring pitch size against average number of occupants. When asked, nine out of the 10 respondents said that they felt the site was overcrowded, largely due to pitch sizes being insufficient. Four respondents said that

³ James, Z, (2007) Policing Marginal Spaces: Controlling Gypsies and Travellers. *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. 7 (4).

they were concerned about people on the site having to double-up.

- ❖ Half of the sample interviewed in Plymouth had relatives living in bricks and mortar housing, as well as relatives living on other Gypsy and Traveller sites in the South West region.
- ❖ The research found that those English Gypsies living in Plymouth were commonly related to or descended from Irish and Welsh Travellers.

Action: Inclusionary policies in Plymouth should recognise the core cultural identity of Gypsies and Travellers in the area as English Gypsies, with some Irish Travellers.

4.2.3 Income Generation

- ❖ Six out of the 10 people surveyed at The Ride were *'homemakers'*, two people were retired and two people were in paid work.
- ❖ Four respondents said that their lifestyle affected their ability to gain work. Given the official status of their site, this response was unexpected and higher than found in the survey Devon-wide. Further, the main reason given by Gypsies and Travellers in Plymouth for their lifestyle affecting their ability to gain work was prejudice.
- ❖ Two respondents said that they had received information on benefits to which they might be entitled, whereas six other respondents said that they had not received such advice. Two respondents did not answer this question.
- ❖ Respondents to the survey did not express a particular desire for information on benefits, and four respondents positively said that they did not want to receive such information.

Action: Although not all Gypsies and Travellers expressed a desire for information on the benefits available to them, it should be fully available to all.

Gypsies and Travellers facing discrimination should be aware of opportunities within Plymouth City Council to report racism incidents and be supported to attain work in their chosen field.

4.2.4 Eviction and Moving On

- ❖ 9/10 respondents had also lived in Devon prior to moving to The Ride, with only two of those respondents saying that they had been evicted from elsewhere in the county.
- ❖ Some respondents had moved to The Ride to be with family and friends (3/10) whereas others indicated they had nowhere else to go (3/10).

Action: Having been asked to specifically consider movement of Gypsies and Travellers into the Plymouth area, the research findings show that Gypsies and Travellers living at The Ride in Plymouth should be recognised as part of the longstanding community, rather than as incomers from elsewhere in the Devon-wide area or beyond.

4.2.5 Future Plans

- ❖ None of the respondents said that they had plans to leave the site at The Ride. Therefore there is unlikely to be any spaces available on the site at The Ride to accommodate the required future pitch provision in Plymouth.

4.2.6 Reasons for Travelling

- ❖ 9/10 respondents said that they retained a travelling lifestyle to visit friends and relatives and for work.
- ❖ Only 6/10 respondents were aware of their ability to retain their pitch for three months when travelling.

Action: The development of a Residents Association for residents of The Ride would provide the opportunity for site managers to disseminate information on all aspects of the site.

The need for Gypsies and Travellers to travel for part of the year would be facilitated by provision of security of tenure for those people living on The Ride in Plymouth, and any future Gypsy and Traveller sites developed in the area. Such security of tenure would enhance site stability and ensure a fully inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers in Plymouth.

4.2.7 Alternative Accommodation

- ❖ Two respondents said that they were looking for other accommodation in the Plymouth area, one person wanted their own land and one person wanted a bigger site.
- ❖ Half of the respondents to the survey in Plymouth had lived in a house at some time (5/10). Two respondents had been born in a house, one person had moved in to a house when they had a child and one person had felt they had '*no choice*' but to live in a house and the other had done so '*for convenience*'.
- ❖ All respondents who had lived in houses had chosen to leave, bar one respondent who had been evicted from their house.
- ❖ None of the respondents would want to live in a house now.
- ❖ None of the respondents had ever owned their own land.

Action: Plymouth City Council should give consideration to the development of privately owned sites in the Plymouth area. Such potential future provision would be best facilitated through enhanced communication between planning officers and Gypsies and Travellers in the Plymouth area.

4.2.8 Transit Sites and Views on Pitch Provisions in Devon

- ❖ The majority of respondents (9/10) said that permanent Gypsy & Traveller sites should not be bigger than 20 pitches and most favoured sites holding 13-15 pitches. Given that The Ride holds 13 pitches, it appears from this finding that respondents were happy with the size of their site.
- ❖ None of the respondents said that residential and transit pitches should be combined. Such combination may cause tension

between permanent residents and those people travelling in transit, due to cultural differences between groups of Gypsies and Travellers, and due to the differing requirements and needs of people in transit and people living on permanent sites.

- ❖ The survey findings show that respondents find it difficult to accommodate visitors.
- ❖ 8/10 respondents said that they needed more space for additional vehicles, with the minimum of four vehicles per pitch desired on average.⁴ This is related to the finding that 9/10 respondents felt that they did not have enough space either inside or outside their accommodation at the moment. Comments made by respondents were that they needed a '*bigger plot*' or more '*space*'.
- ❖ 6/10 respondents said that their need for further space would increase in the next five years, and 4/10 respondents said that their family members would need their own pitches within the next five years.
- ❖ During the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment period, the research team were told of two groups of Irish Travellers who had entered the Plymouth Unitary Authority area and stopped for a number of days. These groups of Travellers were reported to have been travelling with approximately 10 vehicles. The research team attempted to survey the groups, but were unsuccessful. Such groups were considered typical of Gypsies and Travellers travelling through the Plymouth area using temporary stopping places.
- ❖ A number of temporary stopping places for Gypsies and Travellers were identified by local authorities and the police in the Plymouth area (see Appendix A).
- ❖ 6/10 respondents said that some sort of transit provision should be provided in the area.

⁴ On average respondents in the Devon-wide study noted that they travelled (rather than settled) with an average of 2 vehicles per family unit.

Action: Plymouth City Council could consider some growth to the existing site at The Ride, if possible, in order to ensure there is sufficient space for existing pitches, rather than for any new pitches.

Plymouth City Council could consider the creation of one transit Gypsy and Traveller site that would accommodate approximately 15 pitches, following or alongside, the development of permanent provision in the area and in neighbouring authority areas. This transit site would allow accommodation of Gypsies and Travellers moving through Plymouth and potential overflow of visitors to permanent sites. Transit provision in Plymouth would help to resolve any potential conflict with the settled community relating to unauthorised encampments, and the associated costs to the local authority of managing and moving on Gypsies and Travellers in transit.

Plymouth City Council should develop the additional 40 pitches outlined by the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment as necessary to fulfil need by 2011 (See Appendix A).

4.2.9 Site Facilities and Services Provided to Sites

- ❖ All respondents to the survey said that they would like a *'play space'* for children on their site. Such a finding coheres with the need to ensure sufficient provision for children within the *'Every Child Matters'* agenda.
- ❖ Half of the respondents to the survey said that they would like a *'day room'* on their site.
- ❖ 6/10 respondents said that they would like individual fire protection provided on their site. Further, three respondents said that they would like communal fire protection provided on their site.
- ❖ 6/10 respondents said that they would like a bus stop at the entrance to their site.
- ❖ Two respondents unprompted said that they would like street cleaning carried out at the entrance to the site and on the site if possible.

Action: Plymouth City Council could consider the creation of a play space and a day room on the site at The Ride. Serious consideration should be made of the need for fire protection, both individually and communally on the site at The Ride.

The extension of street cleaning services to The Ride site would be beneficial to residents of The Ride by reducing problems with vermin, enhancing relations with the settled population and potentially reducing the likelihood of fly tipping in the area.

Plymouth City Council could explore the viability of creation of a bus stop near The Ride site.

4.2.10 Management of Site and Conditions

- ❖ 7/10 respondents to the survey said that they were not satisfied with the management of the site at The Ride.
- ❖ Comments made by respondents regarding site management included:

“Can’t get work done on anything for quite a long time. My toilet wouldn’t flush, had to wait four weeks”;

“Although it’s a council site they don’t seem to care what troubles we have”;

“Nothing gets done when asked. Don’t concentrate on this site. Give rules, not options”.

- ❖ 4/10 respondents to the survey said that conditions on the site at The Ride were OK, with equal numbers of people saying the site condition was good (3/10) or poor (3/10).
- ❖ 4/10 respondents said that they had problems with vermin on site.
- ❖ 7/10 respondents said that they had problems with fly tipping on site. One respondent said, *“Locals fly tip. They won’t pay to tip. They tip in the dark”.*
- ❖ 3/10 respondents said that they had problems with locals and one close neighbour was particularly noted as causing problems on site.

- ❖ 4/10 respondents stated that site rules in relation to dog ownership were restrictive.

Action: The development of a Residents Association at The Ride would provide a useful conduit through which site problems could be addressed and taken to the site manager/contractor and any problems with local neighbours resolved.

Given the location of The Ride near the local tip, the problem of fly tipping is particularly significant to this site, especially given the problems with vermin identified on site. Street cleaning may resolve this to some extent alongside other strategies to tackle illegal fly tipping.

4.2.11 Health

- ❖ The majority of respondents to the survey in Plymouth described themselves as having *'very good'* health (6/10) or *'good'* health (2/10), with only one respondent describing their health as *'very poor'* and one respondent describing their health as *'poor'*. The settled nature of their accommodation might explain the relatively good health of those people living on The Ride in comparison to the respondents of the Devon-wide survey.
- ❖ Both respondents who had poor health had long term physical illness.
- ❖ 4/10 respondents had family members with either *'poor'* or *'very poor'* health, some of whom also lived on The Ride.
- ❖ One respondent noted that their old age may require them to have support in the home within the next five years.
- ❖ All respondents had a local General Practitioner and 4/10 respondents specifically noted that they had had good experiences with their doctor who had been either *'helpful'* or *'sympathetic to the travelling lifestyle'*. One respondent said that they had had a particularly good experience with their health visitor who came on to the site and was described as *'very helpful'*.
- ❖ Only one respondent said that they had had poor experiences with health professionals, but no reason was provided for this.

Action: The Supporting People team could consider assessing the needs of older Gypsies and Travellers at The Ride site.

4.2.12 Education

- ❖ 6/10 respondents said that they had been educated formally to secondary level, slightly fewer than the average for the Devon-wide survey.
- ❖ One person had been educated to college level, post-16.
- ❖ All respondents had received informal education on literacy.
- ❖ Two respondents had received informal training for work.
- ❖ 2/10 respondents said that they would like to attain further training or education.
- ❖ All four respondents who had school age children sent them to school and none of them felt that they required further services to aid their children's education.

Action: Plymouth City Council and/or the Learning & Skills Council could consider assessing the needs of older Gypsies and Travellers at The Ride site.

4.2.13 Policing and Crime

- ❖ 4/10 respondents had had contact with the police.
- ❖ Respondents who had been in contact with the police had either had a good (2/4) or very good (2/4) experience of policing.
- ❖ The police were described by respondents as "*very helpful*" and "*caring/supportive*".
- ❖ None of the respondents in Plymouth reported having been victims of crime, however, this may not reflect their experience of victimisation which is commonly under-reported by Gypsies and Travellers as was found in the Devon-wide study.
- ❖ However, 6/10 respondents had repeatedly said that they had experienced racism.

- ❖ Only two respondents reported racism to the police, again reflecting an unwillingness of Gypsies and Travellers to report crime.

Action: Police in the Plymouth area could disseminate their good practice to other areas of the Devon and Cornwall constabulary, some of whom are perceived less well by Gypsies and Travellers, as outlined in the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment.

Police in Plymouth might also want to consider developing linkages with other police forces in England and Wales, such as those in Merseyside, who have developed initiatives to support victims of racial hatred in Gypsy and Traveller communities, and to inform Gypsies and Travellers on how and when to report crimes of racial hatred to the police.

4.2.14 Media

- ❖ Respondents to the survey had a range of opinions of the media, though the majority who answered the question (5/8) said that they had a 'poor' or 'very poor' experience.

Action: Plymouth City Council could explore media issues further, and specifically consider local media reporting of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers.

4.2.15 Other Services

- ❖ 4/10 respondents said that they used other local authority services
- ❖ All of those respondents who used other services used sports facilities, one respondent used the library and one respondent used the museum.
- ❖ The main reasons given for not using services were a lack of interest (3/10) or lack of need (2/10).
- ❖ 4/10 respondents said that they had been discriminated against in the provision of services, such as use of sports facilities and local public houses.

Action: Plymouth City Council should ensure that both public and private providers of services are aware of their legal obligation not to discriminate against people on the grounds of their ethnic origin.

5. Conclusion

This report has outlined the findings of the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment for Plymouth. The report presents a number of action points which can be used to inform the development of Plymouth City Council policy in relation to Gypsies and Travellers. In order for Plymouth City Council to take these points forward they are presented here as grouped actions on: Site Provision, Site Management, Service Provision, Policy Development and Practice Understanding and Training. The points of action should be read in conjunction with the Recommendations of the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment. The action points for Plymouth are:

Site Provision

- ❖ Plymouth City Council should develop the additional 40 pitches outlined by the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment as necessary to fulfil need by 2011.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council should give consideration to the development of privately owned sites in the Plymouth area. Such potential future provision would be best facilitated through enhanced communication between planning officers and Gypsies and Travellers in the Plymouth area.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could consider some growth to the existing site at The Ride if possible, in order to ensure there is sufficient space for existing pitches, rather than for any new pitches.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could consider the creation of one transit Gypsy and Traveller site that would accommodate approximately 15 pitches, following or alongside the development of permanent provision in the area and in neighbouring authority areas. This transit site would allow accommodation of Gypsies and Travellers moving through Plymouth and potential overflow of visitors to permanent sites.

Site Management

- ❖ The development of a Residents Association for residents of The Ride would provide the opportunity for site managers to disseminate information on all aspects of the site, including rules relating to security of tenure.
- ❖ The need for Gypsies and Travellers to travel for part of the year would be facilitated by provision of security of tenure for those people living on The Ride in Plymouth, and any future Gypsy and Traveller sites developed in the area. Such security of tenure would enhance site stability and ensure a fully inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers in Plymouth.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could consider the creation of a play space and a day room on the site at The Ride. Serious consideration should be made of the need for fire protection, both individually and communally on the site at The Ride.
- ❖ The extension of street cleaning services to The Ride site would be beneficial to residents of The Ride by reducing problems with vermin, enhancing relations with the settled population and potentially reducing the likelihood of fly tipping in the area.
- ❖ Given the location of The Ride near the local tip, the problem of fly tipping is particularly significant to this site, especially given the problems with vermin identified on site. Street cleaning may resolve this to some extent alongside other strategies to tackle illegal fly tipping.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could explore the viability of creation of a bus stop near The Ride site.

Service Provision

- ❖ Although not all Gypsies and Travellers expressed a desire for information on benefits, it should be fully available to all.
- ❖ Gypsies and Travellers facing discrimination should be aware of opportunities within Plymouth City Council to report racism incidents and be supported to attain work in their chosen field.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council and/or the Learning & Skills Council could provide information to Gypsies and Travellers at The Ride site on further education and training.

- ❖ Police in the Plymouth area could disseminate their good practice to other areas of the Devon and Cornwall constabulary, some of whom are perceived less well by Gypsies and Travellers, as outlined in the Devon-wide Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment.
- ❖ Police in Plymouth might also want to consider developing linkages with other police forces in England and Wales, such as those in Merseyside, who have developed initiatives to support victims of racial hatred in Gypsy and Traveller communities and to inform Gypsies and Travellers on how and when to report crimes of racial hatred to the police.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council should ensure that both public and private providers of services are aware of their legal obligation to not discriminate against people on the grounds of their ethnic origin.

Policy Development

- ❖ Plymouth City Council could develop further policy to integrate Gypsy and Traveller issues into broader inclusionary practice on all aspects of accommodation and service provision.
- ❖ Inclusionary policies in Plymouth should recognise the core cultural identity of Gypsies and Travellers in the area as English Gypsies, with some Irish Travellers.
- ❖ Plymouth City Council could explore media issues further and specifically consider local media reporting of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers.

Practice Understanding and Training

- ❖ Having been asked to specifically consider movement of Gypsies and Travellers into the Plymouth area, the research findings show that Gypsies and Travellers living at The Ride in Plymouth should be recognised as part of the longstanding community, rather than as incomers from elsewhere in the Devon-wide area or beyond.

Appendices

Appendix A: Calculations Used for District/Unitary Authority Future Pitch Requirements

Plymouth	
Local Authority residential sites available	1
Number of families	13
Authorised privately owned sites available	1
Number of families	2
Unauthorised sites available	3
Number of families	26
Temporary stops used	33
1. Total number of families	41
2. Total sites available	5
Families on unauthorised encampments	26
Percentage of sites overcrowded in District	20%
3. Total additional demand	
Current shortfall of pitches	26
Shortfall of pitches from overcrowding	8
Family formation 2006 – 2011 = 6 households	6
Total extra pitch need 2006 – 2011	40