

# Priority 3

## Enabling Independent Living

### 3.3 Gypsies and Travellers

The challenge of responding to unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers (G&T) and better meeting the housing needs of this group has been a priority for the Council/city for a number of years. Whilst the Council has no duty to provide sites for G&T there is a legal duty to assess housing need and to make reasonable provision thereafter. Leeds has agreed a pitch need figure, as part of the city's Core Strategy, up to 2028. The figures are shown in the box on the far right of the page. There is no doubt that achieving these figures will be a challenge. The Council has a current planning application

to develop 12 new pitches at Cottingley Springs. Nevertheless, other sites will need to be identified to fully meet need. Some G&T have expressed a reluctance to make planning applications for private sites because of a perception that applications will not be approved. Building confidence and assisting to make applications for sustainable private sites is a key priority. The Council is also committed to looking at temporary negotiated stopping sites. More needs to be done in terms of the wider service to G&T including those living in conventional housing and improving access to health care and education.

#### Pitch Need

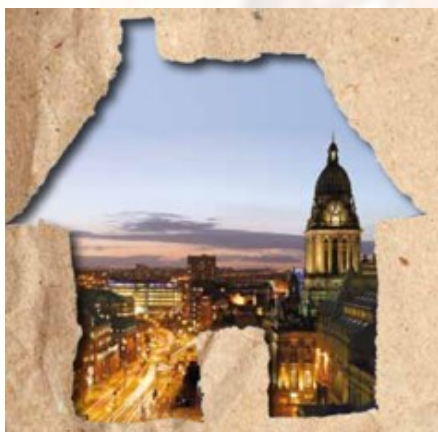
By 2028 Leeds needs  
62 pitches:

- 28 private
- 25 public
- 9 temporary

Planning decision pending  
on 12 new pitches at  
Cottingley Springs

#### Actions

- 1 Identify potential accommodation sites as part of Site Allocations Plan
- 2 Deliver minimum 12 additional public pitches within strategy term
- 3 Improve engagement with G&T including delivery of 'Listening Project'
- 4 Deliver manageable negotiated stopping site options
- 5 Look at improving housing options for G&T in 'conventional' housing
- 6 Improve access to services such as health care and education



#### Case Study

Partnership with GATE: GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) is a local advocacy and support service for Gypsies and Travellers. The Council has an increasingly strong partnership with GATE. This was reflected in the work to calculate pitch need for the Core Strategy submission. Representatives from GATE and the Council developed a questionnaire to capture housing need and preference. Community members completed the questionnaire with individual households and this ensured community 'buy in' and capture of 'hard to reach' households. This was an excellent piece of joint work between the Council, GATE and the G&T community. It is envisaged that this partnership approach be extended to the Site Allocation Plan work and communication/engagement in respect of day to day management of site provision: 'Listening Project'.