

Proposed Changes to Doncaster Council's Pitch Allocations Policy – Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Recommendations

| No | Change | Why? | Consultation Outcome | Recommendation |
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| Change 1 | <p>Be clear on who is not eligible to be join the waiting list for legal reasons. E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those under 18 • Those subject to immigration control who are not eligible for housing assistance | <p>Be explicit in the policy.</p> <p>Be clear on legal requirements.</p> <p>Promote understanding.</p> | <p>100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants.</p> | <p>Accept change 1</p> |
| Change 2 | <p>Be clear on who does not qualify to join the waiting list.</p> <p>Can include persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in anti-social behaviour who have caused, or are likely to cause, serious nuisance to neighbours • Who have deliberately worsened their circumstances to obtain additional priority • With rent arrears • Who have provided false information or deliberately withheld information • Who are occupying a current site without permission (dependent on the circumstances) | <p>To be fair and prioritise those most in need.</p> | <p>100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants.</p> | <p>Accept change 2</p> |

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| Change 3 | <p>Clear definition of maximum pitch occupancy for single and double pitches.</p> | <p>To maintain space standards for fire prevention.</p> <p>Improve understanding of residents.</p> <p>Be explicit in the policy.</p> <p>To be upfront about future pitch use and occupancy.</p> | <p>100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants.</p> | <p>Accept change 3</p> |
| Change 4 | <p>Required permission for additional caravans/occupancy.</p> <p>Confirm that permission is required from the landlord.</p> | <p>Comply with space standards for fire prevention.</p> <p>Promote understanding of residents.</p> <p>Improvement of ongoing site management.</p> | <p>100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants.</p> | <p>Accept change 4</p> |
| Change 5 | <p>Information sharing, confidentiality and data protection/GDPR.</p> <p>Include a statement about how we use and retain data.</p> | <p>Comply with legislation.</p> <p>Be explicit on how personal information is used.</p> | <p>100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants.</p> | <p>Accept change 5</p> |

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| Change 6 | <p>Ensure banding priorities for highest band are comprehensive.</p> <p>E.g. Add to Platinum Band – you have a caravan or access to a caravan, which is your principal home, but nowhere to locate it (for at least six months). You may need to provide evidence of this and a home visit will be required to verify.</p> | To ensure that priorities are comprehensive and applicants who are roadside for six months or over are prioritised for a settled pitch and access to facilities where they have a local connection to Doncaster. | 100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants. | Accept change 6 |
| Change 7 | <p>Inclusion of exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Be clear on what other circumstances may be taken into account in prioritising applicants in addition to the priority bands where there is supporting information to confirm. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, caring and access to care • Medical and health circumstances • Needing to be close to specialist education facilities | To have a clear rehousing policy in line with best practice. | 100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants. | Accept change 7 |
| Change 8 | <p>Ensure that the local connection criteria is fair and recognises cultural differences.</p> <p>E.g. travelling out of area for part of the year.</p> | To make sure we take into account culture and lifestyle in assessing proof of local connection to Doncaster and have regard to case law. | 100% agreement by tenants and waiting list applicants. | Accept change 8 |

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| <p>Additional Change 9</p> | <p>Fair and proportionate consultation with residents about new allocations to ensure community cohesion.</p> | <p>To recognise that the community is clan/family based and to avoid community tension. The discretion for refusal is already provided for in the policy. Consultation would be in accordance with best practice and an explicit part of the application and allocation process.</p> | <p>Issue raised by 7 consulted residents.</p> | <p>Accept change 9</p> |
| <p>Additional Change 10</p> | <p>Restrict anyone pulling onto site without permission from joining the waiting list for a 6-month period (dependent on circumstances).</p> | <p>To deter people from pulling onto site without permission and restricting their access to a pitch dependent on their circumstances.</p> | <p>Raised by housing management and enforcement teams, as well as 1 consulted resident. Outlined in other local authority pitch allocation policies.</p> | <p>Accept change 10</p> |