

## **5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **5.1. Action for Local Planning Authorities**

#### **The GTANA and LDFs**

- Of the 32 boroughs in the GTANA, 6 have a need for over 40 additional pitches by 2017.
- All Local Planning Authorities should embed the findings of the GTANA in their LDF.
- Progress on meeting the accommodation needs evidenced in the GTANA is slow. *All* boroughs should increase the rate at which they will meet this need, especially those where substantial need has been identified.
- The preparation of a specific Site Allocations DPD, as in the case of Havering, is recommended as good practice.
- Explicit reference should be made to how and when GRT communities will be consulted in the Statement of Community Involvement.
- Wording of the LDFs should be clear and follow the guidance set out by CLG in Circular 01/2006.

#### **Involving Gypsies and Travellers**

- Consultation with GRT in the processes of identifying, designing and developing and managing new sites and pitches is essential
- An appreciation of GRT culture is a pre-requisite of effective consultation.
- Consultation techniques should be appropriate to the needs of GRT communities, and recognise low levels of literacy. Using audio/visual media is one example of how this can be dealt with.
- Traveller Inter Agency Forums have potential to be effective in the development of planning policies and the LDF.
- Embedding GRT communities in the SCI would strengthen the commitment to consult effectively with GRT communities.
- A nominated officer, and Cabinet member with responsibilities for equalities and housing would equally assist in the process of strengthening a commitment to consult and involve.
- Traveller Inter Agency Forums will substantially contribute to inclusive processes in planning *with* GRT across a range of service needs including housing, education, health, policing etc. Inclusion of local residents in such a forum presents a means to building partnership with the wider community.
- Resources have to be secured to make fora and other consultation processes genuinely effective.
- Both ITMB and PAL can assist Local Planning Authorities to develop effective consultation processes.

### **5.2. Action for Council and Local Strategic Partnerships**

- The GTANA carried out by Fordham Research is the beginning of a process. It is important that what follows the GTANA is positive action towards priority provision of sites in accordance with need, and constructive work in developing future GTANAs.

- The accommodation needs of GRT as evidenced in the GTANA should be embedded in the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Councils should anticipate possible opposition to site plans and develop strategies to deal effectively with this, for example through hate crime reduction strategies, liaison with the police, and seeking advice from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.
- Community cohesion should be fostered through educational material to the wider community, as for example, is carried out in Redbridge.
- Councils should be more proactive in following this advice and establish forms of communication with families on unauthorised developments and encampments to ensure they occupy authorised sites.
- Local Area Agreements provide a mechanism to deliver the needs of the community, and as such provide an opportunity to secure resources and commitment to meeting the accommodation needs of GRT communities.

### **5.3. Actions for the Mayor's Office**

- It is essential that the GTANA is embedded within the London Plan, and that the Mayor's Office sets clear targets that are in line with the maximum need established in the GTANA.
- The Mayor's Office should ensure that the GTANA is monitored and updated.
- The Mayor and GLA should continue to be proactive in persuading councils to address GRT accommodations needs as a matter of priority, and support borough level and pan-London GRT fora and input into decision-making processes
- It is imperative that the GLA work closely with the Homes and Communities Agency and ensures that it helps address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The HCA will lead in distributing the government's £100 million grant to refurbish existing and build new sites. London local authorities should be applying to the HCA now.
- To ensure genuine social and spatial inclusion the development of sites should take place across London, even boroughs which claim they have no available land will in reality be able to accommodate a number of small sites in small unused pockets of land.

### **5.3. Actions for Central Government**

- Continue their commitment to meeting the accommodation needs of GRT communities, and wider social inclusion.
- Include in the national indicator set a measure on provision of accommodation for GRT.
- Promote the potential of Community Land Trusts, Section 106 agreements, and if necessary, implement Compulsory Purchase Orders, as mechanisms to obtain sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

### **5.4. Actions for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers**

- Set up constituted representative groups capable of partnership working with planners and other service providers. ITMB can provide training where needed.
- Write to the Local Planning Authority and ask to be consulted and involved in traveller site delivery, plans and design.
- Know your rights and actively participate in this process.

#### **5.4.Actions for the Media**

- Follow the society of editors advice on reporting on Gypsies and Travellers