



# Negotiated Stopping – Making it Happen

Megan Godsell – Leeds City Council

# Leeds Context

- Core group of Leeds G&T
- Invariably encamped on public land
- Cycle of encampment and eviction
- No positives
- Creates community tensions
- High cost
- Not meeting housing need



# Leeds Context

- Council Scrutiny Inquiry 2011
- Focus on core group
- Planning app expand current site by 12 pitches
- Referred to SoS
- Public Inquiry held
- Core Strategy
- Site Allocation Plan



# Negotiated Stopping

- Focus on core group
- Two previous sites
- Kidacre Street
- Site unused 30 years
- Site cleared
- Hard Standing provided
- Planning Permission granted for 3 years



# Negotiated Stopping

- Formal toleration decision
- Defined timescale
- Defined site
- Occupants sign toleration agreement
- Waste disposal, animal management
- Provision of support and services: toilets, skips and water supply



# Negotiated Stopping

- Communication vital
- Political agreement
- Consultation local community and business
- Neighbourhood Police Team
- Have regard but not dictated by feedback
- Named and accessible contact
- Proactive presence on site



# Negotiated Stopping

- Costs reduced from £330k in 2010/11 to £175k in 15/16
- Develop site
- Fostering better relationships with G&T
- Vital to better meet need



# Conclusions

- Negotiated Stopping positive
- Better meets housing need
- Reduced costs
- Requires effective on-going communication
- Finding site challenge
- Not long term substitute for permanent sites
- Key priority for city

