



REVIEW TITLE: TRAVELLING COMMUNITY STRATEGY SCRUTINY PANEL
SCOPE OF ITEM / TERMS OF REFERENCE
To consider a Travelling Community Strategy: (i) consider the current policies and mechanisms for managing issues related to the Travelling Community; (ii) the roles and responsibilities of each agency; (iii) the powers and duties that exist and who holds those powers; (iv) the provisions of the Localism Bill and potential impact should that Bill be enacted; (v) evidence from interested groups, including travellers and Leicestershire County Council's Multi-agency Travellers Unit; and (vi) the availability of sites – (part of the Local Development Framework).
REASON FOR SCRUTINY
Following recent events and taking account of the proposals being considered by the Strategic Director of Corporate Services a Panel be established to consider a Travelling Community Strategy.
MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP
Councillor Jukes (Chair) Councillor Sutherland (Vice-chair) Councillors Brown, Day, Duffy, Gaskell, Newton, Pacey, Ranson, M. Smith and Youell.
WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED
<i>To be determined.</i>
WHAT WILL BE EXCLUDED
<i>To be determined.</i>
KEY TASKS ** including consideration of efficiency savings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To formulate a response to the availability of sites (as part of the LDF consultation process).
STAKEHOLDERS, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, OTHER ORGANISATIONS *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers • Showmen's Guild • Leicestershire County Council's Multi-agency Travellers Unit • LCC Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer • A Local Developer

- Mr Cutler – a Teacher of Gypsy children
- Simon Ward – Police County contact for Gypsies and Travellers
- Raglan Housing Association
- Charteris Close Tenants Association
- Framework Housing Association

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Is an impact needs assessment required? – It was agreed that an impact needs assessment was not required.

LINKS/OVERLAPS TO OTHER REVIEWS

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Officer Support – S. Jackson, J. Robinson, R. Bennett, A. Russell and D. Scruton as required
Administrative: Frances Whittington

REPORT REQUIREMENTS (Officer information)

REVIEW COMMENCEMENT DATE

12th October 2011

COMPLETION DATE FOR DRAFT REPORT

Interim report to be submitted to SMB on 7th December 2011 in respect of LDF consultation

Final draft to Panel meeting on 28th May 2012

* Key tasks and stakeholders may be subject to change as the review progresses.

PROGRESS OF PANEL WORK

MEETING DATE	PROGRESS TO DATE
12th October 2011	<p>Due to tight timescales, the Chair agreed to consider those parts of the terms of reference relating to the Local Development Framework (LDF) at the initial meeting of the Panel. The Head of Planning and Regeneration, a Planning Policy Officer and the Housing Strategy Manager attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the submitted report.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to attend an LDF Workshop in November 2011, and then to meet soon afterwards to formulate a response to the LDF consultation process.</p> <p>It was also agreed that further meetings be arranged as follows:</p>

	<p>December 2011 – invite Council officers, to ascertain how Council Services address issues relating to Travellers, including policies, procedures, and who held which powers;</p> <p>January 2012 – invite Mat Bagley from the Multi Agency Traveller Unit, to brief the Panel on the work of the Unit.</p> <p>January 2012 – invite external witnesses to two further meetings – representatives of the Travellers and Showmen’s Guild.</p>
17th November 2011	<p>Following the Local Development Framework Workshop held on 14th November 2011, which Members of the Panel have been invited to attend, the Panel met to consider its formal submission to the proposed policy response in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy relating to the Travelling Community. To assist the Panel with the consideration of the item, the Head of Planning and Regeneration and a Planning Policy Officer had been invited to attend the meeting.</p> <p>The Panel recommended to the Scrutiny Management Board, at its meeting to be held on 7th December:</p> <p>(a) that in respect of Meeting the Requirement, Policy Approach 3 be agreed, with the deletion of the word ‘specific’:</p> <p><i>Rely on the evidence of need in the GTAA (2007) and/or the targets set out in the Regional Plan and plan for this on sites in the Borough (See text for pitch requirements). Provide criteria based policy to deal with pitches on windfall sites should they occur.</i></p> <p>(b) that in respect of Locating Sites, Policy Approach 2 be agreed:</p> <p><i>Identify sites for permanent settlement by gypsies and travellers, along with sites to meet the needs of transient gypsies, within the Sustainable Urban Extensions. Further permanent accommodation to be considered on a needs basis and assessed against criteria based policy.</i></p>
12th December 2011	<p>Council officers attended the meeting, to advise the Panel how Council Services address issues relating to Travellers, including policies, procedures, and who held which powers.</p>
12th January 2012	<p>Mat Bagley, Sharon Holland and Sgt Simon Ward from the Multi Agency Traveller Unit, gave a briefing on the work of the Unit. The Panel also considered a Cabinet report (19th January</p>

	2012) and supported the recommendations within the report that the Council become members of the countywide Multi Agency Traveller Unit (MATU) Agreement and for the MATU Team (hosted by Leicestershire County Council) to act on behalf of this Authority to manage unauthorised encampments and other traveller related issues in line with the Code of Practice for travellers adopted by all Local Authorities in Leicestershire.
30th January 2012	Pauline Burton, from MATU and two representatives from the Gypsy community attended the meeting as witnesses, providing an outline of their life styles, the problems they encountered and how they dealt with those problems.
5th March 2012	Mr Cutler, who had taught Traveller children for the last twenty years, outlined his work, the problems he had encountered and how he had dealt with those problems.
22nd March 2012	Mr Darren Jones attend the meeting as a witness, representing the Showman's Guild, providing an overview of his life and experiences, difficulties Showmen encountered and how some of those difficulties had been overcome.
16th April 2012	Mr Adrian McInness attend the meeting as a witness, representing local developers. Mr Esuf Sarafat of Raglan Housing attended the meeting as a witness. The Chair of the Three Closes Tenant Association attended the meeting as a witness. The Panel considered the recommendations to be included in the report.
28th May 2012	The Panel received a draft report for comment and to agree recommendations. Following discussions the Chair proposed and it was agreed that he meet with officers to finalise recommendations and they be circulated to members of the Panel for comment, prior to them being included in the final Panel report. It was agreed that an Equality Impact Assessment was not required.
28th June 2012	To finalise the Panel's draft report prior to its submission to the Scrutiny Management Board.

REPORT SUBMITTED TO SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
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18th July 2012
