



Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

Executive Board

Date: 18th October 2006

Subject: Deputation to Council – Gypsy And Traveller Exchange (GATE)

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Acknowledgement of the deputation to Council from GATE
2. Advise Executive Board of the action proposed to undertake the accommodation needs assessment.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To update Executive Board on the issue raised in the Deputation to Council.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 In February 2006 the Government published their guidance for all Local Authorities to undertake an assessment of the housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 A Report outlining the legislative requirements was considered by Exec Board on 20th September.
- 3.2 The report recommended that Leeds should undertake the accommodation needs assessment and develop a strategy for Gypsy and Travellers in Leeds as a key

element of the overall Housing Strategy for the city. And that if practicable that this assessment should be undertaken on a sub-regional basis.

3.3 A comprehensive assessment of accommodation needs undertaken in line with the published good practice guidance, will allow Leeds to ensure that it has:

- A solid base of quantified data to provide a clear understanding of the needs of the community, that will allow any expressed need to be reflected in the Local Development Framework
- Clear communication with the community
- A Strategy developed in conjunction with the overall Housing Strategy for the City

3.4 The Council will involve the Travellers' community in the assessment, particularly through the organisations GATE and Justice for Travellers.

3.5 Work is also underway to establish the feasibility of undertaking the accommodation assessment on a cross authority basis within the sub region, as recommended within DCLG guidance and recent research. This would provide the sub region with a robust and consistent picture of accommodation need. It would also reduce the cost to each of the authorities.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 To note contents of this report