

## **THERE IS AN UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT ON COUNCIL LAND - GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to treat someone less favourably because of a range of protected characteristics, including colour, race, and nationality, ethnic or national origins. The following of a nomadic lifestyle is lawful, it is a culture that is recognised and protected through legislation. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers have been granted protection under the previous Race Relations Acts.

The decision to adopt a travelling lifestyle where Housing need is met through living within a vehicle either on a long- or short-term basis is made by a wide variety of people for various reasons. It is therefore important that Gypsies and Travellers are not denied the right to mainstream services that the council provides.

### **What we will do**

- Visit the unauthorised encampment to conduct an assessment and issue the code of conduct, and the trading standards guidance leaflet
- Liaise with key partner agencies
- Serve direction under section 77 (1) of the criminal Justice and public order act 1994, stating they must vacate the land within 24 hours.
- If they do not leave as requested, we will apply to have this listed in court. Once we have a court date we will serve the encampment a court summons under section 78 of the criminal Justice and Public Order act 1994, informing them of the court date.
- Attend court for removal of trespassers on council Land.
- When the order is served they must leave the land in a reasonable time (typical period is 7 days)
- If they do not comply, we will continue to liaise with the police to assist and enforce the court order.
- Once the travellers have left; the site will be cleaned and restored as soon as possible.

### **What you can do**

- Any criminal Activity or anti-social behaviour must be reported to the police on the 101 number.
- If you require any further information, please email [housingservices@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:housingservices@bolton.gov.uk) or phone 01204 338721