

# CABINET

## Gypsy and Traveller Cabinet Liaison Group 1 September 2009

### Report of Corporate Director (Community Services)

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To propose an amendment to the Terms of Reference of this Cabinet Liaison Group			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Referral from Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Included in Forward Plan	n/a		
This report is public			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR DAVID KERR

- (1) That Cabinet agree to extend paragraph 3 of the Gypsy and Traveller Cabinet Liaison Group Terms of Reference as follows:
- (3) To act as a forum to discuss the issues affecting caravan sites and Gypsy and Traveller issues with the District.

#### 1.0 Information

1.1 On the 06 November 2007 Cabinet resolved to establish a Gypsy and Traveller Cabinet Liaison Group (CLG). It was resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the establishment and terms of reference of a Gypsy and Traveller Cabinet Liaison Group as set out in the report as follows:.

#### Membership

The Group will be chaired by a Cabinet Member and in accordance with the constitution participants will be by the invitation of the Chairman and can comprise any or all of the following:

- Other Cabinet Members
- Non-executive Members
- Others from outside the Council
- Council officers
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It is anticipated that this will include Member Representation from Lancashire County Council and Gypsy and Traveller representative(s).

That this group will be supported and administered by Health and Strategic Housing.

#### **Terms of Reference**

The purpose of this group is to assist the lead Cabinet Member in overseeing the development and establishment of the Gypsy & Traveller Strategy & Action Plan for the district including:

- (1) To respond to the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities living in the district identified by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) as part of the Council's wider housing strategies and the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS).
- (2) To improve mechanisms for consultation with residents and explore the range of actions available to the Council to ensure that there is suitable site provision for Gypsies and Travellers within the district.
- (3) To act as a forum to discuss the issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers within the district.
- (4) To consider service provision for Gypsies and Travellers within the district.

Specific outcomes from the Cabinet Liaison Group may generate requests for pieces of work to be undertaken by officers or partner bodies. The Cabinet Liaison Group may request to Overview and Scrutiny to set up a Task Group to undertake a specific piece of work. It may also make specific reports to Cabinet, Committees of Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members, or other Committees of Council recommending action for determination. The work of this Group will also have links to the work of the LSP Equalities and Diversity Building Block.

- (2) That Cabinet agrees to cease operating the Mellishaw Park Cabinet Liaison Group.

1.2 Since that time the Cabinet Liaison Group has met on a number of occasions and has identified some specific problems with private caravan sites which are not solely occupied by Gypsies and Travellers. It would like to consider these, but they are currently not within the Terms of Reference of this Cabinet Liaison Group.

1.3 The Cabinet member, Councillor Kerr, has requested that Cabinet agree to extend paragraph 3 of the Terms of Reference as follows:

- (3) To act as a forum to discuss the issues affecting caravan sites and Gypsy and Traveller issues with the District.

This would allow the Cabinet Liaison Group to extend its brief to all residential caravan site issues and to report back to Cabinet on possible solutions.

## 2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 The current Terms of Reference of the CLG do not allow the wider issues associated with caravan sites to be considered and this widening of the Terms of Reference would extend its remit.

### RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

There is nothing specific in the Corporate Plan or the LDLSP Action Plans about caravan sites. The Housing Strategy recognises the role of caravan sites in satisfying a housing need for Gypsies and Travellers but doesn't currently address the role of caravan sites in meeting wider housing needs.

### CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None as a result of this proposal

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

### SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

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