

# Gypsies and Travellers

## National Awareness Training Programme



Delivered by experienced Peer Members the programme has been devised by the Local Government Association (LGA) in association with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and with direct support from Communities and Local Government (CLG). It sets out to explore and answer the challenging issues surrounding Gypsies and Travellers in the UK and looks at the potential solutions to meeting their needs in a balanced way. Through knowledge and understanding the aim of the programme is to empower and enable Councillors, their officers and key partners to plan positively for meeting current and future Gypsy and Traveller needs within their area.

The programme is dynamic, open and proactive in setting out to answer the difficult questions put to the presenting team.

1. Cover Local Plan requirements in detail alongside the Duty to Co-operate plus the latest case law and planning appeal outcomes.
2. Consider how to engage with the travelling community in the Local Authority area.
3. Explore perceptions and experiences from the travelling community.
4. Discuss how best to handle community engagement to achieve a positive outcome for both the settled and the travelling communities in a fair and equitable way.



‘Better than Very Good,  
Excellent with great teamwork  
by both speakers who were very  
experienced and down to earth.  
They had a good grasp of the  
issues we face and good advice  
as to how to deal with them.’

#### **South West Forum**

‘The most beneficial aspect was  
bringing reality to the perception of  
Gypsies and Travellers in the  
District and I certainly didn’t realise  
the effect it (G&T requirements)  
would have on the Local Plan and I  
don’t think the Council Leaders did  
either!! Would recommend it to any  
Council.’

#### **A Midlands Local Authority**

‘It provided a challenging and  
uncompromising view that gave  
plenty of food for thought based  
on real life experiences which  
brought the session to life. The  
approach to a difficult subject  
was VERY brave and it has  
encouraged me to make a start.’

#### **Lancashire District Council**



## **Who will benefit from the programme?**

The programme is designed for all elected members, including town and parish councillors, struggling with issues in their area plus key local authority housing, planning and equalities officers, together with local partners such as health and the police.

## **Our expert team will:**

- Explain the current Government’s position and policies particularly on planning and enforcement
- Cover the history of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK
- Discuss inappropriate encampments and unauthorised developments
- Consider the issues in the light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Localism Act 2011 and the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and the Housing Act 2004
- Look at the cultural, equalities, education and health issues
- Discuss and offer some solutions to the highly contentious issue of community opposition
- Explain funding availability for provision
- Explore the options available for making provision and explain the financial consequences of both action and inaction

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#### **Local Government Association**

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December 2011 L11-764

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